

The Episcopal
Church of the Nativity

2020 Annual Meeting Report
January 24, 2021



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**The Episcopal Church of the Nativity
Mission and Vision**

OUR MISSION is to transform lives by helping the people experience the love of God in Jesus Christ.

OUR MOTTO: transforming lives with the love of Jesus Christ.

WE WILL ACCOMPLISH THIS MISSION BY ACCOMPLISHING THESE PURPOSES:

We will reach out to our community with the good news of Jesus Christ through active invitation and servant EVANGELISM, contributing to the planting of new churches when the opportunity arises;

We will WORSHIP together in a way that connects with people's lives and gives them a sense of spiritual connection with God;

We will bring people into deeper FELLOWSHIP with each other through active hospitality, newcomer welcoming and orientation, and pastoral care;

We will TEACH the Christian and Episcopal traditions and scriptures to children, youth and adults through enriching education programs;

We will REACH OUT IN SERVICE to our community and beyond.

**The Episcopal Church of the Nativity,
Scottsdale, Arizona 2020 Annual Parish Meeting Agenda
January 24, 2021
Online via Zoom**

Call to Order & Determination of a Quorum

Opening Prayer

Election of Secretary/Clerk for the Annual Meeting

Vote to Approve 2019 Annual Meeting Minutes

Identification of Vestry Members (those remaining and those rotating off) Senior Warden Report

Appointment of the New Senior Warden by the Rector Election of the Junior Warden

Appoint Ballot Counters (electronic voting) Introduction of Candidates Nominated for Vestry Vestry
Election

Introduction of Candidates Nominated for Delegates to the Diocesan Convention

Delegate Election

Annual Reports (Written Reports Submitted and Made Available on Website)

(The Rector's Report is given during the sermon time)

Financial Report

Announcements

- a. Vestry Meeting immediately after the Annual Meeting to elect a

Treasurer & a Clerk

- b. Ash Wednesday Service, February 17 (time to be determined)

Closing Prayer Adjourn

The Episcopal Church of the Nativity
Minutes of the 2019 Annual Parish Meeting
January 26, 2020

Call to Order & Determination of a Quorum – Fr. Scot McComas, the Rector, called the annual meeting to order and determined there were 109 people present and thus a quorum was established.

Opening Prayer - Fr. Scot opened with prayer at 11:29 am.

Election of a Secretary/Clerk – A motion was made by Jan Dunkelberg to elect Cheryle Dunkelberg the Secretary/Clerk of the Annual Meeting. The motion was seconded, and the vote carried.

Approval of the 2018 Annual Parish Meeting Minutes - A motion was made by Edward James to approve the Minutes of the 2018 Annual Parish Meeting, held on January 27, 2019. The motion was seconded, and the vote carried.

Identification of Present Vestry Members – Fr. Scot introduced the present vestry members Suzanne Cohen, Senior Warden; Warren Sambach, Junior Warden, Art Graf, Treasurer; Sarah Banks, Jon Bost, Margaret Cohea, Bill Deihl, Norma Hyatt, Paul Rank, and Cheryle Dunkelberg, Vestry Clerk. Fr. Scot and thanked those who were rotating off the vestry and presented a gift each to Suzanne Cohen and Warren Sambach.

Senior Warden Report – Senior Warden Suzanne Cohen gave her report (which is also in the booklet). She acknowledged the great job and help given by the Search Committee and the Vestry over the last year during the search process for a rector. Suzanne indicated, “We have in place the right people for the right jobs to take us into the future.” She also gave special thanks to Treasurer Art Graf for all this work, and to Junior Warden Warren Sambach, for keeping the church building in great shape.

Appointment of the New Senior Warden – Fr. Scot announced that he has selected Paul Rank as the next Senior Warden for a one-year term.

Election of the Junior Warden – A motion was made and seconded to elect Ron Kupinski the Junior Warden. Nominations from the floor were requested. There were no other nominations. Mark Dobbins moved to elect Ron Kupinski the Junior Warden by acclamation. The motion was seconded, and the vote carried.

Introduction of Candidates Nominated for Vestry – Fr. Scot introduced those running for Vestry: Jon Coates, Dina Horsman, Dennis Long, and Mary Longley-Cook, all running for a 3-year term; and Cindy Cohen, Diana Fitzgerald, and James Newhouse, all running for a 2-year term. Nominations from the floor were requested. There were no other nominations.

Introduction of Candidates Nominated for Delegate to the Diocesan Convention – Fr. Scot introduced those running for Diocesan Convention Delegates: Cindy Cohen, Jennie Dobbins, Mark Dobbins, Cheryle Dunkelberg, and Jan Dunkelberg. The motion was made by the Nomination Committee and was seconded. Nominations from the floor were requested. There were no other nominations. Paul Rank moved that the Delegate Candidates be elected by acclamation. The motion was seconded, and the vote carried. The Diocesan Convention is scheduled for October 16 and 17, 2020 in Tucson, Arizona.

Introduction of Candidates Nominated for Alternate Delegate to the Diocesan Convention – Fr. Scot indicated that nominations for Alternate Delegates were open at this time and nominations from the

floor were requested. A motion was made and seconded to nominate Shelly Carley, Candy Wagner, Donna Hartz, Debbie Myrick, and Janyce Schneider Alternate Delegates to the Diocesan Convention. Nancy Bleasdale moved that the Alternate Delegate Candidates be elected by acclamation. The motion was seconded, and the vote carried.

Appointment of Ballot Counters – Fr. Scot appointed Suzanne Cohen, Bill Deihl and the Rev. Deacon Martha Durham as ballot counters. The Vestry election occurred throughout the meeting.

Election of new Vestry Members – Dina Horsman, Dennis Long, and Mary Longley-Cook were elected each to a 3-year term on the Vestry. Diana Fitzgerald and James Newhouse were elected each to a 1-year term on the Vestry.

Legacy Society Report - Ron Creamer spoke about the opportunity to leave a legacy to the Episcopal Church of the Nativity by adding the church to their will. Thirteen families have added the church to their will. The brochure, “A Gift for Your Loved Ones,” a guideline to help plan one’s final affairs, was handed out after Ron Creamer’s report.

Outreach Report - Paul Rank, Outreach Chair, quoted the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. who said 57 years ago, “If the church of today does not recapture the sacrificial spirit of the earlier church, it will lose its authentic ring, forfeit the loyalty of millions, and be dismissed as an irrelevant social club with no meaning for the twentieth century.” Paul thanked everyone who helped with outreach during the last year. The 2019 ADVENTure Outreach Fundraiser was a great success. Paul also thanked Bill and Barbara Worthington, who have decided to retire from the outreach committee and for their many years of ministries focusing on outreach. Seven people on the Outreach Committee will be taking over the ministries that the Worthington’s led.

Annual Reports – The annual reports are in written form in the annual meeting booklet. Fr. Scot McComas gave the rector’s report during the sermon time.

Financial Report – Treasurer Art Graf presented the Financial Report and the 2020 Budget. He indicated that the monthly financial reports are posted monthly on the bulletin board by the restrooms at church. Art also invited people to ask him questions about any detail of the financial report and the 2020 Budget. Some questions from the floor were asked and were answered.

Announcements –

- Fr. Scot announced new appointments: Tom Durham as Parish Chancellor; Dawn Kast as Parish Historian; Cindy Cohen as Outreach Committee Chair, and Jon Coates as Finance Committee Chair.
- The newly elected Vestry will meet immediately after the Annual Meeting to elect a Treasurer and a Clerk.
- The Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper will be held February 25 from 5:30—7:00 pm.
- Ash Wednesday Services will be February 26 at 12 pm and 7 pm.
- Bishop Jennifer Reddall will visit Nativity for her annual parish visit on March 1 at 10 am.

Closing Prayer - Fr. Scot gave a closing prayer Deacon Martha Durham gave the Dismissal.

Adjournment - The Annual Parish Meeting adjourned at 12:39 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Cheryle Dunkelberg
Vestry Clerk

The Rector's Report

As of the date of the Annual Meeting, January 24, 2021, I have been at The Episcopal Church of the Nativity for 1 year and 5 months. Of the 1 year and 5 months I have served as rector, 7 months have been pre-Covid and 10 months during Covid. I have spent more time working as rector during this pandemic than prior to the pandemic. None of would have ever imagined a world-wide health crisis would change our lives forever.

Regarding our worship, in the 11 weeks from January to mid-March of 2020, we saw an increase in attendance of about 14% over the average of 2019, with an Average Sunday Attendance (ASA) of 184 in those 11 weeks compared to an ASA of 162 in 2019. Then from mid-March to the second week in September the church was in lock-down due to the COVID-19 pandemic. During that time, the church staff stepped up and we all learned how to film our various parts of the service to create a worship experience for the church as all of us navigated this new world.

I am extremely grateful to my clergy colleagues, Associate Rector the Rev. Dr. Wayne Whitney, and the Rev. Deacon Martha Durham, for their tireless dedication to their calling as clergy to help Nativity during these challenging times. Also, Mandy Hodges, our Children, Youth and Family Minister, was active in teaching the rest of the staff how to upload videos, etc. as she put together the weekly Sunday services. Mina Rafferty, our Parish Administrator, was also extremely helpful in working behind the scenes with our bulletins, which shifted to an online format, and going to the church weekly to pay the church bills, check voice mails, and keep the church functional. Dr. Juliana Witt also has been instrumental in making sure that the music program was the best it could be during the recording of music Sunday afternoon for the next Sunday's online service. Her workload seemed to double as she did this and monitored and directed the *Arts at Nativity* program. Mandy, Mina and Juliana along with our clergy have done a stellar job in 2020 making sure we did not turn inward and moan about the pandemic. They all worked long hours diligently to ensure there was a reflective, prayerful, and dedicated worship experience weekly during the lockdown.

The Episcopal Church of the Nativity would not be where it is today without Treasurer Art Graf, who helped the parish navigate the financial world of the pandemic, including the detailed and long hours spent applying for a Payroll Protection Program (PPP) loan from the federal government. All the while, Art worked weekly in paying invoices and check reimbursement requests (our Accounts Payable) as well as handling all Accounts Receivable. Art retires this month, having given over a decade of service to Nativity. He deserves a nice, peaceful golf-filled retirement where the only numbers he must focus on is whether he makes a par or birdie on each hole of golf. Please thank Art when you have a chance.

Senior Warden Paul Rank and Junior Warden Ron Kupinski have worked longer hours in 2020 than they normally would do in their volunteer positions as the two senior officers of the parish. The senior warden and rector are co-equals in the structure of the parish, and I am amazed at the constant dedication and many hours Paul Rank has given to Nativity.

Paul advises me on important decisions, and we have a great relationship where we can bounce ideas off of each other for the good of Nativity. I could not have served as well as your rector without the excellence of Senior Warden Paul Rank.

Junior Warden Ron Kupinski has worked behind the scenes on our building, including washing all the windows on the outside in November, working on the roof, the electric parts of the building and grounds and other jobs to keep our building and grounds pristine and in great working order. I would also like to thank Bill Bailey and Pat Shaler for assisting on our property, especially with our electric panels, the sprinklers, and our prayer garden. Ron, Bill, and Pat are the "quiet workers" and most of us do not know

how much they have contributed to our physical plant and grounds. Please thank them when you have a chance.

I have had the honor and pleasure of working with an amazing group of colleagues, all of whom rose to the occasion when we faced the Covid pandemic, including the staff, the church officers, the vestry, and countless volunteers, including Outreach Chair Cindy Cohen and the entire Outreach Committee. Paul Rank addresses this in his report.

Regarding marketing and evangelism, just before Christmas we mailed out 14,500 large postcards to the households within a 5-10 drive from Nativity. We highlighted our children and youth programs as well as our diversity and our excellent music program. Several people who now attend church on a regular basis are our neighbors who tell us they received the postcard. We also had a handful of neighbors who attended the Drive-Thru Christmas Pageant on Christmas Eve, the 6 pm Choral Candlelight service and the Christmas morning Mass. Our motto of *Everyone Is Welcome! No Exceptions* rings true in all that we do and all whom we are.

Our social media presence on Facebook has doubled in a year, from 400 followers in January 2020 to about 825 one year later. People read our posts from 15 different states and 9 foreign countries, including places as far away as Brazil, the Philippines, and Palestine.

Through the Covid-19 shutdown, many of our tenants who use our facilities met online on Zoom and the leaders of the 12-step groups were in constant contact with me inquiring when they could meet in person. The Sylvan Learning Center will soon begin having tutors to meet with students who are falling behind in their studies as the online life of being a student does not work well for every child and teen.

During this time of Covid, a new committee was formed last fall, the Growth and Strengthening Committee of Nativity, led by Jennie Dobbins and Paul Rank. We meet three times a month to strategize and think “outside the box” about how the church can meet people where they are during the pandemic and eventually what it will look like to meet in person again, once the Covid vaccine has been fully made available to the community.

This past fall we have had a focused Stewardship Campaign to fund the 2021 Ministry and Mission Budget. I would like to thank the very capable Stewardship Co-chairs, David Bolger, and Mark Dobbins, who have assisted the vestry and me as we began the 2021 Financial Pledge Campaign in September 2020. Treasurer Art Graf will address the details in his report.

Thank you for your pledge and continuing contributions so we can fund the numerous ministries at Nativity which allow us to have such impeccable programs and continue our worship, evangelism, teaching, outreach, and administration of The Episcopal Church of the Nativity.

Although it has been a wild year, I have been honored to serve as your rector and continue to be amazed at the dedication and faithfulness of our parishioners at The Episcopal Church of the Nativity.

May God’s Blessings and Peace be with you always,

The Reverend Scot McComas
Rector

2020 Parish Statistics
(In-person and Online during the COVID pandemic)

Average Sunday Attendance (ASA)

During the first 11 weeks of 2020 (before the Covid pandemic shutdown), the ASA was 184. In 2019 the ASA was 162.

Ash Wednesday (in person)	96
Palm Sunday (online Facebook post)	463
Maundy Thursday (online Facebook post)	216
Good Friday (online Facebook post)	332
Easter Sunday (online Facebook post)	585
Christmas Eve Drive-Thru Pageant, 4 pm	102 people and 50 vehicles
Christmas Eve Outdoor Choral Candlelight Service, 6 pm	77
Christmas Day Traditional Service Indoors, 10 am	23
Baptisms	0
Confirmations	7
Weddings	2
Funerals	2

The Senior Warden's Report

This has been quite a year for the Church of Nativity. When I started my tenure as Senior Warden, Fr. Scot was just settling in as our new Rector and we all looked forward to normal church activities, building upon our many strengths in the coming year. But that was not to be. COVID, racial tension, and a highly charged presidential campaign not only impacted the world around us but has had a profound impact on our church.

COVID closed our church but our staff stepped up and did an outstanding job in producing an online service. In-person meetings became unsafe and we all became Zoom experts. The internet has not only allowed our local parishioners to participate in our activities, but has opened our services, meetings, and other activities such as Bible study, Prayer groups, book clubs and the knitting group to those who are traveling, homebound, or away for the winter. When we are back indoors again, we will be broadcasting our services live and continue to use the internet in new and creative ways.

A Regathering Committee was formed to plan the safe reopening of our church and established policies and procedures to minimize the possibility of COVID spread on our campus. The ADVENTure2020 Outreach Fundraiser was certainly different, but it was an outstanding success resulting in the largest income for outreach ever. Cindy Cohen, Kathi Capizzani, Mandy Hodges, Dennis Combs, Jeff Jameson, Ron Kupinski, Juliana Witt, the Nativity Choir, and the Nativity Outreach Committee put together an adventure to remember! The outdoor Christmas Eve Services, highlighted by the Christmas Pageant, brought much needed joy to all of us and to our community.

None of this can replace face to face interactions, but you and the staff have been incredible in making this work.

Racial tension was responded to by holding Zoom meetings on racial reconciliation followed by two well-received courses: Story Sharing and Sacred Ground. In my view, the church is the one place where these issues can be discussed openly and honestly to help guide our future steps.

Like the election four years ago, politics seems to have had an impact on our congregation. Some have said that our church has become too political and has taken positions on things that they do not agree with and have left the church. I grieve their loss. But I think the question should never be are we too political or not, but are we fulfilling God's commandments to love God and our neighbor. If in acting on these commandments we enter the "political" arena, so be it, but I can assure you that I have known many people of different political persuasions who have tried to be faithful to these commandments, worked together, and have had significant positive impact on the world around them. My hope is that we can be unified in our desire to faithfully live out these commandments.

I will miss Dr Juliana Witt as she enters a new phase of her life, but I look forward to seeing her newborn son later this year.

As Norma Hyatt completes her four-year term on the vestry, I would like to thank her. We began serving together on the vestry while Bishop Susan was our Rector, and I will miss her for her contributions and dedication. I would also like to thank the whole vestry for their dedicated work and look forward to working with the new vestry.

Art Graf, our treasurer, has done a great job and has provided wise counsel.

Our Junior Warden, Ron Kupinski, has been outstanding. He has been flexible and has responded to many challenges with great skill and an unsurpassed can-do attitude.

Finally, I would like to thank Fr. Scot for giving me the opportunity to serve as your Senior Warden.

--Paul Rank
Senior Warden

Junior Warden Report

As the Junior Warden of the Episcopal Church of the Nativity it has been my responsibility to ensure the building and grounds stay in good condition.

During 2020 the following has been repaired, fixed or repaired by me or with help.

The floor of Christopher Hall has been scrubbed, stripped and re-waxed,

The AC units have been cleaned and the filters replaced.

The bathroom fixtures have been repaired and replaced.

The lights in the church have been replaced with LED lighting.

The windows in the church have been coated with a light filtering and heat reflecting coating and sheeting.

The filter system in the sprinklers have been upgraded.

The lighting for the cross at the south end of the church has been replaced and is now working.

The lighting outside the front doors of the church has been replaced with LED lights.

The plants in the large planters outside the front doors have been replaced.

I have also set up and taken down tables chairs and other things for numerous activities and events.

Ron Kupinski
Junior Warden

The Associate Rector's Report

And they'll know we are Christians by our love.

How else will we learn how to love except by studying God's Word? The words and deeds of Jesus are steeped in all of scripture, both New and Old Testament.

The preaching opportunities afforded me a couple of times a month have allowed for explication of the intricacies of holy writ. The overall intention is always to let the text speak and allow the voice of God's Word clearly resonate in the hearts and minds of all earnest disciples of Jesus Christ.

Sunday Morning Power Bible Study, with its focus on the lectionary texts of the week, have continued unabated in the wake of the forced closure of in-person gatherings. Now offered at 9:00 am, via both the Nativity General channel on YouTube and The Church of the Nativity Facebook feed, these studies allow worshippers to gain a glimpse of the lessons which form the key themes for each week's focus.

Wednesday Evening Prayer continued via the Nativity Facebook page.

No lay Eucharistic ministering was possible during the pandemic shutdown of the Spring, Summer and Fall of 2020.

The Bible Study Wednesday program continued its trek through the entire biblical narrative with a pause during Advent/Christmastide to allow for an expeditious look at the Gospel for Year B, Mark.

Forming adult believers into models of love to the world continues to be the focus of all formation opportunities at The Episcopal Church of the Nativity.

The Rev Wayne V Whitney, PhD
Associate Rector

The Deacon's Report

Deacon's Annual Report 2021

And I thought the years of transition were over! Ha! God, once again, was laughing at my need for control. Fr. Scot McComas had been the new rector for exactly 6 months before the new world of the pandemic happened. In the midst of this transition to a new world, a new rector and new needs of the community in transition I strove to be flexible and responsive to the needs of the rector, staff, church community and the world.

I coordinated with the rector in reaching out to those who were isolated, alone and in need of a caring voice, if a human touch was not possible in this new world.

I moved the Knitting Group to an online group, meeting more often. The group welcomed many people to just "drop in", no knitting required. The group has settled into a close knit but welcoming group. We chat about knitting, the world, keeping in touch in this remote time. Every week we reflect on life through a lens of metaphor and knitting, often with great humor. It helped hold our perspective through these times. The group will continue online indefinitely.

I was amazed at the ability of parishioners to continue with many different kinds of Outreach Projects this year. Flexible and responsive were the approaches from Nativity to those in need outside our community. I was pleased to support these works where I could.

I expanded my work as a Spiritual Director - a Spiritual Companion - to those looking for new insights and direction on their spiritual journey. Always a rich and challenging privilege, I struggled to move this work online, now a necessity. I will adapt and the work will continue. Thank you for the privilege of serving at Nativity.

The Rev. Martha Durham, Deacon

From your Deacon Intern

Last July, I received my internship assignment. It was an anxious moment for me and my classmates, as we waited for Deacon Robin Hollis to read our new internship positions. My first reaction when told that Church of the Nativity had agreed to take me was relief that I didn't have to drive to Litchfield Park or worse, Sun City. You see, I live in Scottsdale, at 86th and Lincoln.

Once I **met** with Fr Scot McComas and Deacon Martha, I knew that God had provided an excellent parish for my internship. As the announcement was made to the congregation, I received email upon email of welcome. I breathed a sigh of relief, the parish of Nativity seemed to want me!

Truly, it has been a wonderful internship. Assisting at the altar and participating in the multitude of programs has been enlightening and engaging. In September, I joined the Story Sharing group meeting on Monday evenings, expertly led by Dr. Darrell Spencer and Kay Blinn. The reading material and discussion were provocative and nudged me to re-examining some of my viewpoints. Thank you for letting me participate, as I gained different perspectives and hopefully grew as a human being.

At some point in my morning, I take a break and read Morning Prayer either online or by myself, so leading Wednesday Evening Prayer continues to be one of my favorite assignments. The Advent Quiet Day on December 12th was a contemplative pause in the chaos of the season to consider the strength and faithfulness of Elizabeth and Mary through the Gospel of Luke. Many thanks to Margaret Cohea and Deacon Martha Durham for their help in this project.

Thank you for allowing me to preach on November 22nd and January 31st. It is daunting to do something for the first time. The support and encouragement I felt was comforting to a nervous deacon-in-training. I appreciated your kind words and am thankful that Fr. Scot gave me a chance.

Leaving in a few months will be difficult. Although I cannot wait to see my home church and my friends, I have grown to love the parishioners and clergy of Nativity. Furthermore, I hope the learning experience will make me better equipped to serve the church at large and to be a much better deacon. Although it saddens me to leave, I am much richer for the experience. During these six months, God was very generous in providing a safe, caring environment for my internship. Thank you for accepting me and teaching me.

With much gratitude and affection,
Jean Hawkins
Deacon Candidate

The Music Director's Report

What a year! The hardest year ever for many of us, yet we still did so much! Getting church online in the spring was a huge feat for us, but we managed to do it with our great team and a lot of creativity! Learning new technology skills for this process required new levels of flexibility, teamwork and innovation and brought the staff closer together.

Despite what this year and pandemic as meant for the arts as a whole in the world, Nativity managed to keep our music program going online, still support some local musicians with work and special projects, and continue *Arts at Nativity* virtually, resulting in no losses financially. It's incredible how you all as a congregation stand behind the arts, recognizing that in a time like this, we need the arts even more! I know many churches that have not had any kind of ensembles meeting online and have even had to lay off musicians.

Choir has held together as a community, meeting almost every week to check in on each other. We also did a virtual Vacation Bible School, music in a few children's chapels (way to go Mandy for your amazing, ongoing work with the children!) and an Everybody Ensemble online. We also had a beautiful set of Schulmerich handbells donated anonymously to us in the spring right before Covid hit the country. The timing could not have been more perfect! We successfully launched our handbell ensemble in September and have had tons of fun together learning how to ring!

Our fall festival in October was lots of fun, featuring the Willow String Quartet. The year culminated with a beautiful outdoor Christmas Eve pageant, which was so creative and fun but meaningful, and also an outdoor service with a live, distanced choir, which was so incredibly special!

Arts At Nativity has continued this 2020-2021 season, thanks to your faithful support and we have brought unique virtual concerts not only to our patrons, but our community partners. This also means that you have also supported local valley artists, contributing to the suffering artist scene. We are including our 2nd year of Emerging Artist Concerts and three new Young Artists on the series! We will again partner with a school, the expecting mother's unit of Honor Health Hospital, and several retirement communities as part of our Community Engagement Program. These projects and concerts have opened new kinds of relationship-building with the community that we hope to continue to foster and maintain.

Lastly, you all know that at the end of 2020, I stepped down as music director. The love and support you all poured out was so meaningful to Galen and me as we look forward to the arrival of our little guy in April. THANK YOU for all the kind words, gifts and love that you showed us. Charles Cornner has stepped in as interim, and I know you all are in excellent hands under his leadership as you transition and search for your next music director. I know that you will find someone amazing to join the team and lead the ministry on to the next chapter.

Exciting things are around the corner. Keep being you, a wonderful gathering of people who hold each other together in Christ's love.

Sincerely,
Dr. Juliana Witt

The Children, Youth and Families Ministries Report

The normal Children & Youth gatherings in January and February 2020 were similar in scope and size as they were in 2019. Beginning in March with the pandemic shutdown, we moved to an online forum. These are the highlights of that:

Online Children's Chapel - Average attendance: 6-12

Children from ages 4 to 12 are invited to participate in our online Children's Chapel. From March 15 through the end of May, Children's Chapel was a video lesson and prayers that families could watch in their own time. Since June, Children's Chapel has been weekly online gatherings through Zoom, meeting at 9:30 am each Sunday morning. We have regular weekly attendance by many children and several children who "drop-in" every other week or once a month.

Middle School Youth Group - Average attendance: 2-3

Amid the pandemic gathering cancellations, an online Youth Group for grades 6 through 8 was established. This is a new group for Nativity and has been small but consistent over the past several months. This is a time for checking in, life conversations, and games.

High School Youth Group - Average attendance: 2-5

A Youth Group gathering for grades 9 through 12 meets each week online via Zoom, Sundays at 11:30 am. This is a time for checking in, life conversations, and games.

Youth Confirmation Classes

This past spring we hosted online Youth Confirmation Classes. We met via Zoom on Sundays at 1:00 pm. We had 4 middle school students complete the course, which ran for 8 weeks. Special teachers/guest speakers during the course included Father Scot McComas, Deacon Martha Durham, Senior Warden Paul Rank, Ryan Tritch, and Music Director Juliana Witt. Students are awaiting the postponed Diocesan Confirmation Service. When this is rescheduled, Nativity will joyfully participate in support of our new youth confirmands!

Special Events & Attendance

- July 6-10, 2020 - Staycation Bible School (Participation: 12 Students)
- October 20, 2020 - Fall Festival (Attendance +/- 50)
- December 6, 2020 - Gingerbread House Party (Attendance +/- 20)
- December 24, 2020 - Drive-Thru Christmas Pageant (Attendance +/- 100)

--Mandy Hodges

Outreach at Nativity 2020

Outreach Committee Mission:

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

Members of the Nativity Outreach Committee:

David Bolger	The Rev. Martha Durham	Paul Rank
Jon Bost	Jeff Jameson	Janyce Schneider
Cindy Cohen (Chairperson)	Ron Kupinski	Thomasina Tafur
Sarah Banks	The Rev. Scot McComas	Carrie Wagner
Laura Dobbins	Cotty Peabody	

2020 - Our Outreach Ministries

This has been a challenging year for Outreach. Our committee has been hard at work to keep up with the needs of our ministries in this time of great need. Due to the pandemic many of our ministry services have changed in the method of administration, but have all continued with the time, talents, and treasures of our committee and members of Nativity.

- Grocery gift cards have been delivered monthly to CASA for 40 food insufficient students.
- Grocery gift cards and prepared meals have been delivered bimonthly to the East Valley Men's Center.
- Masks and a monetary donation was given the Diocesan for Native American Ministries
- Nativity volunteers worked at the St. Mary's Food Bank

This is not an inclusive list and does not include the many activities that you do as individuals beyond our walls.

You also participate in drives throughout the year to bring in supplies to support ministries such as:

- School supplies for CASA students
- Christmas gifts for the children at Save the Family and Santa Maria Parish
- Canned goods for Save the Family

Again, this is not an inclusive list.

ADVENTure 2020 was a challenge this year. Holding a virtual event was new to our committee and through their hard work and many donations and auction items from Nativity parishioners, friends, and local businesses we surpassed our \$30,000 goal and raised \$35,000.

The ADVENTure Committee members who worked tireless hours are:

Kathi Capizzani	Dennis Combs	The Rev. Scot McComas
Mandy Hodges	Kathy Graf	Cindy Cohen (Chairperson)
Paul Rank	David Bolger	

Nativity Outreach Expenses 2020

Ministry	Amount
Navajoland/Native American	\$2000
Iglesia Santa Maria	\$4000
Habitat for Humanity	\$3000
Foothills Caring Corp	\$2500
Same the Family	\$2450
CASA Academy	\$2000
El Hogar (Episcopal school and home in Honduras)	\$2000
Diocese of Jerusalem (Humanitarian relief for people In the middle east)	\$2000
New Leaf - Men's Shelter	\$5378.88*
St. Mary's Food Bank	\$3000
Funds for Chapel Rock	\$1000
Support Veterans Day Concert	\$1000

*We received a Diocesan grant for \$2,500

As 2020 comes to a close, the Outreach Committee is thankful for the opportunity to have been able to continue our work for our ministries, both here in the Phoenix area and abroad. All of the hard work and donations from our Nativity family inspires us to move forward and to continue our mission in 2021.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Cohen
Chairperson

Nativity Growth and Strengthening Committee

The Committee was formed for the purpose of examining Nativity's membership in light of the radical challenges and opportunities of today's Covid restrictions and politically charged atmosphere. The objective is to identify and build on our strengths, to design and implement (with the approval of the Vestry) specific projects that will increase the number of people/families who actively participate in listening to the word of God, enjoying the fellowship of God's people and going in peace to share the love of Christ.

The following areas are currently being targeted and a form has been created to measure success of actions taken:

- **Youth and Young Professionals:** Aaron Graves has been appointed as the new leader. Regular meetings will be scheduled and advertised in church bulletins as well as by direct contact.
- **New and unchurched people within Nativity's geographic area:** In addition to success with current parishioners, the on-line services have identified a group of local and out-of-town seekers who seem interested but hesitant to enter an environment they find unfamiliar or suspicious. The church created and sent out 14,500 Christmas mailers to the church's surrounding 5-mile radius in mid-December. Numerous new people attended the December 24, 25 and following Sunday services.
- **Retirement Homes:** Current Covid restrictions prevented plans to take music programs, etc. to the residents. Ideas will be reexamined as soon as restrictions allow and Nativity members who are residents of VI Silverstone, VI Grayhawk, Sagewood and Mirabella will be included in discussions.
- **Current Ministries and Fellowship Activities:** How might individual groups benefit from the proposed hybrid (in person/on line) conference capability? A grant has been requested from the National Church to help fund this; we should hear something by the end of January.
- **New Interest Groups:** A Meet-Up online account will be sponsored and maintained for the LGBTQ+ community and other interest-based groups. Current ministries and activities will also be able to use this vehicle.
- **Include Others:** Extend the hand of fellowship beyond our largely white, middle class boundaries by purposefully seeking friendship and forming relationships with people who do not necessarily look or think as we do. A subcommittee is currently being formed.

All suggestions are welcome! Please share your ideas with one of the committee members.

Paul Rank Co-Chair, Jennie Dobbins Co-Chair, Aaron Graves, Mandy Hodges, Edward James, Jeff Jameson, Dawn Kast, Dennis Long, the Rev. Scot McComas, Darrell Spencer.

The Episcopal Church of the Nativity 2020 Ministry Leaders

Evangelism

Greeters	Thomasina Tafur	
Hospitality		
Coffee Hour	Joan Harris	jm2has@gmail.com
	Dawn Kast	dawnkast@live.com
Memorial Receptions	Janyce Schneider	janycecarroll6@cox.net
Lay Ministries Coordinator	Jennie Dobbins	jenniedobbins@gmail.com
Nativity Notes	Mary Lynn Bolger	marylynn@djbolger.com
Newcomers	Cindy Cohen	scohensc@bellsouth.net
Shepherds		
Take Them a Meal	Nancy Byrnes	nmtbyrnes@gmail.com
Website	Mandy Hodges	mandyhodges@thenativity.net

Worship

Acolytes	Jan Dunkelberg	jerikeng@yahoo.com
Altar Guild	Nancy Bleasdale	schoolmarm@att.net
Chalice Bearers and Lectors	Wayne Whitney	waynewhitney@thenativity.net
Flower Guild	Joyce Graves	jbjlgraves@cox.net
Healing Prayer	Wayne Whitney	waynewhitney@thenativity.net
Lay Eucharistic Ministry	Wayne Whitney	waynewhitney@thenativity.net
Media Operator	Wayne Whitney	waynewhitney@thenativity.net
Music and Choir	Juliana Witt	julianawitt@thenativity.net
Vivace Children's Choir	Juliana Witt	julianawitt@thenativity.net
Ushers	Tom Bleasdale	ltbleas@att.net

Education/Formation

Adult Education	Scot McComas	scotmccomas@thenativity.net
	Wayne Whitney	waynewhitney@thenativity.net
Centering Prayer	Margaret Cohea	mvcohea246@gmail.com /
Children and Youth Ministries	Mandy Hodges	mandyhodges@thenativity.net
Nursery	Mandy Hodges	mandyhodges@thenativity.net
Sunday Morning Power Bible Study	Wayne Whitney	waynewhitney@thenativity.net
Wednesday Evening Bible Study	Wayne Whitney	waynewhitney@thenativity.net
Young Adult Gathering	Aaron Graves	aarongravesj@gmail.com

Fellowship

Arts at Nativity	Mary Ann Rank	marank410@gmail.com
Book Clubs: Daytime	Candy Wagner	Candywags@me.com
Evening	Kathy and Rich Capizzani	richardcapizzani@scglobal.net
Film Club	Darrell Spencer	darrellwspencer@yahoo.com
Jewelry Making	Dawn Kast	dawnkast@live.com
Knitters Group	Martha Durham	marthadurham@thenativity.net

The Episcopal Church of the Nativity 2020 Ministry Leaders

Fellowship (continued)

Men's Monthly Luncheon	Fred Walski	fredwalski@yahoo.com
Men's Pub Fellowship	Art Graf	mxgk25a@aol.com
Ones and Twos	Kathy & Jim Wasson	kathwasson@aol.com
Pastoral Care	Martha Durham	marthadurham@thenativity.net
Prayer Team	Joyce Graves	jbjlgraves@cox.net
Women's Luncheon	Candy Wagner	candywags@icloud.com
Women's Ministries	Janyce Schneider	janycecarroll6@cox.net
Women's Wine Fellowship	Kathy Graf	kgraf518@aol.com

Outreach

Outreach Chair	Cindy Cohen	scohensc@bellsouth.net
CASA Academy Food Packs	Laura Dobbins	lauradobbins01@gmail.com
Christmas Giving	Cindy Cohen	scohensc@bellsouth.net
Diocese of Jerusalem	Cotty Peabody	epeabody@earthlink.net
El Hogar Ministries	Paul Rank	paulrank1@mac.com
Feed The Hungry	Jon Bost	jonrbost@yahoo.com
Foothills Caring Corp	Joan Harris	jm2har22@gmail.com
Habitat for Humanity	Cotty Peabody	epeabody@earthlink.net
Native American Ministries	Thomasina Tafur	thomasinatafur@hotmail.com
Santa Maria, Phoenix	Paul Rank	paulrank1@mac.com
Santa Maria, Veracruz	Sarah Banks	sdwnaz@yahoo.com
Save the Family Projects	Carrie Wagner	carriemwagner@gmail.com
Veterans/Military	Ron Kupinski	lonemavrick@yahoo.com

Administration

Administration	Mina Rafferty	minarafferty@thenativity.net
Building Manager	Ron Kupinski	lonemavrick@yahoo.com
Finance Committee		
Legacy Society	Ron Creamer	rcreamer2@cox.net
Office Volunteers	Mina Rafferty	minarafferty@thenativity.net
Stewardship	David Bolger	david@djbolger.com
	Mark Dobbins	markdobbins01@gmail.com

Vestry

Senior Warden

Junior Warden

Treasurer

Vestry

Paul Rank

Ron Kupinski

Art Graf

Sarah Banks

Jon Bost

Margaret Cohea

Diana Fitzgerald

Dina Horsman

Norma Hyatt

Dennis Long

James Newhouse

Cheryle Dunkelberg

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Clerk of Vestry

Staff

The Rev. Scot McComas

The Rev. Dr. Wayne Whitney

The Rev. Martha Durham

Jean Hawkins

Juliana Witt

Mandy Hodges

Mina Rafferty

Rector

Associate Rector

Deacon

Deacon Intern

Music Director

Director of Youth,

Children & Family Ministries

Parish Administrator

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