



*All are Welcome
at Our Table*

EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE NATIVITY
Parish Profile

1151 SW Del Rio Blvd.
Port St. Lucie, FL 34953
772-343-0401

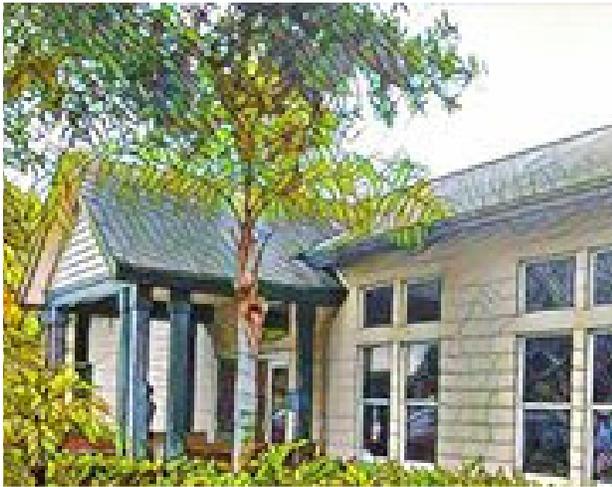
www.nativitypsl.com
nativitypsl@comcast.net



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Tracy Dugger, our new
Rector!**

Introduction



Worshippers at the Episcopal Church of the Nativity are surrounded by the beauty of the Nativity story depicted in the vibrant hues of the stained-glass windows.

Designed by Lyn Durham of the nationally known Conrad Pickel Studio, life-sized shepherds stand with their flocks and watch in amazement as the star of Bethlehem hovers over the manger.

Mary gently cradles the newborn Christ child in her loving arms, while Joseph looks on with joy. An angel kneels in the straw to pay homage as the manger animals keep silent watch. The three Kings arrive in royal splendor to worship the Christ child and to present their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. Viewing the glass panorama, which lines the entire nave, one can almost hear the voices of winged angels as they sing to the glory of God and point the way to Jesus.



Our Mission

United by God's grace, the Episcopal Church of the Nativity is committed to love and serve all people in Christ's name.



Our Vision

As a Christ-centered oasis, the Church of the Nativity will be a place to experience acceptance and love. We will invite ALL people to come, be spiritually replenished, and leave eager to do the work God has called each of us to do. We will reflect God's love and limitless possibilities through our commitment to meaningful worship, spiritual formation, sweeping outreach and robust growth.

Our Core Values

We, the members of the Episcopal Church of the Nativity, hereby express the following core values as our commitments and beliefs.



LOVE

We believe that God loves us all, and that our love for Him and for each other is the instrumental power that binds Christians and that enables us to give of ourselves in a loving manner to all people.



PRAYER

We believe in the power of regular prayer to God regarding all aspects of our lives and our world, offered individually, in groups and in our church as one body. We believe that regularly worshiping God as a church is a fundamental necessity and all are welcome.

MERCY

We believe that Jesus Christ is the incarnation of Divine mercy and is the example of how we are called to express God's compassion, gentleness, kindness, and caring in the world.

STEWARDSHIP

We believe in giving our time, talents and treasure to reach out to those in need in our community, the nation, and the world. We will be faithful stewards of God's gifts that they may be used to His glory and to expand His kingdom. We believe our lives are blessed and enriched by engaging in the many opportunities we have to give and receive God's love through Christian fellowship, teaching and example.

FORGIVENESS & RECONCILIATION

We believe the Church's ministry is to restore all people to unity with God and each other in Christ through forgiveness and reconciliation. In lives committed to loving ourselves and one another as God loves us, we fulfill the ministry of reconciliation by seeing the image of Christ in every person.

Our History

The history of the Episcopal Church of the Nativity is the story of a vibrant, diverse parish family, with an abundance of love and talent to share.

With God and with one another, Nativity is thriving in a changing and growing community. With God's help, Nativity will continue to provide a sanctuary for those who want to join us and continue their spiritual journey.

"Thanks be to God for new ministries and expansions. Once again, we have begun a convention with the happy task of welcoming a new mission to our congregation, The Episcopal Church of Nativity in Port Saint Lucie."

Bishop Howe's Convention Address, 1996

Milestones Along Our Journey

1996 - Nativity began as an evangelistic outreach ministry of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Fort Pierce, Florida, due to rapid growth in nearby Port Saint Lucie. Father Tom Raezer was appointed Vicar by Bishop Howe. The first Vestry was appointed, and services began in parishioners' homes. There were 11 to 13 families in the congregation.

1997 - Father Paul Wolfe was appointed Vicar by Bishop Howe. An anonymous donor paid for the five acres of land. The congregation grew to 25 families and began to meet at the nearby Polish American Club. Groundbreaking began for the Church of the Nativity on Del Rio Boulevard. A sanctuary, small kitchen, Sunday School room, bathrooms and office space were built.

1998 - Dedication & Consecration of Nativity was held. Later that year, the Outdoor Chapel and Memorial Garden were dedicated.

2001 - Two new Sunday School classrooms and a small parish hall were added.

2005 - Nativity was financially independent and became a fully independent Parish. Services were held at 7:30 AM and 10:00 AM. Later that year, a 9:00 AM Children's service was added.

2007 - Groundbreaking and dedication of Wolfe Hall was held, with Bishop Howe officiating. Due to illness, Father Paul Wolfe retired.

2008 - Reverend Mary Rosendahl was hired as Rector and was installed by Bishop Howe. Under her leadership, the Church continued to grow and thrive. New ministries were formed.

2011 - Stained glass windows depicting the Nativity scene were added.

2018 - Reverend Mary Rosendahl retired. In October, a Search Committee began the process of selecting a new Rector.

Looking back, it is clear that Nativity has been filled with God's love. Armed with God's word and a strong faith, we dedicate ourselves to facing tomorrow's challenges with great expectations and hope.



Rector Search Process

Our beloved former priest retired on September 30, 2018, after ten years of serving the spiritual needs of the Church of the Nativity family. In preparation for this retirement, the Nativity Vestry, under the leadership of Senior Warden, Judy Klimczak, met and nominated members to serve on the New Rector Search Committee. In making these nominations, careful consideration was given to having representation from three of our four principal Sunday services, along with two Vestry members.

"Almighty God, giver of every good gift, look graciously on your Church, and so guide the minds of those who shall choose a Rector for the Church of the Nativity, that we may receive a faithful pastor, who will care for your people and equip us for our ministries through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen." - Prayer for the Election of a Bishop or Minister, Book of Common Prayer

One of the first tasks of the newly appointed Search Committee was to perform a SWOT exercise (Strengths,

Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats) to establish a consensus about the current status of the Church of the Nativity and its parishioners.

*"We are the light of the world. Give Light and People will find the way."
Matthew 5:4*

The next step was to conduct two surveys to enlist parishioners' views, opinions and preferences. One was a Demographic Survey whose resulting data captures "who we are" as a congregation. The second survey was a Questionnaire asking parishioners for their thoughts with respect to the current state of Nativity, as well as the attributes they would most wish to see in a new Rector.

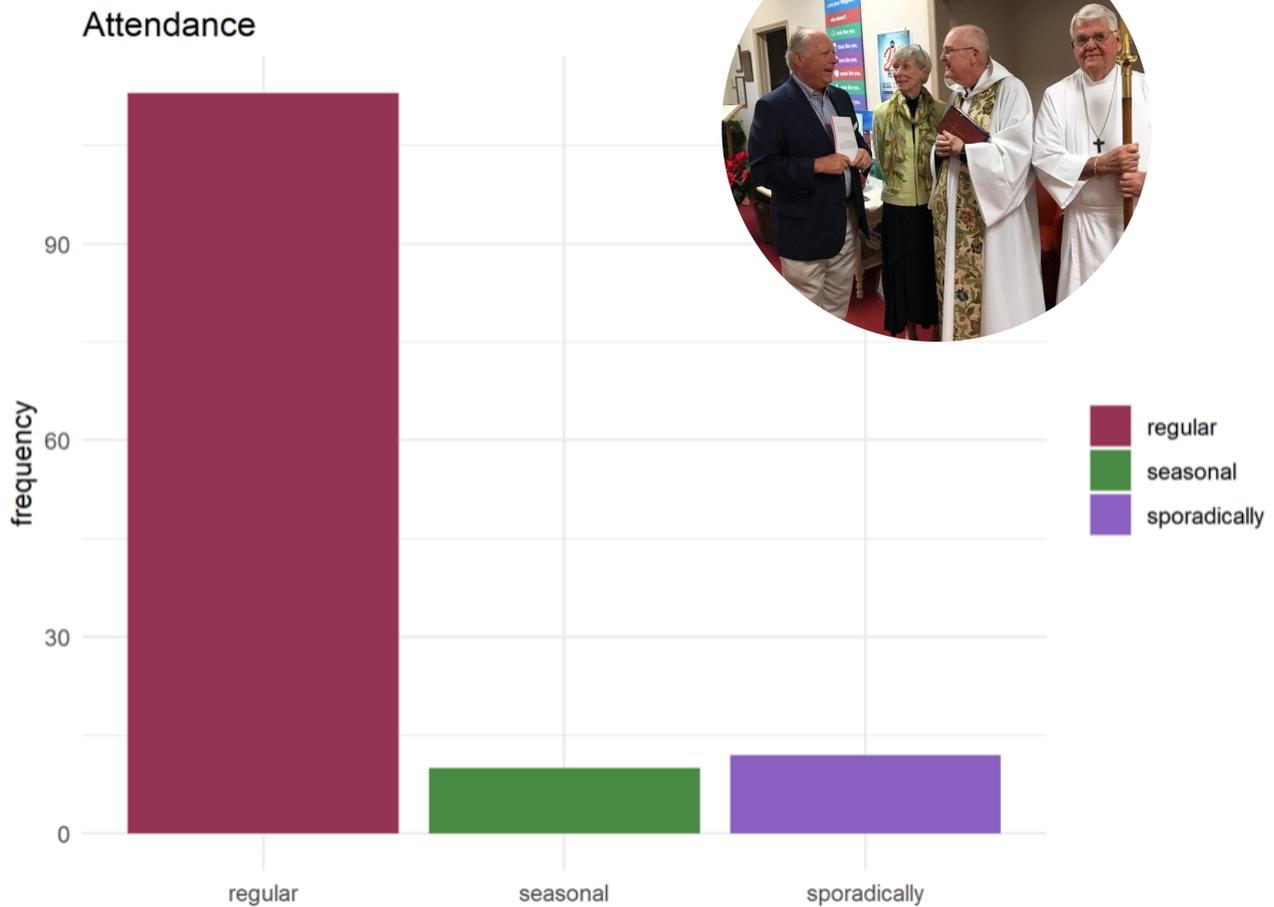
"Strengthening the ties that bind."

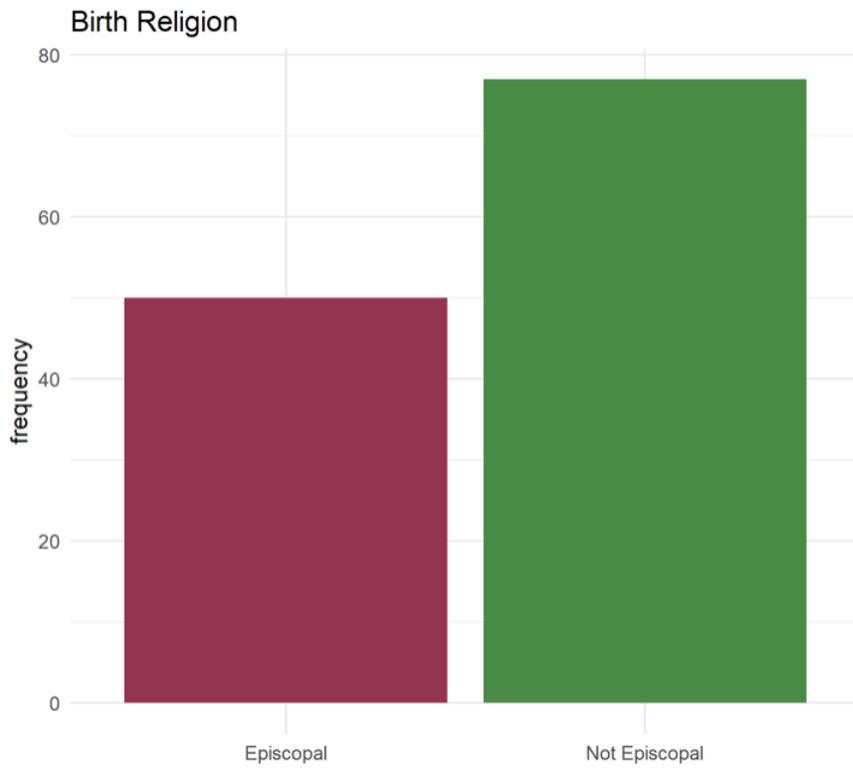
The level of participation in these two surveys was outstanding. 130 Demographic Surveys were collected or 74% of the 175 recorded Nativity membership and 110 Questionnaire Surveys or 63% were collected.



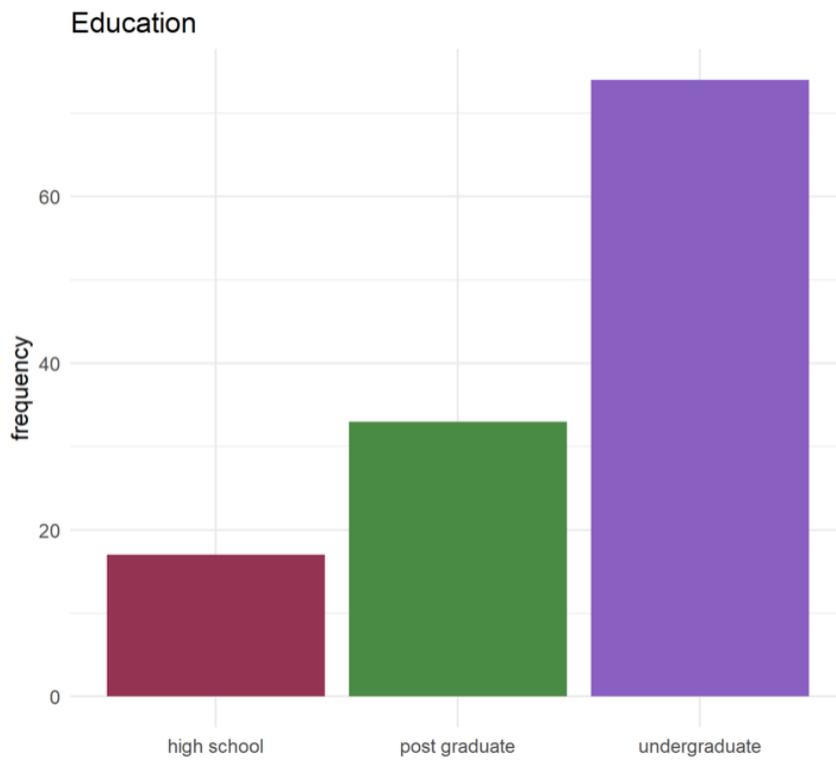
Who We Are Today

The graphs below, conducted in November 2018, represent the results of the 130 Demographic Surveys and describe the demographic makeup of our congregation. These results underscore the characteristics we are most proud of, which are that Nativity is a very diverse church of loving and caring, mostly elderly (87% fall between the ages of 56 and 80 plus years, heavily weighted toward the 70 to 80 range), college educated and middle-class parishioners, with a significant Caribbean representation.



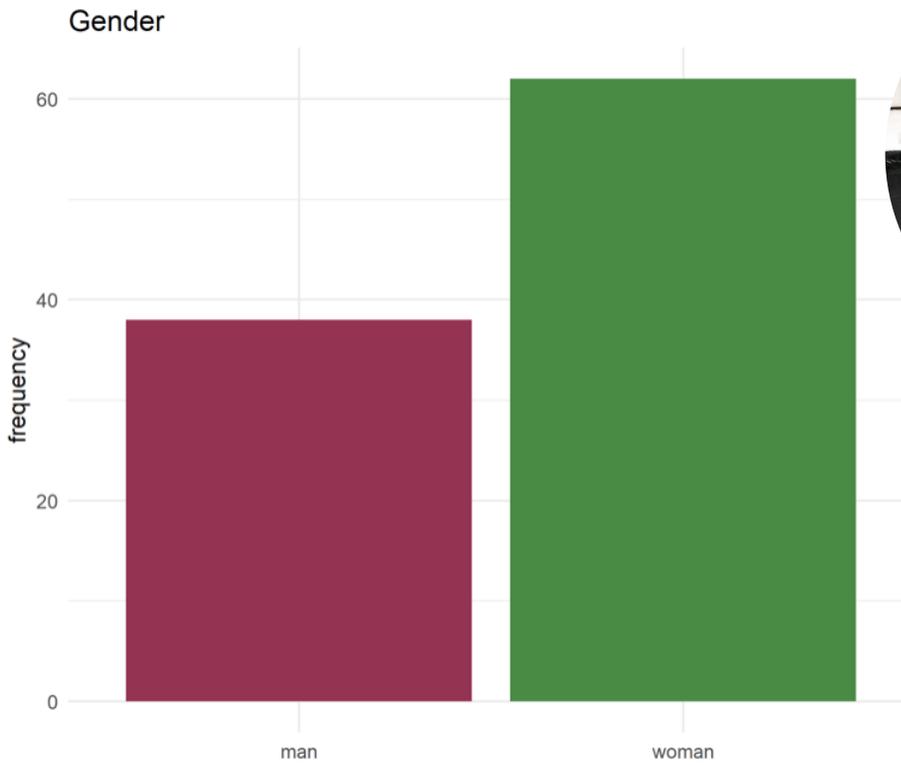


- Episcopal
- Not Episcopal

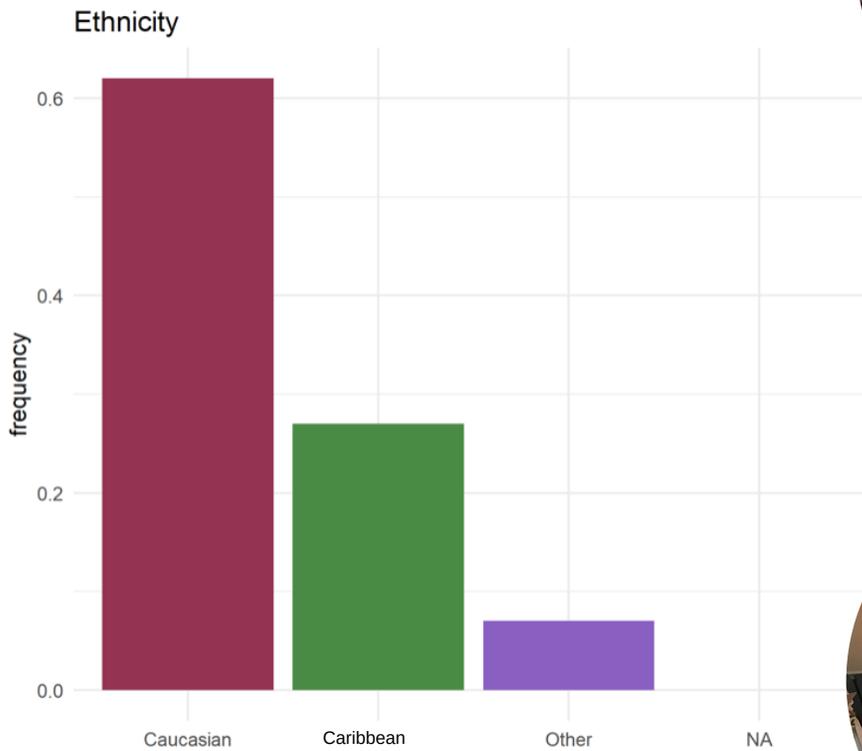


- high school
- post graduate
- undergraduate





- Men
- Women



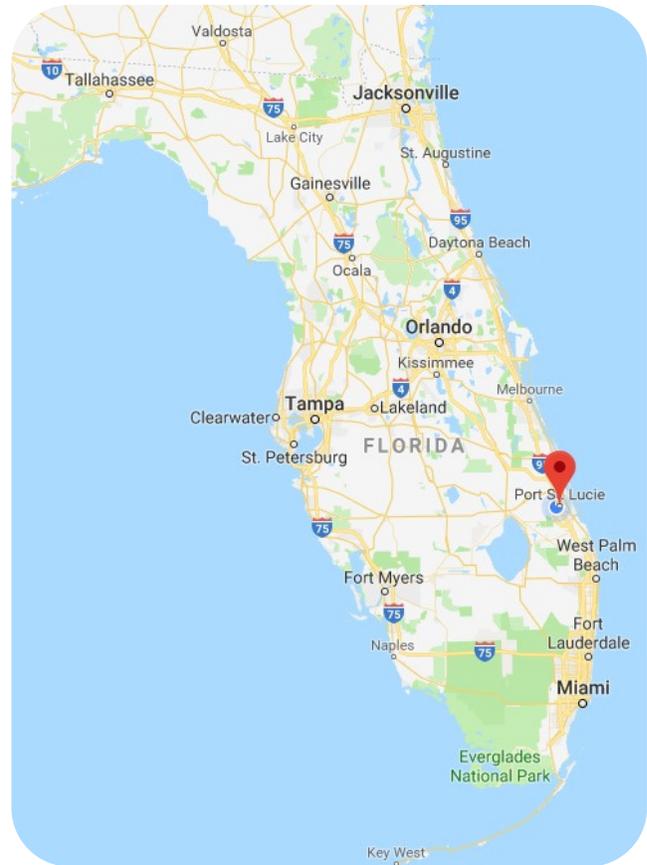
- Caucasian
- Caribbean
- Other



Our Location

The Episcopal Church of the Nativity is located at 1151 SW Del Rio Boulevard, Port St Lucie, FL 34953. We are less than 5 miles from two major highways, the Florida Turnpike and I-95. We occupy just under 5 acres of land on the corner of Del Rio Boulevard. Our building houses a sanctuary, fellowship hall and class/meeting rooms. Also included on this property are our Memorial Garden and Outdoor Chapel.

Our church is located in the midst of a developing residential community. There are schools for children from elementary age through high school within 2 miles of our location.



Beginning in late 1992, Florida became one of the first states to assign performance ratings to public schools. The purpose of these ratings, which are in the form of A-F grades, is to communicate to the public how schools are performing relative to state standards. 85% of schools in Port Saint Lucie achieved a letter grade of A or B in the 2017-18 ratings. In addition, our district high school graduation rates soared to 5th in the state, the highest on the Treasure Coast. There are also several charter schools, a K-8 educational research school partnered with Florida Atlantic University, and several private schools, including a K-12 Episcopal school in nearby Ft. Pierce.

Sunset from the lake at Tradition





Outdoor sporting events are popular throughout Port Saint Lucie. There are large parks and sports fields close to our church where families meet each season for soccer, football, baseball and other outdoor activities. Less than 2 miles from the church is St. Lucie West, where there are stores, restaurants, hotels, hospitals, cinemas, etc. First Data Field (home of spring training for the NY Mets) is approximately 4 miles from Nativity.

Six miles away is another developing community, Tradition, which features a new hospital, new homes, restaurants and shopping. Tradition also offers outdoor events that are family friendly and open to the public. The City of Port Saint Lucie's website www.cityofpsl.com provides useful information about events in and around the city. A featured event for 2019 is the monthly "Free Friday Concert Series" hosted by the Port Saint Lucie Civic Center. Food Trucks and other vendors are invited to participate in these events on the grounds of the Civic Center.



The closest Episcopal church to Church of the Nativity is Holy Faith Episcopal Church, located approximately 8 miles away.



City of Port St. Lucie
<https://www.cityofpsl.com/home>

St. Lucie County
<https://www.stlucieco.gov>

Tradition
<http://www.traditionfl.com>

St. Lucie County Schools
<https://www.stlucie.k12.fl.us>

Our Worship Services

SUNDAY

7:30 AM: Holy Eucharist, Rite I

A traditional service, with no music. Perfect for early risers and golfers!

9:00 AM: Contemporary/Family Service

An interactive service with the latest Christian music, where kids are encouraged to wiggle and be themselves. Includes a kid-friendly message from our Pastor. The liturgy, Scripture readings, and lyrics of songs are all projected on the two monitors at the front of the sanctuary.

10:30 AM: Holy Eucharist, Rite II

A traditional service with full music and choir. Following the 10:30 service, there is a coffee hour for fellowship and to welcome newcomers.

5:00 PM: Sanctuary Service:

Traditional Celtic music, with votive candles adorning the altar and around the sanctuary. A service of contemplation and communion. A time for fellowship, with wine and refreshments, follows the service.



WEDNESDAY

10:00 AM: Holy Eucharist & Healing Service

*The Episcopal Church of the Nativity
Doodle Card*



PARENTS OF YOUNG CHILDREN

May we suggest?

RELAX! God put the wiggle in children; don't feel you have to suppress it in God's house.

Sit toward the front where it is easier to see and hear.

Use a gentle touch—an arm around your child's shoulder, your hands in his/hers to give reassurance and appropriate attention.

Explain gently the parts of the service

Help your child find the pages in the Bulletin, Prayer Book, and/or Hymnal.

Do not be distressed if a child doesn't find the proper page.

Encourage the use of the bulletin and the Prayer Book.

Sing the hymns, pray, voice the responses. Children learn liturgical behavior by copying yours.

Bring some soft toys, pencils, etc., for their use.

If your child needs to leave the service, do so, but come back.

Always remember that the way we welcome children in Church directly affects the way they respond to Church, God, and Christ; let them know that they are at home in this liturgy of praise and thanksgiving.



Our Ministries

We exist to make the transforming love of Jesus Christ come alive in our time and known to all people.

Nativity's 23 (and growing) Ministries are divided into five major categories:

Fellowship, Education, Outreach, Spirituality and Business/Administration.

Each Ministry plays an integral role in supporting each other for the benefit of all. Our Ministries begin and end with ***Fellowship***. Without the bonds formed in fellowship, the other Ministries would not be possible.

We rely on our clergy as well as laymen to further our Christian ***Education***, growth and empowerment.

Our ***Outreach*** programs reflect the lifegiving aspect and the true spirit of Nativity's love and caring for humankind.

Fellowship, bonding, caring for the Church family and our community demonstrate Nativity's ***Spirituality***, carrying the message of true faith in what we do and how we live.

Business/Administration

engages professionals and volunteer parishioners in the day-to-day operations, organization and fiduciary responsibilities and accountability of managing the Church business.



Fellowship

- Happy Hookers (Prayer Shawl Ministry)
- Annual Picnic
- Newcomers Social Get-Together
- Coffee Hour
- Game Day (Meets Every Thursday)
- Men's Club Breakfast (Once Monthly)



Education

- Adult Sunday School
- Fr. Bob's Bible Class
- Children's Sunday School Class
- Gospel Review & Discussion
- Walking the Mourners' Path

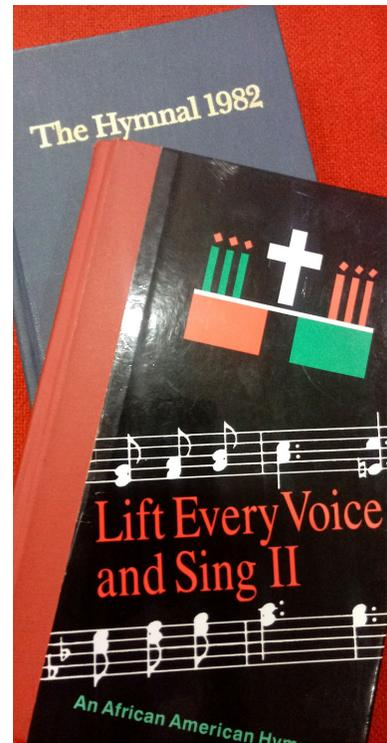
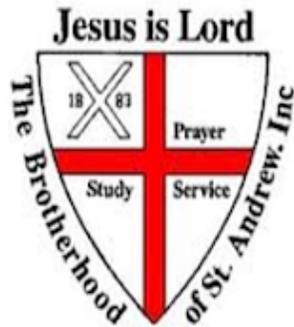
Outreach

- Easter/Thanksgiving/Christmas Baskets
- Food Pantry
- Halloween Extravaganza
- Library
- Rummage Sale



Spirituality

- Choir
- Outdoor Chapel/Memorial Garden/Blessing of Animals
- Brotherhood of St Andrew (Men's Spiritual Journey)
- Acolytes
- Lay Eucharistic Minister
- Flower Guild
- Altar Guild
- Daughters of the King
- Matthew Ministry



Business Administration

- Vestry
- Building & Ground Maintenance
- Search Committee
- Parish Administrator
- Bookkeeper
- Office Angels
- Strategic Planning Committee
- Finance Committee

In Search of a New Rector

Among the things that most bolster the pride of Nativity parishioners is the fact that *Nativity is a small, peaceful, multicultural congregation, comprised of loving, friendly, caring, spiritual and inclusive parishioners worshipping together in a Christ-centered church.*

Amid the turmoil of life

outside the church and strongly held political biases, Nativity offers a sanctuary of calm, peaceful and non-political, non-controversial coexistence. Within the church's sanctuary and extending throughout all of its related services, outreach and fellowship, the focus remains on Christian beliefs, practices and behaviors. Above all, Nativity is about worshipping the Gospel of Christ.

"One who is a builder and can bring people together, an individual who is energetic and can motivate people."

"An abundance of grace was at work among them." Acts 4:33

"A good preacher and teacher, a people person with good recruiting and fundraising skills, who knows the congregants by name, visits and calls on the sick."

To facilitate this and to provide parishioners with their personal style of worship, Nativity offers four different Sunday services and a Healing Mass on Wednesday morning. The advantage of these diverse services is evident; however, with an average total Sunday attendance of 130, this means that attendance at some services is under 20 parishioners and officiating at so many services can be wearing in a one-priest Parish. These Sunday services are augmented by our Ministries. Sacred and secular holidays are observed with gusto and enthusiasm, particularly as many of the parishioners are older and often separated from their families far away and abroad.

*"When two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."
Matthew 7:7*

Survey results indicated widespread support for the Church's Ministries, its Vestry and active community outreach programs. Many would welcome the expansion of Nativity's community outreach to further assist needy and at-risk families. The work and assistance of Nativity's part-time clergy are greatly valued. To quote one congregant, *"Nativity is a place I look forward to coming to every Sunday because of the joy and spiritual fulfillment that I derive from the music, liturgy and the fellowship."* Parishioners cherish the vibrancy of the liturgy, gospel and lessons at the heart of Nativity's church life.

"Sense of humor, strong personal faith, ability to preach the gospel in current world terms, make it real and relevant during difficult times."

Some shortcomings and challenges include our aging population, not uncommon in Southeast Florida. As is true of most Episcopalian churches today, Nativity is challenged to attract young families with children. Sadly, our youth social programs and youth Sunday School programs have declined. We hope to attract younger members to Nativity's church family.

Financial sustainability and stability were often mentioned challenges, exacerbated by an aging congregation and members who do not pledge to the church, making strategic financial planning unpredictable. Some parishioners suggested that more emphasis be placed on stewardship and fundraising activities to help generate income. Concern about membership attrition during the search process, when uncertainty prevails, was expressed.

"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." Matthew 6:21

"Compassionate, personality, gives a good sermon, enthusiastic, ability to lead."

"Understanding, full of energy, welcoming and patient."

"For I was hungry, and you gave me food." Matthew 25:35

Not unlike the Marvel Comic characters, parishioners seek a Christ-centered **Super Priest, able to transform Nativity into a vibrant, financially sound, growing house of worship, teeming with diverse families of all ages, committed to friendship, fellowship and inclusion, supported by abundant ministries and community outreach, resounding with a chorus of beautiful voices and music praising the Lord in established Episcopalian tradition.**



Congregants seek a Rector who finds joy and love in the liturgy and the gospel, whose faith is strong and integrity unwavering, who can teach and preach with conviction and relate the Word of God to the times, trials, doubts and despairs of parishioners' lives. Nativity needs a faith leader and a business administrator. Strategic thinking and planning, leadership capability and fiscal acumen are needed strengths. Interpersonal skills, pastoral care, a pleasant and personable demeanor and a sense of humor are also desired attributes.

“...does not discriminate regarding parishioners' beliefs, ethnic origin, gender, etc., pleasant, good listener.”

*“In Christ there is no East or West, in Him no North and South but one great fellowship of love throughout the whole wide earth.”
1982 Episcopal Hymnal*

Financial Data

In 2014, the Church of the Nativity formed a Strategic Planning Committee which resulted in a Strategic Plan that was presented to the parishioners in 2015. At that time, sub-committees were formed to oversee implementation of its goals, including Goal # 1 - Increasing Financial Stewardship. This committee met regularly and developed implementing tactics. In the past, members of the Sub-Committee oversaw the pledge process and delivered periodic homilies at services.

In 2018, our Rector was on sabbatical for three months in the spring. As a result of this sabbatical and the Rector's retirement at the end of September, the Church of the Nativity experienced a drop in revenues.

As with many other small Episcopal parishes, the Church of the Nativity faces the problems of an aging congregation and stagnant membership growth. This inhibits growth in our contributions as parishioners are forced to devote a larger portion of their resources to their health care and eventually the loss and possible non-replacement of the member.

In preparing the 2019 Budget, the discretionary expenditures have been minimized, with the expectation that the new Rector in place will re-energize revenues.

	TOTAL REVENUES	TOTAL EXPENSES	NET	%		Mortgage Principal Payment
2014	311,879.33	295,408.26	16,471.07	5.28%		
2015	303,103.52	277,511.21	25,592.31	8.44%		
2016	342,005.15	319,987.28	22,017.87	6.44%		34,376.00
2017	316,767.32	308,220.02	8,547.30	2.70%		24,478.26
2018	327,376.00	290,050.00	37,326.00	11.41%		24,348.00
2019 Budget	265,100.00	267,954.00	-2,854.00	-1.08%		22,548.00

*2016 - Received a Memorial Fund Contribution of \$12,600 and unplanned Other Revenues of \$4,800. Unexpected expenditures were attributable to a Strategic Planning initiative and mortgage interest, since renegotiated.

*2018 - Received two nonrecurring contributions totaling \$25,000.

Our Communications



It is extremely important that the Nativity clergy and congregation are informed and updated on the services, events and activities of the church and our community. At Nativity, we communicate by mass emails, regular US mail, service bulletins, our website, monthly newsletter (The Herald), and poster boards in the halls.

View our most recent newsletter online at <http://www.churchofthenativitypsl.com/newsletter>



Clearly, Nativity's congregants have great expectations. *In brief, we are searching for a faith leader to grow the Church and grow with the Church.* Change is challenging but change brings renewal, invigoration and revelations. It forces creative thinking and a willingness to explore and experience new and/or different ways to achieve shared goals. Nativity is at a crossroads and seeks a new Rector to lead the Church, with God's help, into a fruitful future.

“For surely, I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord...to give you a future with hope.” Jeremiah 19:11

Hoorah! We have found our new Rector!



The Rev. Tracy Dugger

06/30/2019

Episcopal Church of the Nativity

Dear Nativity Family,

It is with joy and enthusiasm that I accept the call to be your next Rector.

For the past 3 years, I've served as the Assistant Rector at Church of the Messiah, one of the Diocese of Central Florida's larger parishes. Besides the sacramental duties, preaching, and teaching, I have worked with children's, family, youth, and young adult ministry. My specialty is fun and fellowship that brings people together from multiple ages, services and backgrounds. I also served as a hospice chaplain for two years and have a broad background in providing pastoral care.

I look forward to being with you all in October and joining my gifts with what God is already doing in and through the Nativity family to share the love of Christ with Port St. Lucie.

My husband, Will Dugger, and our 7 year old daughter, Evangeline will also be joining me! We'd appreciate your tips on favorite things to do, hidden gems of places to eat, play, and enjoy our new town! We especially love spending time outdoors as a family!



Yours in Christ,



Search Committee

Sandra Wolfe, Chair
Zack Klimczak, Co-chair
David Horan
Bunny Webb
Vivienne Salkey
Bev Shaffer
Neville Lake
Dennis Gallagher