



The Annual Report of
The Cathedral Church of the Nativity
in the Episcopal Diocese of Bethlehem
Bethlehem, Pennsylvania

The Thirtieth of January in the Year of our Lord 2022

*Our Mission:
To know Christ, to make Him known, and to serve all
people according to His example.*

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CA  HEDRAL

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CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF THE NATIVITY
ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA
January 30, 2022
9:00 a.m. (In person in Sayre Hall, and remotely by Zoom)

Opening Prayer: The Rev. Canon Dale Grandfield

Call to Order: Senior Warden

Rules for Remote Participation: Senior Warden

Establishment of Quorum: Senior Warden, Clerk

Review of Voting Process: Wardens, Clerk

Acceptance of Minutes of 2021 Annual Meeting: Clerk

Review of Nomination Process: Senior Warden

Ministry Focus

Sr. Warden Report

Presentation of 2022 Budget: Finance Committee

Reaching Up and Reaching Out Campaign Presentation: Campaign
Committee Chair

Elections: Junior Warden, Clerk

Recognition and Thanks for Service: Senior Warden

Closing Prayer: The Rev. Canon Dale Grandfield

CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF THE NATIVITY
Nominating Committee
Report for the Annual Meeting on January 30, 2022

Members of the Nominating Committee were elected at the Annual Meeting in January 2021. Vestry members were added to the committee in Fall 2021. We first met via Zoom in November to ascertain what positions had to be filled, and then establish a list of parishioners who may be willing to stand for election. After that initial meeting we communicated by email.

The nominees needed were: four Vestry Members, three Convention Delegates, three alternate Convention Delegates, and three members for the next Nominating Committee. Each person who agreed to be nominated was asked to complete the Nominating and Profile Form for distribution to the members of the Cathedral before the vote at the 2022 Annual Meeting. We sent our full slate to the Vestry and to the Parish Administrator.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Drum
Olivia Tramontana
Rebecca Randall

Karen Boksan
Annalisa Kelly-Cavotta
Richard Sause

Nominees

Vestry

Richard Guyer
Joseph Mozingo
Lauren Quiel
Heather Scattergood

**Diocesan Convention
Delegates**

Cathy Bailey
Charles Montgomery
Carol Yale

Nominating Committee

Danielle Curzi
Marilyn Kelly-Cavotta
Melinda Rizzo

**Diocesan Convention
Alternate Delegates**

Paul Fox
Mary Ann Lynn
Joe Tramontana

CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF THE NATIVITY
BETHLEHEM, PA
ANNUAL MEETING – January 31, 2021 – MINUTES

Meeting was called to order at 9:05 am by The Very Reverend Anthony R. Pompa, Dean and Rector, and a quorum was established.

Laura Drum made the motion to accept the minutes from the 1/26/2020 annual meeting. Annalisa Kelly-Cavotta seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Richard Sause, Senior Warden of the Vestry, presented his report.

I have three thoughts this morning for our first ever virtual Parish Annual Meeting. First, as we look into 2021, I have a personal reflection on the sadness of 2020. We all saw it and felt it: illness; loss of community; insecurity in work, finance, housing, and food; and so much loss of life, loss of people in our lives and our communities. 2020 gave us many reasons for grief. Like many of you, I experienced grief, with a strong sense of loss in my personal life and in the communities in which I live. With a lot of reflection and prayer, and faith, my hope is to process this grief into gratitude. I am truly grateful to share life with people who are kind and generous. And I am grateful to be in relationship with a living, loving God. I am blessed, and when I feel loss and grief, as we have in 2020, I am trying to turn this grief into gratitude; gratitude for all my blessings, including those that I have lost. For me, this hope of turning grief into gratitude is work in progress and a continuing journey into 2021. Which brings me to my second thought, which is also about gratitude and a reflection on 2020.

As a representative of you, the Parish community, I want to express our gratitude openly and directly to the Clergy and Staff of Nativity for their exceptional, inspirational, creative, and faithful work to maintain and strengthen our community of faith despite challenges that, at times seemed biblical in scale; challenges that appeared suddenly and changing weekly, or even daily. Our Rector, Dean Pompa, and our Canon Missioner, Dale Grandfield, as well as our deacons, have been truly remarkable in their leadership and ministry to our community. Our Music ministry led by Stephen Williams, with the Quartet in the Cathedral, and Winston Alozie at 321 family services has been awesome. And our staff, Tracy, Peggy, Jose, Bill, Connie, Waldina, and Maria have worked really hard and with exceptional flexibility to make everything happen. To you all, the Clergy and Staff, your Nativity community is deeply grateful.

My third thought for this morning, is again about gratitude. To our Parish community, to you, I want to express the gratitude of our Vestry for your faithfulness during a challenging time. Vestry could not have anticipated the challenges or your response. During 2020, you were engaged in ministry and stayed connected with each other. You were generous with your financial gifts, both to Nativity and to support needs in the broader community. For 2021, as you will see from the budget presentation in a few minutes, you have committed to remain generous with your pledges. The Vestry is grateful for your engagement, for your gifts, and for your commitment to the future. Thank you so much. Finally, the agenda calls for me to provide the Senior Warden's report. So here is the report. With God's grace, our founders built Nativity on a hill in South Bethlehem, where we continue to build on their vision. We are in communion with each other and with the Lord. Our finances are solid. Our ministries are strong, impactful, and growing. And we are grateful for the blessings and grace of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Canon Dale Grandfield introduced the Latinx Ministry as the ministry highlight. We have seen amazing growth and vitality of Latinx ministry. Veronica Guevara spoke as a member of the ministry. She is excited to be here. She moved to the area 1 ½ years ago looking for a place to call home. This ministry encourages us to visit and attend Spanish service. Thank you to Sandy and Dale for dedication to keep this going. The ministry has strengthened, and everyone feels like a member of the family. Veronica stated she feels we are growing closer, even if we are apart. She is grateful to be here. Thank you so much for making a home for this community.

Tony is grateful to the Nativity community and the Vestry for approving this ministry. Everyone feels welcomed and honored to be part of this community.

Presentation of the annual budget by Tom Kolepp, Chairperson of the Finance Committee.

2020 was blessed year for Nativity's finances. We had a balanced budget plan with \$928K in revenue and expenses. COVID pandemic dramatically changed Nativity life . . . including "limited in person", "mostly virtual" and "*uncertainty*" regarding finances. Actual spending of \$881K = under budget by \$47K. Actual revenue from "Nativity resources" of \$876K due to continued faithful giving = under budget by \$52K. Results in small deficit of ~ \$5K from Nativity resources. However, Nativity received a forgivable PPP loan of \$88K . . .Ultimately, 2020 yielded an "all resource" surplus of \$83K. For 2021, Nativity Vestry approved balanced budget of \$908K. Budget assumptions: All revenue raised from "Nativity resources", i.e., no PPP. Expenses "normalized" to account for return to "non-COVID" activities in second half 2021. Use \$14K of 2020 surplus to balance budget.

Nativity's financial blessings do not occur by accident, but by the grace of God and the generosity and hard work of many dedicated people. Thanks be to God from whom all blessings flow – past, present & future. The parishioners and friends of the Cathedral who give their time & talent and entrust their treasure for our mission. Those now in God's nearer presence who provided for Nativity through their estate planning. Our Nativity staff & clergy – constantly mindful of expenses. Bill Korp – our very competent and dedicated bookkeeper. Bill, Tracy & Don Appleton who led our conversion to ICON.

This report is submitted by the Finance Committee on behalf of the Wardens and Vestry of Nativity Cathedral. The 2020 report is based on actual accounting for the year. The 2021 budget is based upon the budget prepared by the Budget Committee, reviewed by the Finance Committee, and approved by the Vestry at their January meeting. Respectfully submitted by Finance Committee: Dean Tony Pompa, Dick Guyer, Don Appleton, Tom Edwards, and Tom Kolepp; with staff assistance from Bill Korp and Tracy Eisenreich.

Tony expressed thanks to the Finance committee and to the Vestry for their hard work. They have eyes on the resources with mission in their hearts. Amid a pandemic, the leadership has not missed a beat. We have turned up the heat; that's why we do what we do.

Another ministry highlight was Fountain Hill Elementary School. Canon Dale Grandfield introduced Paige Hoffman, the Community Schools Coordinator in partnership with Lehigh University and Fountain Hill Elementary School, located on the Southside of Bethlehem.

Paige stated that she has enjoyed the partnership that has begun with the help of Dale, Tony, and the Appleton family. We are currently working on an exciting project where Nativity would act as official sponsor of Food Pantry, with efforts from Second Harvest. The pantry will need shelving and refrigeration to store food. Volunteers will be needed to transport, organize, and unload the food. We are excited to continue our vibrant partnership with the school.

Melinda Rizzo, on behalf of the Nominating Committee, announced the candidates on this year's ballot. Nominees for Vestry are Connie Andrejko, Tom Edwards, Veronica Guevara and Meg Storm. Nominees for Diocesan Convention Delegates are Paul Fox, Joe Tramontana, George Samuelson, Carole Yale, Leonardo Velez and Rodney Weems. Nominees for the Nominating Committee are Laura Drum, Rebecca Randall and Olivia Tramontana.

Tony thanked Melinda Rizzo for chairing the committee, the Nominating Committee for their hard work and to those who have accepted the nomination going forward.

Comments by Dean Pompa were shared: Thank you to the leadership and staff for all their guidance and support. Sincere gratitude to the staff of the Cathedral, both clergy and lay people – Canon Dale Grandfield; Deacon Rodney Conn, who works with Bethlehem Emergency Shelter and Property Committee; Deacon Charlie Barebo, who works with the Stewardship Committee; Bill Korp, Bookkeeper who works with our Finance Committee; Tracy Eisenreich, Parish Administrator; Peggy Bankowski, Secretary of the Parish; Becky Berkenstock, Lay Formation Leader; Paul Fox, who works with our Technology committee; Jose Mendez and his team, Waldina, and Maria; Canon Stephen Williams and Winston Alozie for the music program. Tony stated that “the staff are colleagues, friends, soul friends. They are creative, tenacious and fun”.

Special thanks to the Vestry for being so dedicated and balancing our resources.

Tony introduced Tori Aitchison to speak about the next ministry highlight – Reaching Up and Reaching Out. Tori stated that with a generous \$100,000 gift received in early January, we have now surpassed 35% of our \$2M goal, with sixteen (16) pledges documented totaling \$730,000. We have a dedicated Campaign Executive Committee ready to begin. Tony, Richard, and Tori are joined by Tom Edwards, Dick Guyer, and Don Appleton who will start making virtual visits in the Leadership & Major Gifts Phase.

Accomplishments and Actions: Reached 37% of our \$2M preliminary goal, securing pledged commitments totaling \$730,000; Trained all Campaign Executive Committee volunteers in fundraising best practices; Finalized Campaign Viewbook; Crafted format for personalized Viewbook for leadership donors; Made 33 new assignments of prospective donors to volunteers.

Dean Pompa stated he is privileged and honored to serve and be our Rector. We have never stopped saying our prayers. There has been heartbreak, joy, and new discoveries through these difficult times. Our courage, love and resiliency has been outstanding. We have lost pieces of our fabric in the last year and not able to grieve together. He is thrilled and excited about where we are going and is looking forward to next generation.

No Old Business.

Dean Pompa thanked those who served on the Vestry: Meg Seltzer, Mary Mulder, and Don Appleton for his 2 terms on Vestry, refugee committee and serving as Treasurer.

Dean Pompa provided the results of the election. Connie Andrejko, Meg Storm, Veronica Guevara and Tom Edwards were elected to the Vestry. Carol Yale, Leonardo Velez and Joe Tramontana were elected as Convention Delegates. Paul Fox, George Samuelson and Rodney Weems were elected as Alternates to Convention. Laura Drum, Rebecca Randall and Olivia Tramontana were elected as the new Nominating Committee.

Melinda Rizzo made the motion to move to election of slate by acclamation, Bill Yale seconded the motion.

Closing prayer by Dean Tony Pompa.

Juliette made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Earlene seconded the motion. Motion was unanimously approved.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:17 am.

Respectfully submitted.

Annalisa Kelly-Cavotta
Clerk of the Vestry

3 Year Budget History

| <u>Income</u> | 2020 Budget | Budget % | 2020 Actual | 2021 Budget | Budget % | 2021 Actual | 2022 Budget | |
|----------------------------|----------------------|---------------|----------------------|----------------------|---------------|----------------------|----------------------|---|
| Cash Carryover | | | | \$ 14,253.00 | 1.6% | \$ - | | Cash Carryover from prior year |
| Pledge and Plate | \$ 663,000.00 | 71.5% | \$ 629,006.00 | \$ 650,000.00 | 71.6% | \$ 609,506.00 | \$ 597,500.00 | Pledges, Prepaid Pledges, Open Plate Contributions |
| Investment Income | \$ 220,544.00 | 23.8% | \$ 220,544.00 | \$ 223,695.00 | 24.6% | \$ 223,696.00 | \$ 261,896.00 | Diocesan Investment Trust |
| Hurd Trust | | | | | | | \$ - | Hurd Trust & Hurd Endowment |
| Gifts from Special Acct | \$ 17,204.00 | 1.9% | \$ - | \$ - | | \$ - | \$ 68,020.00 | Parishioner Unrestricted special gifts |
| SBA - PPP Grant | | | \$ 87,500.00 | \$ - | | \$ - | \$ - | Small Business Assoc - Payroll Protection Grant |
| Other | \$ 58,280.00 | 6.3% | \$ 26,213.00 | \$ 51,530.00 | 5.7% | \$ 66,340.00 | \$ 21,530.00 | Rentals, Christian Formation, Fund Raising |
| Allow for Uncoll Pledges | \$ (31,500.00) | -3.4% | \$ - | \$ (31,500.00) | -3.5% | \$ - | \$ (27,000.00) | Estimate 5% |
| TOTAL | \$ 927,528.00 | 100.0% | \$ 963,263.00 | \$ 907,978.00 | 100.0% | \$ 899,542.00 | \$ 921,946.00 | |
| <u>Expenditures</u> | | | | | | | | |
| General | | | | | | | | |
| Clergy & Lay | \$ 464,933.00 | 59.1% | \$ 471,521.00 | \$ 477,152.00 | 61.1% | \$ 494,170.00 | \$ 467,858.00 | Clergy & Lay salary expenses, housing, pensions, benefits |
| Office Expense | \$ 42,343.00 | 5.4% | \$ 42,846.00 | \$ 41,716.00 | 5.3% | \$ 40,369.00 | \$ 41,700.00 | Office Equipment - copying, mailing. Equipment expense |
| Current Maintenance | \$ 68,500.00 | 8.7% | \$ 34,751.00 | \$ 47,500.00 | 6.1% | \$ 42,485.00 | \$ 59,080.00 | Current Maintenance |
| Utilities | \$ 58,600.00 | 7.5% | \$ 51,964.00 | \$ 58,300.00 | 7.5% | \$ 54,985.00 | \$ 64,000.00 | Gas, electric, water, sewer, taxes |
| Diocesan Assessment | \$ 101,053.00 | 12.8% | \$ 101,053.00 | \$ 103,497.00 | 13.2% | \$ 99,412.00 | \$ 105,092.00 | 12% of normal operating expenses |
| Insurances | \$ 50,869.00 | 6.5% | \$ 51,429.00 | \$ 53,126.00 | 6.8% | \$ 51,070.00 | \$ 53,632.00 | Property insurance |
| Contingency | \$ 200.00 | 0.0% | \$ - | \$ 200.00 | 0.0% | \$ - | \$ - | Contingency other expenses |
| TOTAL General | \$ 786,498.00 | 100.0% | \$ 753,564.00 | \$ 781,491.00 | 100.0% | \$ 782,491.00 | \$ 791,362.00 | |
| TOTAL Worship | \$ 102,783.00 | 100.0% | \$ 101,954.00 | \$ 98,712.00 | 100.0% | \$ 107,904.00 | \$ 110,055.00 | Organist/Choirmaster, Interims, Music program, Liturgy |
| Renewal | | | | | | | | |
| Program Ministries | \$ 13,200.00 | 45.6% | \$ 4,731.00 | \$ 8,700.00 | 47.7% | \$ 4,231.00 | \$ 4,350.00 | Adult, Children, Youth and Family Ministries |
| Pastoral Care | \$ 15,726.00 | 54.4% | \$ 10,848.00 | \$ 9,550.00 | 52.3% | \$ 13,078.00 | \$ 8,000.00 | Stewardship, Parish Life, and Van Expenses |
| TOTAL Renewal | \$ 28,926.00 | 100.0% | \$ 15,579.00 | \$ 18,250.00 | 100.0% | \$ 17,309.00 | \$ 12,350.00 | |
| Evangelism | | | | | | | | |
| Diocesan Acceptance | \$ 8,421.00 | 90.3% | \$ 8,421.00 | \$ 8,625.00 | 90.6% | \$ 8,625.00 | \$ 4,379.00 | Voluntary Giving to Diocese (goal is 3%) |
| Escrow Future Acceptance | | | | | | | | |
| Other | \$ 900.00 | 9.7% | \$ 1,000.00 | \$ 900.00 | 9.4% | \$ 3,082.00 | \$ 3,800.00 | Missions, Communications, Education, Theological |
| TOTAL Evangelism | \$ 9,321.00 | 100.0% | \$ 9,421.00 | \$ 9,525.00 | 100.0% | \$ 11,707.00 | \$ 8,179.00 | |
| TOTAL Expenditures | \$ 927,528.00 | 100.0% | \$ 880,518.00 | \$ 907,978.00 | 100.0% | \$ 919,411.00 | \$ 921,946.00 | |
| Surplus (Deficit) | | | \$ 82,745.00 | | | \$ (19,869.00) | \$ - | |

CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF THE NATIVITY

Outreach Report

The following organizations were recipients of Outreach funding from the Cathedral Church of the Nativity during 2021. These funds were distributed through ministries of Third Millennium Fund (TMF), Clergy Discretionary Fund, Thrift Shop Ministry, individual gifts, offering and annual budget.

The total amount of Outreach funding in grants and cash during the year to service organizations was \$ 64,660.

The recipients were:

- New Bethany Ministries
- ShareCare Faith In Action (Ministry to and with Sr. Citizens)
- Lanta (bus tickets for New Bethany)
- Diocese of Bethlehem – Annual Acceptance
- Christmas Outreach and Gift Card Ministry
- Dean’s Discretionary and Gift Card Outreach to Needy Families
- Emergency Shelter Ministry
- Lake Choconut Management Company Youth Camp
- Refugee Ministry – Joel Nafuma Refugee Center
- Lehigh University
- Episcopal Relief
- Fountain Hill Elementary School Tutoring
- Seminary in the Southwest
- Navajoland Support
- Broughal Summer Program

The following Non-profit Partners were recipients of “in-kind” donations such as space, building use and utilities. The total amount of these “in-kind” gifts to these organizations was in excess of \$15,000.

- Lehigh University – After School Mentoring Program
- New Bethany Ministries
- ShareCare
- Celtic Cultural Alliance
- Diocese of Bethlehem
- Moravian College Southside Christmas Family Outreach
- Bethlehem NAACP
- Bethlehem YWCA

CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF THE NATIVITY

Senior Warden's Report

Dear Friends,

No doubt, 2021 was a year of ups and downs, joy and grief, and unexpected changes. Every year has ups and downs, joy and grief, and unexpected changes. 2021 stands out because the extremes were so extreme.

Returning to in-person worship in the Spring of 2021, after much time apart, was a tremendous joy, yet, since then, we have been grieved by waves of pandemic. We felt great joy from the successful 2021 re-start of the "Reaching up and Reaching out" campaign to transform our campus and to address food insecurities around us; this success is a clear statement of our community's vision, generosity, and commitment. Yet near the end of the year, we felt real grief as our Dean and Rector of 14 years, Tony Pompa, departed for new ministry. Yes, the extremes were extreme.

Through these ups and downs, however, there are constants on which we can depend: an outstanding and dedicated church staff, goodness and faith within our community, our relationships with each other, sacred and joyful worship with music and love, and God's changelessness, to name only a few. And, our mission remains: to know Christ, to make Him known, and to serve all people according to His example.

Dean Pompa announcing his departure was the first step in our transition to a new Dean and Rector. This transition journey asks each of us to be full of love, full of imagination, full of patience, and full of faith at each step. Throughout 2022, we will walk this journey together.

This transition journey has three main parts: The first part is to properly say goodbye, and to process this important change in our lives. We said goodbye with much gratitude, and the processing of change is well underway. The second part is to call and embrace an Interim Dean and Rector, a temporary leader for Nativity. We anticipate calling the Interim Dean in the coming weeks. The third part is to understand ourselves, and then, to call a new, permanent Dean and Rector. Soon, our Search Committee will engage us with surveys and listening sessions, to understand a shared vision of how we live and work together as a community of faith. Then, the Search Committee, in collaboration with the Diocese, will seek applicants and discern their fit with our community. Based on advice from the Search Committee and Diocese, the Vestry will call our new Dean, and our transition journey will near its end.

In 2022, we also look forward to seeing initial steps in our campus transformation. Two modest-sized projects, building a major identification sign at the corner of Wyandotte and W. 3rd Streets and rebuilding the front steps of the Cathedral, will be completed during 2022, while larger parts of the campus transformation will be in the detailed development stage.

As we enter this new year, we feel the uncertainties of the pandemic and our leadership transition, yet we remain adaptable, generous, faithful, resilient, and joyful followers of Jesus. Together, we are the Church. And, while recognizing the challenges in front of us, the Senior Warden's report concludes that the Cathedral Church of the Nativity enters this Year of our Lord 2022 with strength and faith, and with anticipation of abundant goodness and joy ahead.

Faithfully yours,

Richard Sause
Senior Warden

CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF THE NATIVITY

Canon Missioner's Report

- Sacramental and Ritual Ministration
 - 8 Holy Baptisms, including *first* in Spanish in the Cathedral
 - 1 Marriage Rite
 - 7 Burial Rites
 - 2 Blessings of Quinceañeras
- Discernment Group
 - Assembled and facilitated a parish discernment group for a college junior seeking to clarify a possible call to ordained ministry
- Invitations to Preach / Speak / Write
 - Moravian Academy, Chapel : for Epiphany, January 6, 2021
 - *Bate Papo Colorado* : (a radio/podcast program in Brazil) about our Evening Prayer in Spanish and LGBTQ inclusivity in our Spanish-speaking comunidad
 - Trinity Church, Bethlehem : invited to guest preach and preside twice in Fall 2021
 - For Our Common Life (Diocesan) : conversation with Dr. Sandra Montes, Dean of Chapel of Union Theological Seminary
 - LV Gay Journal : Interview Brandan Robertson on his forthcoming book Nighttime Devotional for Teen Boys - to be published in the Spring 2022 Edition
- Fountain Hill Grocery Partnership
 - 501(c)3 status underway
 - Board formed
- Bethlehem Interfaith Group (BIG)
 - Treasurer
 - Interfaith Seder : a success with multiple Nativity parishioners attending
- Lehigh Valley Green Faith Circle & Creation Care Nativity
 - See separate report
- Racial Justice and Reconciliation
 - Continuing co-chair Diocesan Task Force for Racial Justice & Reconciliation
 - First Annual Absalom Jones Liturgy (Diocesan)
 - Black History Month (Diocesan) programming
 - Sacred Ground : organized by The Rev. Maria Tjeltveit (with gratitude)
- Adult Forum Committee
- LGBTQ Ministries
 - Eve of Pride : planned, an cancelled (due to COVID) but with hopes for 2022
 - Pride in the Park : help organize a diocesan presence
 - LGBTQ Spirituality Group : began in November, 2022.
- Liturgical
 - MC'd ordinations (Diocesan)
 - Christmas liturgies
- Refugees : beginning conversations and strategy around sponsoring refugees.

- Community Organizations
 - NAACP Community Advisory Board
- Churchwide
 - General Convention of the Episcopal Church : called as a Copy Writer for the Secretariat of Convention

- The House of Deputies Committee on the State of the Church : continuing service as a member
- Faithful Volunteers of the Cathedral have continued to serve Christ insofar as they have been able during the pandemic, including at New Bethany Ministries, The Boys & Girls Club, Fountain Hill Elementary, Bethlehem Emergency Sheltering, Yarns of Love, and plastic collection.
 - Vaccination Efforts : envisioned and organized by Connie Andrejko, Verónica Guevara (with gratitude)
- “Drives” served to keep our focus on specific mission projects in direct response to expressed needs in the community. Each of these drives was conceived in conversation with long-standing mission partners in the neighborhood. The people of Nativity have been exceedingly faithful and generous:
 - English in a Tote
 - Thanksgiving Drive
 - Christmas Gift Cards

The Reverend Canon Dale Grandfield
Canon Missioner

CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF THE NATIVITY

Lay Christian Formation Leader's Report

During the first part of 2021, many of our youth programs were still in a somewhat restrictive mode. We kept in contact through many virtual avenues and met in person (outside) whenever possible. The summer months were a turning point and a successful camp was just the beginning of face to face connections for our youth. Come fall, we were back to a full schedule of in person worship, forum, and church school.

Church School remained virtual for the first part of the year. Story videos were sent every Sunday for the lower grades. In April, we had our Easter Egg Hunt and at the end of May, we held an outdoor end of year celebration with numerous games and activities. It was well attended and great fun was had by all. Come fall, we were back to in person classes. Three year olds through 5th graders met each week for a Godly Play story in the Good Shepherd Chapel and then split apart to spend time in their separate classrooms. The Junior High and Senior High groups met intermittently for outdoor excursions and activities.

Going to Nativity Youth Camp has become the staple for many Cathedral youth for generations. However, this past summer, it was a bit sweeter for our campers, counselors, and adult staff. After not seeing friends for an entire year (or longer), camp week gave many the gift of companionship and normalcy, two things missing from our lives for far too long. The numbers were lower for safety reasons, but that didn't diminish the fun.

Intergenerational activities were tricky this past year, but we did find some creative ways to meet in large groups safely. In March and April, we all enjoyed themed take-out dinners as a camp fund raiser. Young and old came out to support this worthy cause, whether it was to help prepare, or help consume. In September, all ages gathered together for a picnic with catered food, live music, and games for all. It was a great way to kick off our program year. Finally, the Live Nativity was great fun to see...costumes, animals, and over 150 people driving through. It was a special way to start the Christmas season.

The Cathedral is alive and well, and I am proud to be part of this community.

Becky Berkenstock
Lay Coordinator for Christian Formation

CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF THE NATIVITY

Cathedral Music Program

We've been confused, frustrated, encouraged, disappointed, delighted, bewildered, concerned, afraid, worried, hopeful, determined, miserable, patient, impatient, humbled, grateful, thankful, and that was all just yesterday! A roller-coaster ride doesn't even begin to describe how this has affected Cathedral music this past year .. make that, these past TWO years, but it comes pretty close. Even so, along with the help of all our dear musical friends, we go on. I have provided a listing of some of the more significant musical happenings throughout the past year:

- ❖ Choral Scholars continued singing for services in the new year, always masked and distanced, of course; virtual recording of the Office of Compline at the end of January
- ❖ In February, Choral Scholars recorded Lenten Evensong and the Office of Compline; Canon Stephen recorded a Lenten Organ Concert 'What does Lent Sound Like' at the end of February
- ❖ Choral Scholars, pianist Winston Alozie, soloist Evelyn Stewart provided music for the celebration of Absalom Jones and Black History Month at the end of February
- ❖ Cellist David Moulton joined us for Palm Sunday in March; Choral Scholars and guest soloist Fiona Gillespie sang Erik Meyer's setting of St. John's Passion for Good Friday; guest violinist and cellist Johannes Dietrich and Marie-Aline Cadieux played for Easter Vigil; guest trumpeter Nicholas Miravich joined us for Easter Sunday at both Mountaintop and Cathedral services
- ❖ Choral Scholars sang for Ordination service of Mary Catherine Cole and Tyler Parry in April
- ❖ An organ recital video 'Easter Acclamations' was recorded by Canon Williams in early May
- ❖ Stephen Williams was guest organist with the Bethlehem Bach Choir for their 'Festival Finale' at St. John's Lutheran Church, Allentown in May (thanks, Maestro Greg Funfgeld!)
- ❖ Choral Scholars continued singing through Trinity Sunday, the last Sunday in May
- ❖ Cathedral Arts presented vocalist Fiona Gillespie and theorbist/guitarist Paul Morton in a concert of songs from early, classical, Celtic and traditional music in mid-June (live and virtual)
- ❖ Variety of soloists provided vocal music for services through the summer months
- ❖ The masked Cathedral Choir and Friends sang a patriotic concert on July 3rd, our first time singing together in a very long time .. it was, without question, a highlight!
- ❖ In August, we mourned the passing of one of our Cathedral Choir matriarchs, certainly one of Nativity Cathedral's honored pillars, and one of the most blessed of all saints, **Barbara Iannelli**. Soloist Ian Murphy provided vocal music for her beautiful Celebration of Life on August 7
- ❖ Stephen and Karen Eddinger performed a duo-organ recital at Church of the Holy Spirit in Harleysville, PA, end of August
- ❖ Cathedral Arts welcomed the Brass Roots Trio who performed a concert "Reflections of Peace" that followed a September 11 meditation of Prayers for Remembrance and Hope
- ❖ Choral Scholar Lauren Curnow sang for the Ordination of Bruce Gower and Joseph O'Rear in mid-September
- ❖ Detailed and hopeful plans for a fall start-up of Cathedral Choir in September were put 'on hold' due to close proximity of COVID-19 outbreaks and rising numbers of cases (again); Choral Scholars resumed singing for services on September 12

- ❖ Renovations to the downstairs Cathedral Choir Room began / this project undertaken to make the room multi-purpose and flexible so that ALL choirs may rehearse there .. as of this writing it is nearly completed, and we await our new state-of-the-art musician chairs!
- ❖ Stephen and Karen Eddinger performed their duo-organ recital here at the Cathedral in mid-October, and made a video recording of the concert for the website in November
- ❖ In late October, we were delighted to host Johanna Pearson in her senior organ recital as partial fulfillment of her Bachelor of Sacred Music degree at Moravian University
- ❖ Carol Yale, violist, beautifully played for morning Eucharist service in October
- ❖ Always masked, Cathedral Choir began rehearsals on Weds, Oct 20 in preparation for Nov 7 Anniversary Sunday and All Saints morning service, and Concert of Remembrance in the afternoon featuring favorite anthems and Fauré's divine *Requiem* .. soloists were David Umla and Lauren Smith .. the (masked) audience was invited to sing along. This was indeed, and without question, another highlight!!
- ❖ Cathedral Choir sang the morning Eucharist and evening Advent Lessons and Carols on the first Sunday of Advent. This was Dean Pompa's final Sunday at the Cathedral and, as he reminded us, this one of his favorite services of the year
- ❖ Cathedral Arts presented the Chivalrous Crickets in a Christmas CD-release Concert of early, Celtic, classical, and folk music the first week of December
- ❖ Stephen was guest organist for the Moravian University Vespers at Central Moravian Church
- ❖ Stephen played an Advent organ concert at First Presbyterian Church, Stroudsburg
- ❖ Canon Stephen provided Advent hymn studies for the Adult Forum two Sundays in December
- ❖ Cathedral Choir sang an exquisite Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols on December 19 including bell ringers Becky Berkenstock, Denelle Miller, and Theresa Shaton, soloists Emily Dieter and Joe Mazingo, and wonderful readers from the community
- ❖ Cathedral Choir also sang the four Sundays of Advent, two services on Christmas Eve, and one on Christmas Day, all beautifully done without a great deal of rehearsal time, I must say!!
- ❖ An ensemble of vocalists and Celtic harpist Abigail Gillespie provided music for the annual Celtic Christmas Night in late December
- ❖ Canon Stephen played the 7th annual Christmas Day Organ Noëls concert at the Cathedral

Cathedral Choir, most activities can be tracked in the listing above, but long-short, the Choir has been on hiatus for a very long time. With better news about COVID at the end of summer, we thought we could make a go of it in September, but a last-minute nation-wide breakout stopped that. End of October, we began rehearsals, wearing masks at all times, all in the Cathedral, and began singing 'officially' the first Sunday of November. This lasted, thankfully, through Christmas, and now, with Omicron variant threats, we're on hiatus again, hopefully until February, or until we get the green light to go ahead. The good news is that at that blessed time when we are finally singing again on a regular basis, we'll be in beautiful, comfortable, and wonderful new space for making music!

Thank heavens for our gifted and talented **Choral Scholars**! Bass Ian Murphy is fulfilling his 9th year, soprano Lauren Smith her 7th, alto Lauren Curnow her 4th, and, due to his crazy schedule, our talented tenor Joe_Mazingo has decided to step away from this sometimes demanding position, and to continue serving as one of our beloved volunteers. *We are very grateful and thankful for the amazing generosity of those who have contributed toward underwriting Choral Scholar expenses by way of gifts and memorials! Your continued support is so very much appreciated!*

We are very appreciative to Winston Alozie, pianist and innovative music-maker for the 8:45 a.m. 321 Contact services – particularly for braving all of those incredibly cold mornings in the

Nativity Platz tent, on a keyboard, standing .. he just kept on playing and singing!! Also to Joanna Mell, harpist for our Celtic Eucharist services, and the Gillespie family, Abigail, Alison, Tom and others who regularly provide such beautiful music for Celtic Nights!!

Cathedral Choristers, young singers in grades 2 thru 6, have not rehearsed or sung all year, and as deeply disappointing as that is, I definitely look forward to resuming this choir in the fall!!

Cathedral Handbell Ringers have not rehearsed or played all year, except for the wonderful addition of bells to Lessons and Carols in December by Theresa Shaton, Denelle Miller, and Becky Berkenstock. Let's plan on resuming in the fall?? Interested in joining this group? Look for announcements and let us know!

Cathedral Arts has clearly been in a holding pattern for going on two years now, but even without a lot of strategic planning, we've been able to provide some pretty wonderful music for all of us to enjoy. And a heroic thanks to one **Paul Fox** who seems to believe all things are possible, our virtual ministry, musical and otherwise, has been invaluable! *To our very dear Patrons, Subscribers, and Supporters who continue to give beyond measure, even in this time of extreme turbulence, we are forever grateful to each and every one of you for your gifts that make these and future events possible.*

Cathedral Instruments . . the Adam Dieffenbach Pipe Organ Company continues to faithfully maintain and care for the Cathedral Organ, and Bill Adamson tunes our three pianos.

On a personal note, I would like to announce that Moravian University has asked that I teach organ for the Music Department beginning this month. It is an 'Artist-in-Residence' adjunct faculty position which I have accepted. I love that it's within walking distance, and very much look forward to the new delights and challenges that are in store, for both me and those blessed unsuspecting students!

As always, we are forever grateful for the incredible leadership of Dean Pompa, his twinkle-eyed encouragement and seemingly endless patience! And to Canon Grandfield who has made countless transitions, U-turns, and last-minute changes seem not only workable and ok, but perhaps even the best route! Also, to the truly incredible staff here at the Cathedral who are so willing to make the difficult and impossible happen time and again, and actually do just that, thank you!

May we continue to recognize and be open to God's presence, even now, even now.

Stephen Williams
Canon for the Ministry of Music and the Performing Arts

CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF THE NATIVITY

Altar Guild

The Cathedral Church of the Nativity Altar Guild is made up of twelve teams that take care of the setup for all worship services. These regular services are held Saturday evening and Sunday morning. In addition, we have a Spanish Holy Eucharist service at 12:30 every Sunday. Our teams also take care of the setup for all holy seasons of Advent, Christmas, Lent and Easter. We also cover preparations for mid-week services, ordinations, baptisms, weddings, funerals, Chrism Mass and others as needed. At this time, we have approximately 28 members who faithfully perform these duties.

At the direction of Dean Pompa four of the members have been given the responsibility of guiding the Altar Guild following the unexpected passing of Barbara Iannelli. They are: Catherine Alling, Bonnie Kuronya, Sue Snyder and Olivia Tramontana. Faithfully we go forward in her absence.

We have two local florists who furnish the altar flowers and our own Flower Guild who takes responsibility for Christmas, Easter and other special days. These flowers are then handled by our Flower Group as noted elsewhere in this annual report.

Special thanks goes to Laura Drum and Olivia Tramontana for maintaining the care of our linens. And also to Bonnie Kuronya for taking care of the candles. These ladies have a steadfast devotion that is so much appreciated.

In spite of COVID, the Altar Guild continues to serve our Church faithfully and dutifully. Many thanks to all who have maintained a loyal commitment especially in lieu of life's current expectations.

As we continue to serve at God's table we welcome new members be it male or female. Should you have an interest please contact any on the four Directress Team:

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| Catherine Alling | cba_nj@yahoo.com |
| Bonnie Kuronya | blkuronya@gmail.com |
| Sue Snyder | subs@ptd.net |
| Olivia Tramontana | otram77@gmail.com |

We continue to grow and flourish in a most difficult and challenging time. And so we give thanks that we are back in the Church for regular worship giving thanks to all who make it possible.

Faithfully submitted,

Catherine Alling, Directress for
The Cathedral Church of the Nativity
Altar Guild

CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF THE NATIVITY Bethlehem Emergency Sheltering (BES)

Thanks to the many people who volunteer their time, talent, and treasure to this ministry, we now enter our 14th year of serving the homeless in the Bethlehem area. This is the fifth year that has been at Christ Church UCC. As I've said many times, this ministry survives because of their work, prayers, and other support. In our continued adaptive environment, volunteers prepare and serve an evening meal, and prepare grab-and-go bagged breakfasts.

James Reader, Joe Tramontana and I serve as the volunteer coordinators to the BES operations team. I finished my term on the on the board of directors in February 2021. The Cathedral continues to staff volunteers on the "odd numbered" Thursdays through the season.

The 2019-2020 sheltering season was severely hampered by COVID-19. Lessons learned from that season have been used for the current season to ensure guests, volunteers and employees remain as safe as possible. LVHN Street Medicine continues to visit the shelter to offer care to those without primary care physicians, or that may need immediate care for non-emergency events.

As I mentioned in last year's report, BES was able to secure changes to the zoning requirements to allow for opening as early as November 1, and to stay open as late as April 30. BES once again elected to open November 15, 2021 and will close April 15, 2022.

Unfortunately, other shelters in the Lehigh Valley have not been as fortunate in controlling spread of COVID-19. The Allentown Rescue Mission and shelters in Easton have closed temporarily resulting in increased numbers of guests at BES. With the mandated limit of 70 individuals, BES has already begun to turn away homeless.

Again, as mentioned last year, in June 2019, Christ Church announced that it had decided to relocate and ultimately sell the church building. COVID-19 seems to have continued to hamper that congregation's efforts to do so. This has not stopped BES from looking for a more permanent home. There is also potential funding for a new shelter available through Federal grants allocated due to the pandemic.

The Cathedral continues to use SignUp Genius as a platform to schedule volunteers on our "odd numbered" Thursday evenings. Links to that site may be found on the Cathedral's website.

Respectfully submitted,

Dn. Rodney Conn

CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF THE NATIVITY

Better Buy Thrift Shop

The thrift shop moved into its newly-remodeled space the last week of July. The response has been overwhelmingly positive by customers and volunteers alike. New floor, expanded space and fresh paint have made a big difference. We also moved our sorting and storage space to the Bishop Grey Room allowing for more racks on the floor.

In addition to our regular contributions to New Bethany for bus passes, we donated \$10,000 to Fountain Hill Elementary School for the construction of their food pantry.

We continue to provide vouchers for free clothing to residents and guests of New Bethany Ministries, Trinity Soup Kitchen, the Emergency Shelter, Medical Street Clinic, Turning Point and Hispanic Organization.

We provided the opportunity for community service hours to several high school students as well as one woman who needed them to fulfill conditions of her probation.

We added three new volunteers to our teams and continue to receive funding through the government for two AARP workers.

We are accepting donations during open hours on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays 10 to 2 and Saturdays 10 to 1. Donations can also be left under the stairs on the ground floor by the elevators on Sundays.

Thank you to our church family for the tremendous support of our shop through volunteer hours, donations of housewares and clothing, as well as monetary gifts. It is because of your generosity that we have grown and flourished. God Bless you.

For questions or to volunteer, please call Connie Gilbert at 484-554-6415.

Faithfully submitted,

Connie Gilbert, Coordinator

CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF THE NATIVITY

Celtic Ministry

Celtic Spirituality nights at the Cathedral Church of the Nativity are an opportunity to gather for peaceful, hope-filled, reflection, meditation, and prayer in the Celtic Spirit. We gather on the last Saturday of every month at 5 PM in the Cathedral.

Participants are free to find any space in the Cathedral to best receive this experience. Candles and Celtic-themed music create a beautiful and peaceful space. A spoken meditation is always offered typically with a Celtic theme or Celtic influence of experience, worldview, prose, poetry, etc. During periods, music will be played for participants to enjoy and reflect. Stations, including the laying on of hands at the altar, are offered during an extended time of reflection. During this time, participants are invited to visit each station and participate in its theme of invitation. The experience always ends with a blessing. In Celtic spirit, a blessing is the promise and bidding of holy presence throughout Celtic

Spirituality Night Circle: Tori Aitchison, Tom Ardizzone, Cathy Bailey, Connie Andrejko, Connie Gilbert, Alison Gillespie, Earlene Miller, Rebecca Randall, Melinda Rizzo, Kae Romeril, Alfred Ruggiero, and Tiffani Velez

CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF THE NATIVITY

Creation Care Ministry

Mission Statement: Nativity Creation Care ministry believes in the sacredness of our Earth and our environment given to us by God. As members of the larger Nativity community, we aspire to bring about change in how we approach consumption of resources both within the church and throughout our neighborhood. By educating ourselves and others, we want to inspire reverence for the Earth as God created it.

Recycling plastic: We continue to collect grocery bags, bread bags, case overwrap, dry cleaning bags, newspaper sleeves, ice bags, wood pellet bags, Ziploc & other re-sealable bags, produce bags, bubble wrap, salt bags, and cereal bags to donate to the TREX recycling program. During 2020-2021 we collected over 500 pounds of plastic and received the gift of a park bench from TREX. This bench was donated to the Nativity Youth Camp site.

Season of Creation: During September and October of 2021 Nativity celebrated the Season of Creation. The weekly liturgy included prayers for creation and some creation-focused reflections. Dale Grandfield and Cathy Bailey created 6 videos (one each week) with discussion and suggestions for environmental justice. These videos are still available on the Nativity YouTube Channel.

Lehigh Valley GreenFaith Circle is an environmental justice group with members from several different congregations in the Lehigh Valley area. Nativity has several members serving on this committee. We participated in the Faiths 4 Climate Justice Action Days in October and hosted some of the activities on our property at the corner of 3rd and Wyandotte Streets. Nativity youth were instrumental in creating signs/banners that were displayed during the events. Some of these signs are now hanging in Sayre Hall.

Cathy Bailey
creationcare@nativity.org

CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF THE NATIVITY

Daughters of the King

The Daughters of the King is a spiritual order for laywomen who are communicants of the Episcopal Church. The *Mary, Favored Daughter Chapter* of the Cathedral Church of the Nativity was enrolled into the International chapter in May 2009. Since then the chapter has served the Cathedral in service and prayer.

Throughout most months of 2021, the Order continued to meet via Zoom. While conditions of the pandemic prevented the chapter to meet in person to provide their usual service to Nativity, they maintained monthly prayer lists. Praying continually, as those need requests are received, has been the focus of the chapter for this year.

In August, the Daughters of our chapter passed through the end of an era when Barbara Iannelli, a beautiful soul, and our chapter President, joyfully went to be with her Lord and maker. Recollections of the many ways Barbara served our chapter and the Cathedral Church of the Nativity fill our memories. We remember her in the twinkling of each prayer candle. God bless you, Barbara!

In December, the Daughters placed luminaries outside the Cathedral in support of New Bethany Ministries' Luminary Night and provided cookies for the Nativity's Christmas Eve Drive-Through Event.

After the retirement of Dean Pompa, the Daughters took leadership of Prayer Bead Meditations, an online prayer group he helped initiate during the pandemic. This prayer bead prayer group meets weekly on Monday evenings at 7:00 pm via Zoom. We invite everyone interested in learning more about this form of prayer to join us. Please express your interest to Tracy Eisenreich through an email to: teisenreich@nativitycathedral.org.

If you would be interested in learning more about the Daughters of the King, we welcome you to attend one of our monthly meetings. Please contact Barbara Beal at: bale.beal@gmail.com and she will include your name and email on our mailing list.

Olivia Tramontana
January 2022

CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF THE NATIVITY

Education for Ministries (EfM)

Most people have questions about their faith and find it challenging to get answers. **Education for Ministry (EfM)** was developed by the School of Theology in Sewanee, Tennessee, to provide a mechanism for lay people to work through those questions. This four-year course of study provides the framework for the group to connect faith to their daily lives through reading and discussion.

Meeting once a week in small groups, led by mentors trained to facilitate the experience, they begin to think theologically, reflect faithfully, and speak civilly when confronted by beliefs and principles in opposition to their own. And that's something we can all appreciate in today's world. Those participating in EfM learn how to articulate their faith and who to shape their faith into action.

In May of 2021, four Nativity members graduated after completing this 4-year course. Nativity hosted two EFM seminar groups until September of 2021 when we had inadequate participation to continue two groups. We now have one group, meeting on Wednesday evenings, with 12 participants, 3 of whom are Nativity members. We were meeting on Zoom until September of 2021 when we restarted meetings in person.

Cathy Bailey
Co-Mentor of Wednesday evening EfM seminar group
Diocesan EfM Coordinator

CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF THE NATIVITY

Healing Ministry – The Order of St. Luke



The Home for Healing and Wholeness was started in September 2019 to awaken the wonders of our spiritual lives and nurture healing, harmony, and hope. Although the pandemic limited some of our offerings this past year, we were able to provide some healing activities virtually and some in-person. We are grateful for the leaders and participants in this ministry.

- * **Celtic Spirituality:** Beautiful Celtic music, prayer stations, and hands-on healing are part of our Celtic Spirituality gatherings. Services are held the last Saturday of the month.
- * **Heart Rhythm Meditation:** Led by Jennifer Adrienne, heart rhythm meditation is a method of meditation that coordinates the body's respiratory, circulatory and nervous systems, resulting in an integration of one's body, mind, heart, and soul. The focus of this path is an open, loving heart.
- * **Mindfulness Meditation:** Mindful meditation allows participants the time and space to relax and focus on the breath. Kevin Siddons, Ed.D has been involved with meditation since 1974 and leads his classes through Sitting Guided Meditation, Walking Meditation, and Sitting Silent Meditation.
- * **Group Spiritual Direction for Moms:** Held monthly, this group provides space for moms to tend to their own spiritual well-being and others. Led by Marcella Kraybill-Greggo, Spiritual Director.

We hope to bring back other offerings, e.g. reiki, tai chi, and yoga once Covid restrictions are lifted.

Please visit our website, www.nativitycathedral.org/healing-wholeness for more information.

Connie Andrejko

CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF THE NATIVITY History Group

This coming year one of our goals is to grow our membership in order to better execute our Mission Statement which is “to preserve the church’s history through the collection of objects, photos, documents, oral histories, artifacts, memorabilia and written material”.

We are now very fortunate to have a spacious room on the first floor of the Deanery. This room now serves as the church archives and meeting room for both the History Group and ShareCare Faith In Action. Over the last few months our room was totally renovated after asbestos was found in the ceiling. The beam work above was reinforced, a new ceiling installed and the room totally repainted. We also thank ShareCare for donating two large file cabinets in which to protect our history material. Our church is truly fortunate to have this comfortable and secure room for all church members to enjoy.

We continue to work on organizing our computer data base and invite church members to stop in and do research or read some of our interesting books. We do require that all materials be left in the room, however copies can be made in the ShareCare office across the hall.

The History Group meets the first Thursday of the month at 1:30 PM. If you enjoy history and would like to learn more about Nativity, please join us at our next meeting.

Sandy Kelley
Chairperson, Cathedral History Group
484-860-3096

CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF THE NATIVITY

Intercessory Prayer Ministry

At every Eucharist, and during most worship services, a Collect is included in the liturgy. A Collect is a prayer composed with a particular structure, beginning with an invocation of an attribute of God, and gathering the desires of the people and requesting help from God to carry out those intentions.

Recently my attention has been drawn to two particular Collects which have directed my thoughts about our faith journeys. From the Collect for the first Sunday in Advent we are reminded that as the length of days grows shorter, darkness increases, both figuratively and spiritually. We ask God, whom we address as 'almighty', to put upon us "the armor of light" so that we may prepare ourselves for the coming of the Savior who will redeem us from our sins of idolatry and injustice.

The Collect for the second Sunday after Christmas acknowledges that our Savior has come among us. He not only created us; he has taken on our human nature. Because of his great love for us **we are called to share his divine life**. "The Son of God became the Son of Man in order that the sons of men might become the sons of God" (Pope Leo the Great).

These collects have spoken to me in such a way as to 'enlighten the thoughts of my heart' (Ephesians 1:18), to consider what it means to share in our Lord's divine life. We are called, as those who follow Jesus, to reflect his life, his light and his love to all the world in our daily lives. Just as Jesus often went apart to pray, to reflect on the will of the Father, so are we called to "pray without ceasing, giving thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you" (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18).

What a privilege it is to be able to set apart a time to join our Lord in prayer. Our weekly bulletin always lists those who need our prayers. Sometimes persons are not able to pray for themselves, and seek the prayers of others. Our Book of Common Prayer is a storehouse of the expressions of our soul's longing to be at one with our Lord, and the opportunity to open our hearts and minds to the needs of others.

Would you be interested in joining me in a time of intentional intercessory prayer for our faith community of the Cathedral, for the needs of our world, for your own needs and the needs of those whom you know and love? What a privilege it would be to have you join with me in this ministry.

Laura Drum
January 12, 2022

CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF THE NATIVITY

Latinx Community

Two years! The Community of parishioners who worship in Spanish celebrated the second anniversary of our first Holy Eucharist in Spanish on Christmas Day, December 25, 2019.

SACRAMENTAL AND LITURGICAL LIFE

- Baptism & Confirmation : we baptized our first person in Spanish on Pentecost. Nolman Faurisio Bonilla. Other baptisms included two infants: Elma Marie Zapata and Anastasia Marie Garcia. We also celebrated confirmation with Pedro Huertas and Emil Rodriguez (among the wider Cathedral Community).
- Sunday Services : weekly celebrations have continued every week of the year at 12:30pm on Sundays, both virtually during times of lock-down, and in person under the tent and then in the Nave. We regathered in-person under the tent starting on Palm Sunday.
 - We have designated Sundays of the month: First Sundays are “Youth Sundays” where readings, ushering, and serving are done by youth. Second Sundays are “Healing Sundays” where we offer the Sacrament of Unction in a Public Service of Healing during the liturgy. Last Sundays are “Thanksgiving Sundays” where we give thanks for those who have celebrated birthdays and anniversaries during the previous month.
 - Over the last quarter of 2021, **the Average Sunday Attendance at the 12:30pm Eucharist in person has been 28, and virtually, 8.**
- Feast Days : We celebrated weekday Eucharists for major feasts this year, including The Annunciation (March 25), Ascension Day (May 13), The Transfiguration (August 6), St. Mary the Virgin (August 14), St. Michael and All Angels (September 29), All Saints’ Day and All Souls’ Day (November 1 & 2) and Christmas Day (December 25).
- Oración Vespertina : Beginning on The Feast of the Confession of St. Peter (January 18) we started offering Evening Prayer in Spanish each night at 6:00pm via Facebook Live. We quickly found that a community gathered, not only from our local Cathedral community, but also from places as far and wide as Miami, Florida, Aguascalientes, Mexico, San Salvador, El Salvador, and Porto Velho, Brasil. Together, Sandy Milien, Millard Cook, and Dale Grandfield officiate the office of la Vespertina Monday through Saturday, weekly.
 - Over the last quarter of 2021, **the Average Evening Attendance (virtual) at the 6:00pm Evening Prayer was 13.**
- Bilingual Stations of the Cross : Fridays in Lent, we *virtually* walked the Stations of the Cross in both English and Spanish via Zoom. This included being invited to offer the bilingual stations of the Cross for the Churchwide Hispanic/Latino Ministries of the Episcopal Church on March 26.
- Holy Week and the Great Three Days : Again we curtailed our hoped-for plans for the Three Days (including hopes for a traditional procession and Passion Play), *La Semana Santa* and the *Triduo* was celebrated hybrid on Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Day.

- Stewardship Campaign : in tandem with the English-language stewardship campaign, a Spanish-language version ran, educating about Stewardship and pledging, inviting Cathedral parishioners who worship in Spanish to pledge. **We now have grown to 8 pledges from this community to the annual campaign, with a total of \$10,720 pledged for 2022.**
- Trial Use of the New Translation of the Book of Common Prayer : in response to a resolution of the 2018 General Convention, a new Spanish-language translation of the Book of Common Prayer 1979 was promulgated for Trial Use. From the beginning of July until late October the Cathedral's Spanish-language community used the new text and reflected on its strengths and weaknesses.
- Ministries : parishioners continued volunteering for and taking charge of the ministries of acolyte, lector, intercessory prayer, running of technologies, and set-up. Olga Rivera also trained to be part of the Altar Guild.
- Music : in partnership with Jean Milien Music of Miami, and the vocal leadership of Lee Velez and Sandy Milien the Cathedral continues to commission and produce pre-recorded songs and pieces of service music for use in our Spanish-language liturgies. These allow for worship to be vibrant while not yet having a lead musician *in person*. These also will allow future new Latinx Community plants in the Diocese to have music in worship.

YOUTH

- Hispano/Latino Youth Group : in response to a growing number of youth participating in the spanish-language community, Sandy and Dale have begun offering a time of conversation for youth following the liturgy on the first Sundays of the month.
 - Blessings of two Quinceañeras : the community was called upon to celebrate and blessed the 15th Birthdays (Quinceañera) of two youth: Mia and Brianna.

CULTURAL CELEBRATIONS

- Hispanic Heritage Month : We celebrated Hispanic Heritage Month (mid-September to mid-October) with special prayers in the liturgy, culminating in a celebration on October 17.
 - Diocesan Videos : Cathedral parishioners featured prominently in Diocesan bilingual video projects celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month (October) and LGBTQ Pride Month (August).
- Ofrenda for Day of the Dead : the Cathedral's Latinx parishioners assembled an Ofrenda - a table with pictures of the deceased, food stuffs, decorations, and images of saints for the Commemoration of the Faithful Departed. The wider Cathedral Community was invited and participated in adding names and pictures of departed loved ones, including a special Sunday School lesson about the Ofrenda, and a special dedication of the Ofrenda to Barbara Iannelli.
- Las Posadas : On Thursday, December 16 we offered our first in-person, bilingual celebration of Las Posadas (Mary and Joseph's search for shelter in Bethlehem), including youth enacting the nativity scene, and a piñata to follow.

MISSION

- Lunches for Bethlehem Emergency Sheltering : twice during the sheltering season the Comunidad Hispana / Latina gathered to prepare, package, deliver, and distribute 65+ Saturday lunches through BES. November 20 and December 18.
- Refugee Family from Honduras : on less than 24 hours notice, our Comunidad sprang into action to help with a refugee family arriving in Allentown from Honduras, through Bethany Christian Services. The Ucles Salgado family have become part of our Cathedral family, worshiping with us, serving with us, and celebrating with us. Members of the Comunidad have pitched in with clothing, furniture and furnishings, employment help, transportation, and care.

- English Classes at Nativity : together with Tiffani Vélez and Sally Doocey we began the process of planning to offer English Language Classes at Nativity. Classes will be structured on a semester basis, and are due to start in February 2022.

Submitted by:

Canon Sandy Milien & The Reverend Canon Dale Grandfield, *Ministry Partners*
Mr. Jose Mendez, Mr. Lee Velez, Ms. Marie Lisby, Ms. Olga Rivera, Ms. Waldina Orellana, Mr. Nolman Bonilla, Ms. Luz Dellavalle, Ms. Milagros Flores Barahona, The Rev. Millard Cook,
Planning Team

CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF THE NATIVITY

Monday Flower Group

The Monday Flower Volunteer Group has completed 48 years of sharing love and hope through flower arrangements for our hospitalized church members and clergy.

Usually each Monday a volunteer from this Flower Group produces and delivers beautiful flower arrangements from the altar flowers to our hospitalized parishioners. Currently flower arranging is being done on Tuesdays and deliveries are not being made to the hospital. This is only one of many ministries that brings a strong spiritual relationship within the Cathedral family.

Our sincere thanks to this devoted group for their continued service, and we welcome new volunteers at any time.

Angelica Baez and Linda Hafich, Co-Chairpersons

CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF THE NATIVITY

Nativity Youth Camp

Nativity Youth Camp continues to be an amazing experience for our young people. The third week of June, 30 campers and 6 adult staff enjoyed a time of prayer, fellowship, and fun. Mike Evans and Paul Fox served as camp co-directors. The Cathedral enjoys a partner in ministry with Camp Choconut, the host of Nativity Youth Camp.

Given the ways the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted the lives of both youth and adults in this recent time, the theme of Nativity Youth Camp 2021 revolved around perseverance, resilience, and trust, which we collectively referred to as “The Pillars of Hope.” In addition to traditional camp activities such as Tournament Games (kickball and handball), Olympic Games (water balloon volleyball, capture the flag, etc.), and campfire time, campers and counselors participated in hands-on educational activities revolving around the Pillars of Hope. These activities included improvisation exercises, music games, trust walks, and discussions of Scripture. The entire week culminated with a multi-day craft activity of designing, building, and decorating luminary boats, which on the penultimate night, the campers placed on the waters of Lake Choconut to illuminate the darkness.

In the fall of 2021, high school-age youth participated in a weekend long retreat at Camp Choconut. During this time, the counselors and counselors-to-be had the opportunity to cultivate their own sense of leadership and responsibility, in preparation for the upcoming camp year and the many young campers that will look to them for guidance.

The annual Spaghetti Dinner has always been the primary fundraiser for Nativity Youth Camp. This is a chance for campers, counselors and staff alike to give back to the congregation that helps make camp happen. Missing this opportunity was not an option. Thanks to a creative camp staff team, it was decided to offer take-out meals for the Spaghetti Dinner, which then evolved into an additional two Sundays of take-out extravaganzas. These themed dinners took place over three consecutive Sundays, and took us to Ireland, Italy, and Mexico. This delicious event not only raised funds for camp, but brought the camp community together in a way that has been absent for over a year.

Camperships were created a few years back as a way to offset additional costs of camp. Donations can be made in memory of someone, in appreciation of your favorite camper (or counselor), or just the wish to keep this ministry going for another 100 years. Many thanks for the community support that sends young people to camp for this formational and transformational experience. Nativity Youth Camp continues to be offered at no cost to participants. The financial cost of camp is \$13,000. Maintaining a no-cost experience for campers is only made possible by your generous support through camperships.

Submitted by Becky Berkenstock on behalf of camp staff

CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF THE NATIVITY

New Bethany Ministries

New Bethany Ministries has been serving people experiencing food insecurity, homelessness, and mental illness of the Lehigh Valley for more than 36 years. During that time, we have positively impacted the lives of more than 100,000 people.

Below is a snapshot of our 2021 impact. We served nearly 12,000 individuals throughout our entire organization:

- ❖ Supplied over 19,000 meals for the year, to more than 10,000 individuals in our Mollard Hospitality Center.
- ❖ Distributed grocery carts to over 600 households in our Food Pantry throughout 2021, with 125 of those households registering for our remote pantry choice.
- ❖ Provided 1,594 showers to 116 individuals.
- ❖ Provided Case Management services and aided 36 families staying in our Transitional Housing Program, providing 3,250 sheltered nights. Of those families 13 successfully moved into permanent housing, and eight remained with New Bethany Ministries entering 2022.
- ❖ Received 1,557 applications and have processed (880) 57% of those applications, providing assistance to individuals and families to maintain/obtain safe, stable, and permanent housing through our Housing Assistance Program.
- ❖ Managed the finances and provided case-management to 62 individuals to support their self-sufficiency through our Representative Payee Program.
- ❖ Provided safe, stable, permanent housing to 69 men, women, and children through our Single Room Occupancies in Bethlehem & Coplay, Wyandotte Apartments and Grace House.
- ❖ Thanksgiving: Provided 747 Thanksgiving turkeys (341 full meals with all the fixings) to the Bethlehem community. Meals were distributed before the holiday and by takeout on Thanksgiving Day
- ❖ Christmas: We provided 96 households with a Christmas Day Brunch and gifts

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic New Bethany Ministries has continued to provide services while adhering to CDC guidelines. The health and safety of all New Bethany Ministries staff, clients, volunteers, and donors has always been our top priority to ensure continuation of uninterrupted services. Even as the CDC regulations began to lift through 2021, NBM's safety guidelines continued to be unwavering in requiring all onsite personnel and guests to social distance and wear a face mask while on the premise, regardless of vaccination status.

Because New Bethany Ministries is a community of hope and support, where no person will be turned away from our services, we continue to ensure that all safety precautions are met to deliver our services, including:

- ❖ **Digital Choice Food Pantry:** To implement safety precautions New Bethany offers clients a remote ordering choice. This provides clients the option to complete their food order online and schedule a pickup time. These adjustments, beginning at the onset of COVID-19, continues to increase the cost of the pantry, to both maintain the database system and secure additional food, more frequently.

- ❖ **Mollard Hospitality Center:** We have continued to successfully serve a hot to-go lunch to individuals while enforcing social distancing. In addition, we have extended services to the Northside by overseeing and managing the Trinity Soup Kitchen.
- ❖ **Housing Assistance:** We have continued to serve individuals and families in our Transitional Housing Program, Wyandotte, and Single Room Occupancies in both Bethlehem and Coplay. Our Housing Assistance Program has provided over \$2M in rent relief since its launch. At this time, the program has processed more than 2,000 applications.

Over the years Nativity has been a generous partner to us, both financially and through direct volunteering to better the community we serve. Your partnership has made it possible for New Bethany Ministries to continue its mission of serving those experiencing food insecurity, homelessness, and mental illness in the Lehigh Valley. We are looking to further strengthen that partnership by working together to address some of our community issues and build more stability for our brothers and sisters in desperate need.

Veronne Demesyieux, LMSW
Associate Director

CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF THE NATIVITY

Pastoral Visitors

“Psalm 46:1 reminds us that ‘God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.’ The psalmist continues by reminding us that God’s presence allows us not to fear the calamities that may befall us. While it is not promised that we will be prevented from experiencing problems and trials, we know God promises that He will be our source of strength to persevere and endure through them.”

This year Church of the Nativity once again faced the challenges of providing for the faith lives of its parishioners during the Coronavirus pandemic.

Our Nativity congregations have been very blessed to have clergy who remain dedicated to keeping worship alive for us through the advantages of technology. While many are blessed, there has never been a more important time for the Pastoral Visitors to connect with our isolated parishioners, some of whom do not have access to our online Cathedral worship services.

There are ten Pastoral Visitors committed to visiting thirty or so people. As in 2020, the visitations this year were very different. At the beginning of the year, our visits may have been through a phone call or note but as the vaccine was delivered and administered, our visits changed. How joyful it was to visit in person. What a privilege and blessing it was to reach out to our parishioners, to connect with them on a very personal level, and to hear their faith stories!

Our clergy helped the Pastoral Visitors by providing special bags with consecrated communion and flowers that we delivered at Easter and Christmas. We believe our Lord calls us to visit those of our faith community and that our visitations help bring God’s promise that He is our source of strength to persevere and endure through these difficult times.

Are you interested in being a Pastoral Visitor for a member of the Cathedral whom you would bless and by whom you would be blessed? You may contact Canon Dale Grandfield or Laura Drum through the church office to express your interest.

Joe and Olivia Tramontana
January 10, 2022

CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF THE NATIVITY

Property Committee

After a prolonged hiatus in 2020 and the first half of 2021 due primarily to the COVID pandemic, the Property Committee has been reactivated and is addressing the ongoing issues that present themselves in order to maintain the Cathedral's physical structure and assure the safety of staff and Nativity members.

Thrift Shop - Cathedral staff, under the leadership and guidance of Joe Tramontana and Jose Mendez, completed the renovation of the Better Buy Thrift Shop in the undercroft of the Cathedral permitting the Thrift Shop a timely return to its former refurbished location. This project included a change in the configuration of the Thrift Shop as well as new lighting, flooring and painting. The Bishop Gray Room was also revamped and upgraded to permit a larger space for storage, sorting, and preparing items for sale. The two taken together increased the capacity, efficiency, attractiveness and the safety of this important ministry to the community.

While working on the Thrift Shop, it was discovered that the French Doors leading to the moat area had degraded over the years and now provided neither security nor prevention of air and water infiltration from the exterior. Door replacement was required. The replacement of the doors met the Bethlehem Historic Conservation Commission requirement to replace "in kind". The Committee solicited bids for the door and frame construction and a bid was awarded to Dykes Lumber of Easton, PA. Dykes does extensive work for Lehigh University. Further investigation of the French Door area revealed that the inside floor adjacent to the doors was sagging and giving way when one stepped in the area. It was found that a large wooden support beam below the floor had rotted and also needed to be replaced in order to assure the floor integrity and that of the new door installation. Korpics Custom Carpentry LLC has been hired to replace said beam and to install the doors. The cause of the rotted beam is believed to be due to the seepage of water from the moat area over the years. Such water impingement has also rotted the threshold of the door. The recommended solution to avoid a recurrence of this problem is to raise the height of the door sill by 2 inches with bluestone and to install a new threshold and door. Some masonry work will be required to accomplish the raised sill and the fit between the door framing and the stone wall.

The door painting will be completed by Stirling Painting.

The Historic Conservation Commission approved the modification of the transom of the new doors to permit an aluminum louver to replace the historic glass transom. A duct will be extended from the louver to an air handler that heats and cools the Sanctuary. Outside air will be drawn in through this louver to provide ventilation (fresh air) to the Sanctuary. The drains in the moat are under investigation to insure proper drainage of water from heavy storms.

This project will be completed in Spring 2022.

Choir Room - The Choir Room, adjacent to the Better Buy Thrift Shop, has also been renovated permitting greater flexibility while rehearsing.

Cathedral Pews - All of the pews in the Cathedral have been examined, and where needed loose and broken floor blocking repaired assuring the soundness of the pews.

Security - Nativity has contracted with our security firm, Modern Wilderness, to replace our existing system with a new state-of-the-art security system. Installation is planned for early 2022. The delay is due to supply chain issues with two important components, the Honeywell Alarm Panel and the Honeywell LTE Multi Path Communicator. Once installed, security monitoring will be provided to the Thrift Shop. The Cathedral and Sayre Hall will have their equivalent security systems updated with the latest technology. Panic buttons will be installed in the Church Office, the Thrift Shop and the Cathedral Sanctuary. The status of the back ordered items is being followed weekly.

Fire Escapes – The fire escapes at Sayre Hall and the Deanery have been inspected with respect to soundness and general condition. The Cathedral has received an estimate of \$2800 to repair the fire escapes bringing them into proper and safe condition. A cost will be obtained to sand blast and paint the fire escapes.

Roof Repairs – The roof over the Slype was replaced with a Carlyle (Rubber Roof) to eliminate a leak and also as PM for this aging roof. A significant roof leak on the south end of Sayre Hall which resulted in ceiling and wall damage in the hallway on the third floor hallway (see item 3 below).

Interior Painting and Plaster Repair – While examining the Thrift Shop Door Area Stirling Painting was requested to examine several other areas in both the Cathedral and Sayre Hall requiring painting and plaster repair. Included areas are:

Sayre Hall

- 1) Complete painting of the southwest stairwell in Sayre Hall. This will also involve plaster work in the lower level.
- 2) Room 23 ceiling in Sayre Hall.
- 3) 3rd floor hall ceiling and walls damaged by a roof leak. The roof leak has been repaired but the ceiling will require plaster work and painting.
- 4) 2nd floor ladies room entry hall.

Cathedral

- 1) Bishop Gray Bathroom – Prepare and paint the total room.
- 2) Hallway outside Bishop Gray Room – Wall and ceiling prep and paint.

The Property Committee is in the process of determining which of these can be completed by Jose's staff and which will be let to Stirling. All this work to be completed in 2022.

Air Quality – In addition to replacing the standard MERV-8 air filters with the denser MERV-13 filters in the air handlers serving the Sanctuary and Sayre Hall, bipolar ionization units have been added to each of the air handlers, These upgrades were completed last Spring and are recommended by the HVAC Industry to purge COVID-19, as well as other viruses, bacteria and pollutants.

Preventive Maintenance – As the technology used in the Cathedral and its environs becomes more complex and expensive and our dependence on their performance increases, it is important to have a robust PM program and adequate maintenance funding in place. Hence the Committee is working on implementing maintenance contracts and increasing maintenance budgets including:

- 1) HVAC – Requesting a budget of \$15,000 total from \$8,000, to let contracts with Worth & Company and also with Carrier Corporation.

- 2) Roof Repairs – With more frequent repairs necessary, we are requesting an increase to the maintenance budget of \$15,000, from \$8,000, for roof repairs which normally require immediate attention.
- 3) Lighting – Extensive light replacements have just been made in the Cathedral. Some landscape light replacement remains. Currently we are on a two-year replacement cycle. This is an expensive proposition and the Committee is investigation options such as LED lighting to reduce costs long term. Again, we request to increase the budget for lighting to \$10,000 from the current \$2,000 budget.

As you can see from the above, there are numerous and somewhat expensive demands on our resources in order to meet our stewardship goals to maintain/enhance the Cathedral, Sayre Hall, the Deanery and Nativity's Campus. This year the Property Committee will work to develop a listing of anticipated projects and activities and to prioritize the list based upon their importance and availability of our limited financial resources.

Finally, when planning maintenance projects and work, the Property Committee is considering the scope of work and impact of the Capital Campaign Campus Plan projects. Our goal requires this type of coordination to control expenses and assure compatibility with work that may overlap with planned Capital Project implementations. The Committee is working closely with the architect and the Campaign Implementation Group to avoid unnecessary waste and ensure a smooth and efficient transition to the new Campus Plan.

Respectfully Submitted:

Richard Guyer (Chair)
Rodney Conn
Robert Curzi
Joe Hafich
Jose Mendez
Phil Rizzo
Lee Snyder
Joe Tramontana

CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF THE NATIVITY

Stewardship Committee

We are better together was the theme of this year's Stewardship program. Challenged by two years of the pandemic, we have found new ways of loving and serving our neighbors growing closer together with our cathedral community and with God. Changing lives was Jesus' mission and our community's witness to Christ's love is seen in our response to one another, South Bethlehem, our diocese, and the world. By loving others, we love Christ.

Our program this year included four videos focused on serving the community; one featured the Thrift Shop who serves so many in the community as well as New Bethany and The Boy's and Girl's Club. A second featured the mentoring and food mission at Fountain Hill Elementary. A third showcased the Mother's Spiritual Direction group at the Cathedral and the last was a warm message from Dean Pompa reviewing how the parish adapted to COVID from a worship and spiritual perspective. Sermons were preached, messages were shared, hearts were changed. All were motivational and thought-provoking. While coming from different disciples the message was consistent – the people of the Cathedral are indeed better together.

It would be premature to announce totals or comparisons with past years but we can share this info:

- Thus far, we have received 94 pledges for a total of \$326,000. There are outstanding pledges from people who have faithfully pledged in the past of roughly \$114,000.
- 21 families increased their pledge. (22% of pledges received).
- There were 11 new pledges.

The Stewardship Committee Karen Norelli, Tom Ardizzone, Joe Mozingo, Tony Pompa, and I thank you all for your faithful generosity. It is a blessing to be part of this family.

We are indeed better together,



Deacon Charlie

CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF THE NATIVITY

Sunday School

We began the year virtually, with all of our children and youth programs communicating online. The younger grades continued using the Seesaw app to help share Godly Play stories and activities. The Jr. High group shared “Moments to Breathe” videos designed to bring healing and wholeness to our young people. The Sr. High Threshold group continued to reflect on their Ted Like Talks. Both the Jr. and Sr. High groups went on excursions when possible for fellowship and fun.

Summer months brought hope of the possibility of heading back to some normalcy. We looked forward to planning our program year at least partially in person. The summer also brought sadness as we lost our beloved church school advocate, Barbara Iannelli. Barb was a part of just about every ministry the Cathedral has to offer, and her work with our children and youth was limitless and tireless. We have all been blessed to know her, to learn from her...and we miss her terribly. But, move forward we did, because Barb wouldn't have it any other way.

Come fall, we started moving towards a more familiar form of church school. Our numbers were lower, but that is to be expected during Covid times. All grades, preschool through 5th grade, met in the Good Shepherd Chapel each Sunday morning for a Godly Play story. We then split apart into separate classrooms for a more age appropriate “work” time with the story. On Oct. 31st, we met in the cathedral where Canon Dale taught us about Dia de los Muertos, Day of the Dead. He helped us create an ofrenda to remember love ones who have passed. We also paid tribute to Barbara Iannelli by placing items and pictures in her honor. Early in December, we had a fun visit from St. Nicholas. He taught us a bit about his life and left treats in the children's shoes when he left. Many children enjoyed dressing up for the live nativity. It was a great way to start the Christmas season. Though we can't enjoy every activity from years past, experiencing these few did wonders for our church community. We are moving in the right direction.

The Jr. High and Sr. High groups continued to meet about once a month for outings such as a corn maze and candle making. They took a trip to New York City to visit the 911 museum and tenement museum. Their commitment towards supporting the Navajoland is evident with their constant fund raising. Finally, the youth enjoyed a retreat at Camp Choconut in the fall where they also visited an observatory nearby. We are working towards having a Sunday morning presence for these older groups.

All of these programs would not be possible without the dedicated Church School teachers and mentors who have given their time, energy and love to the children of Nativity. Our programs continue to endure because of these devoted people. I want to thank all who support Nativity Church School.

Church School Staff:

| | |
|--|---|
| Godly Play (3 yrs. – 2nd) | Becky Berkenstock, MaryAnn Lynn |
| Godly Play (3 rd -5 th) | Rodney Weems, Heather Scattergood |
| Junior High Group | Paul Fox and Alan Mendez |
| Senior High Group | Connie Andrejko, Meg Storm, Meg Seltzer |

Becky Berkenstock, Church School

CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF THE NATIVITY

Third Millennium Fund (TMF)

The Cathedral Endowment for the Third Millennium (TMF) was created by a Vestry Resolution adopted on October 15, 2001 to enable the Parish to enhance its mission by initiatives beyond those possible in the annual operating budget. The Resolution established the Endowment Fund Board to serve as Custodian of the Fund and make recommendations to the Vestry regarding the use of the quarterly distributable income.

The principal of the Third Millennium Fund is invested in the Bethlehem Diocesan Investment Trust ("DIT"). Income based on this principal is distributed quarterly by the DIT to the TMF. The TMF Fund value was \$996,679. Distributions from DIT to the TMF normally reflect average total returns on a three-year rolling basis. Distributions to TMF in 2021 were \$55,172.

In accordance with the original Vestry Resolution, the principal of the Third Millennium Fund shall not be invaded, but the Fund income can be used in the following areas: 1) Capital Needs of the Parish, 2) Outreach Ministries, 3) Education and Training, 4) Projects of the Episcopal Church at home and overseas, 5) other purposes specifically designated by the donors.

The Third Millennium Fund Board usually meets quarterly, but this was not possible during the pandemic and only one live and two Zoom meetings were held during 2020. It considers petitions for funding from both within and outside Nativity. Board decisions are recommendations to the Vestry, which retains official authority over the allocation and expenditure of funds.

During 2021, the Board recommended approval for several funding requests of total amount \$55,172. These requests were for the Fountain Hill Elementary School to support their summer and after school programs for students, Share Care Faith in Action and New Bethany Ministries to support their outreach Ministries, technology upgrades for the cathedral, The Seminary in the Southwest (3rd distribution of 5) and the Choral Scholars

The TMF Board also encourages Cathedral parishioners to submit funding petitions which meet the criteria set forth in paragraph 4 above. All petitions should be forwarded to any of the TMF Board members listed below.

2021 TMF Board Members:

James Reader (Chairperson), John Randall, Siobhan Ardizzone, Karyn Arcario, Peter Hilgert, Ryan Bancroft, Karen Boksan, Meg Storm, Alan Burke, and Joe Tramontana.

Ex-Officio: Dean Tony Pompa

CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF THE NATIVITY

The Wedding Belles

The mission of our committee is to provide hospitality and a welcoming atmosphere for the bridal party, family and guests. We make every effort to understand the presiding clergy's expectation, as well as the bride's and groom's desires.

The committee was inactive during 2021.

Please contact the church office if you are interested in joining this ministry when wedding ceremonies resume at the Cathedral. Your help requires a few hours of time at the rehearsal and at the wedding. It positively contributes to this joyful life event.

Barbara Appleton
Janet Martin
Co-Chairs

CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF THE NATIVITY

Yarns of Love

Despite a year of COVID, the passionate knitters and crocheters of Yarns of Love created and shared over 1600 items in 2021. At times we met under the large tent called Nativityplatz located in the church's parking lot or for separate sewing sessions to attach flowers to webbing.

The 7 16' Flower Cascades of Remembrance which drape the ambulatory and the 13' high frame around the original entrance doors to the sanctuary are made up of approximately 950 knitted and crocheted flowers. (See separate page.)

Other handmade items included prayer shawls, blankets, hats, scarves, mittens, prayer squares, and washcloths distributed to parishioners, family members, friends and organizations.

Cathedral recipients of these gifts are Cathedral's newly baptized, high school graduates, homebound and members in need.

Community recipients since the last annual report include the Boy's and Girl's Club of Bethlehem, St. Luke's Hospital and Hospice, Nurse Family Partnership, The Seamen's Church Institute, Mary's Shelter, Turning Point, Fountain Hill Elementary School, Northeast Middle School, Celtic Classic, St. John's Episcopal Church in Franklin, PA, and Crossnore School and Children's Home in North Carolina.

In the past year Yarns of Love has distributed over 118 prayer shawls, 26 lap and baby blankets, 307 hats, 76 scarves and cowls, 5 mittens, 50 prayer squares, 24 snowmen, 20 balls and 26 washcloths.

Yarning Around of Lutheran Manor of the Lehigh Valley remains a satellite group of Yarns of Love.

Yarns of Love meets by Zoom on the second and fourth weeks of the month on Tuesday evenings from 7 to 9 pm and Wednesday afternoons from 1:15 to 3:15 pm. As COVID guidelines allow the Wednesday gathering is also in the Sayre Hall dining room. Lessons and supplies are provided.

Parishioners are encouraged to acquire prayer shawls, blankets and squares for people in need of comfort or as celebration gifts by contacting the church office.

Donations of washable yarn are appreciated.

This special ministry blesses all who participate and receive. To God Be the Glory.

Sally Snyder
Chair

FLOWER CASCADES IN REMEMBRANCE

May these Cascades of Flowers brighten your day
Each handmade, blessed flower with something to say

Some made in thanksgiving for people enduring much
Caring for our health, children, welfare and such

Some stitched in memory of those who have died
Within our hearts they will always abide

Some beckoning us to uplift over challenges and fears
We have faced together the past months and years

These Cascades of Flowers vary in shape, design and hue
Reminding us God's most unique and beautiful creation is YOU



Yarns of Love was inspired to make the cascade of flowers and bring joy to all who see it, by Alison White, who encouraged her fellow villagers of Barley in England to decorate the tower of their church, St Margaret of Antioch, with flowers. We offer our display not only in remembrance of those we have lost during the time of COVID, but also in thanksgiving for all who have cared for others through difficult times and with hope for the future. It has been a lovely project for the Yarns of Love, working together to crochet and knit the flowers, bringing it to fruition in just under two months.

Due to COVID, the following ministries/groups were inactive during 2021:

Bible Study
Lay Eucharistic Visitors
Past & Present Luncheons
Philia Book Club
Welcoming Ministry Team

Annual report was requested but not received from:

ShareCare Faith in Action