

Stretching toward the love of Christ

October 27, 2019



How have you experienced God's love reaching into your life? I consider myself to be truly blessed by God. Family, friends, work, and this church. This church, this Nativity Cathedral, has nourished and held us, Mary Catherine, Matthew and me, in so many ways. I marvel at the love Matthew experiences in Sunday School, in the pew, and at Summer Camp. As an 8-year-old, this was his first year to go ... and he thrived. He told us goodbye, quicker than we'd have liked, and turned to join the other campers. By all accounts, he was in his element. Even steady rains didn't dampen his spirit (in fact, we asked him about the rain, and he said

"What rain?", so there you go. It is an incredible feeling to be able to confidently drop of your son into the hands of this congregation for a week, and not *really* worry about him. The love and opportunities shown toward Mary Catherine are numerous and inspiring. She has gone through discernment and is in the process to move toward ordination. She has served at the pulpit and the altar. She has been embraced by this congregation and Diocese. For me, I've found good friends and great hearts in this congregation. The people here are so loving and giving. Working as a member of the Vestry has allowed me to meet a variety of people ... all committed to God and Nativity and Community. They even let me Verge on occasion! The ritual of the Episcopal Church, the Eucharist, the contemplative exploration all work to nourish my soul. We couldn't imagine another place to call our church home.

How do you see yourself and our community of faith reaching out in love to others, community, etc? Our work on the Vestry and with the congregation to develop a Campus Plan intentionally around our mission to the world is such a gift for us at Nativity. Through a couple of intense years of planning, discussions with the congregation, listening to God and one another, I believe we have a plan that will enhance Nativity's already shining light in our community and our community of faith. And our work to create a position of Missioner, and finding Dale, is such a blessing for us to reach out to our congregation and community. Opportunities for service, for fellowship, for engagement, for love are well known (Thrift Shop, New Bethany, Emergency Sheltering to name a few), and with Dale and the Campus Plan, the possibilities to reach even more will be greatly enhanced. I am so looking forward to the next years here, and certain God's love will always guide and sustain us in the journey.

Kyle Cole