



# NATIVITY SCENE

VOLUME 58, ISSUE 1

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2017

## WORSHIP SERVICES

### Saturdays

5:00 PM Holy Eucharist

### Sundays

7:45 AM Holy Eucharist

9:00 AM Adult Education

10:00 AM Holy Eucharist  
with Sunday School  
and Nursery Care

## Inside this issue:

From Fr. Chad's Desk	1,2
Eucharistic Visitors,	3
Novemberfest	3
Staff Christmas Party	3
Living Nativity	4
Animals	5
Community Meals	5
Leaving Nativity	6
Baptism	6
The Case for Quiet	7

## FROM PASTOR CHAD'S DESK

Dear Nativity Family,

Happy, Happy, Happy New Year and welcome to the season of Epiphany! While the weather outside might be cold, our faith is always on fire for the Lord here at Nativity and we get to ring in this New Year as a community of Christ here in Northborough welcoming in this season with renewed joy and hope. As we all try to keep our New Year's resolutions of saving money, losing weight, slowing down to enjoy the important things in life, and as we look forward to this time of new beginnings, some things don't change...God's promises to us. So, as we welcome in 2017 I will be preaching a six-part sermon series titled "*New Year, Enduring Promises*" in which we will go through the scripture and rediscover six promises God has made to us in His written word.

Week 1 which began on January 8<sup>th</sup> was *God's Promise of New Life*, and we examined how through the waters of baptism God promises us new life in Him.

Week 2 *God's Promise of Faithfulness* to us even when we don't always keep up our end of the relationship.

Week 3 *God's Promise to Equip* us in ministry and service to the building of God's Kingdom.

Week 4 *God's Promise of Blessing* even in those dark messy times of our lives.

Week 5 *God's Promise of Guidance* and how we live in response to the gift of grace in our lives.

Week 6 *God's Promise of Freedom* and how choose to respond to this awesome gift.

In addition to this sermon series, I will begin leading Credo, a course that is all about what we believe as Christians and is an especially great introduction to what we believe as Christians in the Anglican tradition. This course covers,

Continued on Page 2

## FROM PASTOR CHAD'S DESK (continued from Page 1)

church history, theology, and why we do what we do here at Church of the Nativity. In short, we will answer all the questions you have been wanting to ask but were afraid to. This course will also serve as our prerequisite for those folks seeking to be confirmed and received into the life of the church universal on Saturday May 20 at 11AM at All Saints', Worcester. We will begin our journey on January 22<sup>nd</sup> and meet from 9:00-9:40 in the sanctuary. I hope to see you there, it will be a blast (I promise)!

As always, if you have an exciting thing to share in your life, life is getting you down, or if you just want to talk to someone please give me a call I am always excited to get to sit down and chat with you.

God's Blessings,  
Chad+



## EUCCHARISTIC VISITORS



A Eucharistic Visitor is a lay person authorized to take the Consecrated Elements in a timely manner following a Celebration of Holy Eucharist to members of the congregation who, by reason of illness or infirmity, were unable to be present at the Celebration. Shown here is Marge Carlson when she recently brought communion to 99 year old Lillian Wray, a long time member of Nativity.

Please contact the office to let us know that this service is needed because of illness or hospitalization.

## NOVEMBERFEST

The traditional fall fair, Novemberfest, was held in the Parish Hall on November 19, 2016. Offered for sale were crafts, books, baked goods, gently used clothing in the boutique, and attic treasures. A special feature this year were Fr. Chad's infamous red velvet cupcakes which he first baked as pastry chef in the Marine Corp.



## STAFF CHRISTMAS PARTY

The entire Nativity Staff including both the Pre-School Teachers and the Church Staff met together in the newly refurbished Conference Room for a festive luncheon to celebrate Christmas. Pastor Chad and his wife, Karen, provided the decorations. Nicole Garcia reported that there was a very warm feeling to this event as the two staffs got together for lunch, conversations and laughter. The lunch consisted of casseroles loving hand made by Jackie Blair and trifle created by Lois Millar.



# LIVING NATIVITY

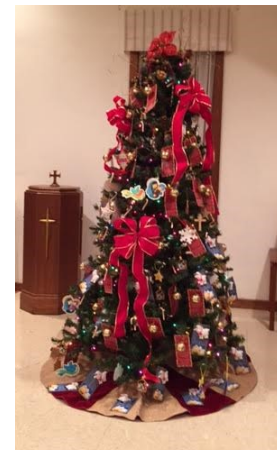


THE CAST



THE MUSICIANS

For the first time in the history of the Living Nativity, bad weather forced us to hold the production in the Nave. The animals remained safe and warm in their barns, and our performers filled the building with joy as they reenacted that first Nativity. The congregation included many visitors who joined us in the hall for a celebration with hot cider, cookies, and carol singing.



## ANIMALS ARE NEAR AND DEAR TO MY HEART

Animals are near and dear to my heart so I have chosen to help the Worcester Animal Rescue League by collecting items needed for the homeless dogs and cats of Worcester and surrounding towns. Items needed and delivered include towels, blankets, dog and cat toys, canned pate type cat food, clay type cat litter, Purina dry dog food, dog treats, bottles of bleach, laundry detergent, leashes, dog beds and dog crates.



If you feel you can help the helpless, homeless animals, I have a box set up in the entry way of the parish hall where you can leave any of the above mentioned items. I make deliveries once a month.

The volunteers who work at the WARL are so appreciative of our deliveries. They like to send a thank you note to the Church of the Nativity but I tell them to save their stamps, I'll pass on the thanks! I have also been known to buy treats for the volunteers at WARL so if you are so inclined, a package of Hershey Kisses bring big smiles to those volunteers.

I wish to thank everyone who has dropped something in the WARL box but I must thank Kristen and Erica Swift for their monthly donations! Every dog, cat, volunteer, and I appreciate your loving hearts!

Respectfully submitted,  
Debbie Burke

## COMMUNITY MEALS by Rachel Manley & Cathy Reilly



Community Meals take place every Wednesday evening at Trinity Church in Northboro. Each church denomination in town, Congregation B'Nai Shalom, Westboro and civic organizations (such as the Rotary Club, Northboro Junior Women's Club, and the Lyons Club) take a turn to host the meal each week. It is the responsibility of the host organization to provide all the food, set up and serve the meal, and then to clean up after it. This is truly a wonderful event and it is offered to the community each week at no cost!

Many regular dinner guests, who can include the elderly and people in need of a hot meal, come to eat dinner every Wednesday night. They get to know the specialty dinner of each host organization and look forward to the menu varieties each group will offer. It is such a rewarding experience when it is our turn to host and we see many of the same people. Nativity's specialty meal is American Chop Suey (Goulash) of many varieties and recipes, Italian bread, tossed salad, and lots of finger desserts!! We can usually serve anywhere from 45-70 people at a community meal. About a week before Nativity's scheduled date to host the meal, Rachel Manley will post volunteer sign ups through the SignUpGenius website. Volunteers sign up to help with buying and making the food items needed and/or to also help with serving the meal. There have been SO MANY dedicated people who have made Community meals a regular event to help with. Most are Nativity members, but some are also neighbors and friends outside of our church. This has also been a great way to gently introduce non-church goers to Nativity and show them the fellowship and blessings we share together.

The evening meal begins with offering a prayer of thanks. Our servers are then lined up with spoons in hand and ready to serve the varieties of American Chop Suey. We often need to help people carry their plates and cups to their table and walk around to offer more to eat or drink. It's always a fun night while we serve others and enjoy each other's company.

## LEAVING NATIVITY AFTER 24 YEARS

FOND FAREWELL & THANKS from Maureen Desilets & Family

It's the 7<sup>th</sup> hardest thing I've ever had to do ... leaving Church of the Nativity, my heart's true home, after 24 years. God is calling our family, each member at a crossroads in life, like Abraham in Genesis 12, to leave the familiar and beloved to go to a new place. Since God's invitation to us to follow His call is so clear, although not easy, we would be fools and rebels to not obey and follow where He leads. The Lord has given us peace amidst the emotional circumstances. Don't have all, actually any, of the details, only the confidence that God holds the future in His hands, He is trustworthy and will lead the way. The difficult decision comes only after lots of prayer, meeting with godly counselors, assurance that our Heavenly Father will take care of us Desilets and all the people, tasks, and roles we leave behind at Nativity. February 12<sup>th</sup> will officially be our last Sunday with you at Nativity, but we have been assured of our welcome when we visit in future. The good and lasting gifts of God, the life lessons and relationships we received from the wonderful place will last and continue to send out ripples ... we are so grateful to God and to you all. We appreciate all you have done for us to bless us as we have sought to bless you. We will miss you. God bless and keep you!



## BAPTISM-LUCA PETRACCO



On October 20, 2016, Luca Petracco received the sacrament of Baptism with Pastor Chad presiding. Luca was surrounded by his parents, Chris and Brittan, his sister, Giulianna, his god-parent and grandparents and the children of Nativity.

## THE CASE FOR QUIET by Lisa Phelps



How are we to stand before the Lord? With loud explosions of wonder and praise? Or in humble awe and stillness? We see both in scripture:

-Isaiah's vision of the seraphim flying above God crying, "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty; the whole earth is filled with his glory," so loudly that the doorposts and the thresholds shook. Isaiah 6:1-4

-When the night sky over the fields near Bethlehem was filled with a great company of angels singing "Glory to God in the highest and on earth, peace to men on whom his favor rests." Luke 2:13-14

-Volume was not just for heavenly beings. As Jesus entered Jerusalem to celebrate his final earthly Pesach, a crowd lining the road praised God, shouting "Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord!" so loudly that Jesus was asked to admonish them for the uproar. He refused, stating that even the rocks would cry out. Luke 19:37-40

Throughout scripture we are encouraged to sing, even shout our joy to the Lord, in a way that is unambiguously loud.

Yet God also calls us to silence. High volume is for our expressions to him. Silence allows us to receive his expressions to us. Jesus frequently sought solitude and quiet during his ministry, as he withdrew from excited crowds, and the needy and frustrating disciples. Following his baptism, he did not begin his ministry before spending weeks in isolation and fasting, communing with his father. There were many such occasions leading up to his final withdrawal to the garden in Gethsemane before his death.

In silence is the humility to put aside our own priorities to allow God an opening.  
In silence, we can gradually lose the inner "noise" and hear his voice.  
In silence, we create a sanctuary in which we can meet our True Selves.  
In silence, we can be transformed to his image.

We emerge from silence refreshed and inspired to do his will.

God invites us into silence so that we can attend to all that he has to tell us.

*Listen to him in silence.*

*Attend a Quiet Day*

Editor's Note: The next Quiet Days at Nativity are planned for February 11 and March 11



## **THE NATIVITY SCENE JANUARY/FEBRUARY**

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*We have been called together by God  
to be and to make faithful followers  
of our Lord Jesus Christ*  
[www.churchofthenativity.org](http://www.churchofthenativity.org)

Check out our weekly News and Notes listing of  
announcements and events.



### **JANUARY**

**14 Quiet Day**  
**17 Vestry Meeting**  
**22 Meal Packing Event**  
**28 Blood Drive**

### **FEBRUARY**

**5 Scout Sunday**  
**11 Quiet Day**  
**12 Annual Meeting**  
**12 Simple Social Lunch**