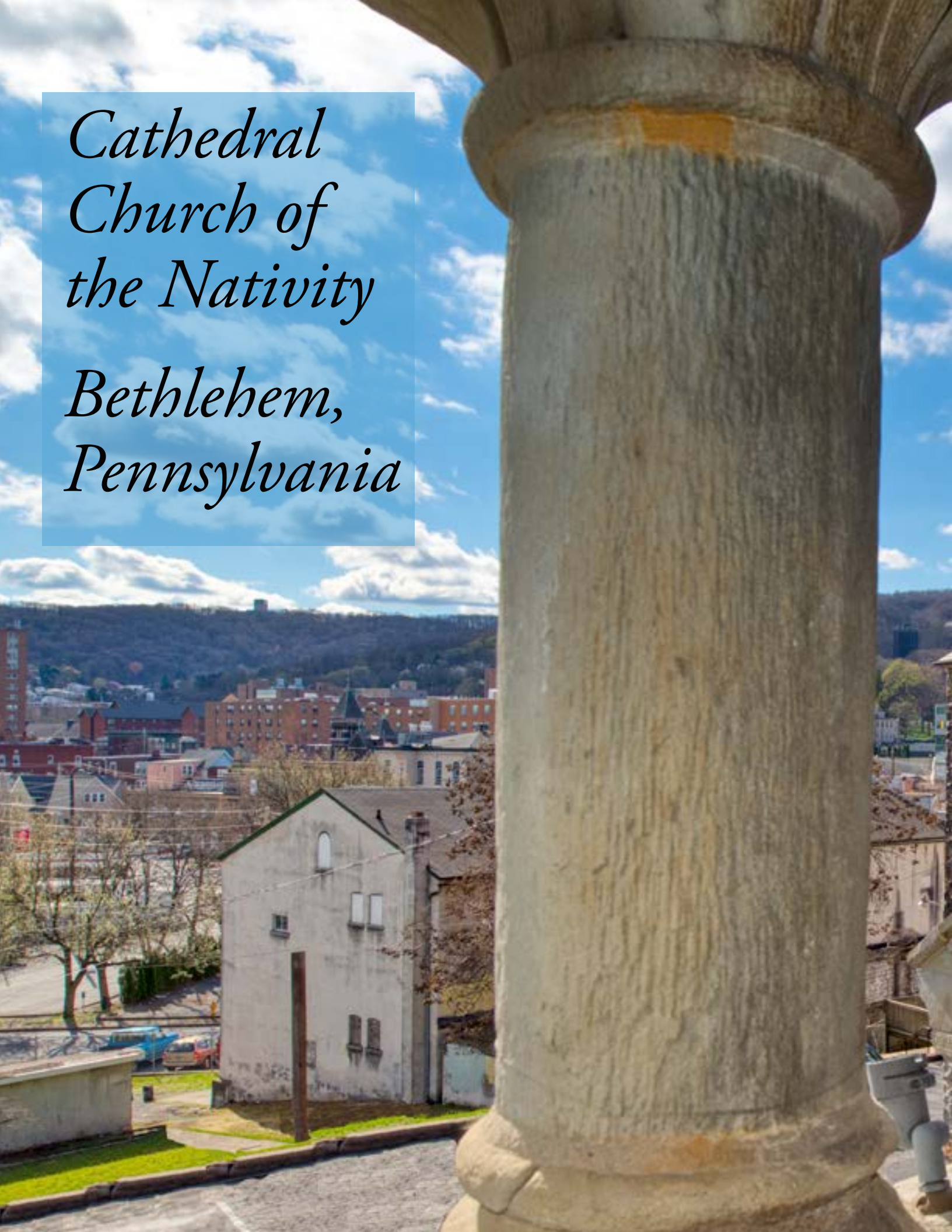


2022 Parish Profile
**NA•IVITY
CATHEDRAL**



*Cathedral
Church of
the Nativity
Bethlehem,
Pennsylvania*







FROM THE VESTRY

Welcome to Nativity

We invite you
to learn about us,
and look forward
to meeting you.



Dear Friends,

On behalf of the vestry, I thank you for your interest in the Cathedral Church of the Nativity. Nativity's beautiful cathedral, the gateway to South Side Bethlehem, serves a diverse and faith-filled congregation with thriving ministries. All are welcome.

I invite you to "turn the pages" and discover a generous people, tightly knit together in faith and service, a community that lovingly shares its time, talent and treasures.

See who we are and where we want to go.

Faithfully yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Siobhán McC. Ardizzone".

Siobhán McC. Ardizzone
Senior Warden

NativityCathedral.org

Who we are

Bethlehem is located in the vibrant and growing Lehigh Valley, a region in the eastern part of the Pennsylvania Commonwealth. The Lehigh Valley includes three major cities, various museums, established parks, renowned schools, and abundant wildlife. Located in close proximity to New York City and Philadelphia, we see many visitors to our nationally known festivals.

For nearly 150 years, Bethlehem Steel employed generations and was a manufacturing leader in the world. The city faced the challenge of its closure and evolved into an epicenter for the arts; a home to new and growing businesses; and a diverse, welcoming community. Our city has five distinct areas: Historic Downtown, West Side, East Side, South Side, and North Side. Located on the South Side, the Cathedral Church of the Nativity is an engaged community partner with the surrounding area.

6th Largest City

in Pennsylvania. The Lehigh Valley includes Allentown, Bethlehem, and Easton

75,781

Bethlehem City
Population

36.1 Median Age

2 Renowned Universities

Lehigh University
Moravian University

Major Festivals

MusikFest, Celtic
Highland Games,
Bach Choir Festival

Hundreds of

miles of hiking and
biking trails across
several counties

57% White

30% Hispanic

9% Black/African

3% Asian

Partnerships

with New Bethany,
ShareCare, Fountain
Hill Elementary, Boys
& Girls Club, and more!

Located in between

**Philadelphia &
New York City**

\$56,034

Median Income

\$175,600

Median Home Value

Mission

To know Christ, to
make Him known,
and to serve all
people according
to His example

We are living
the story as a
welcoming haven,
caring community,
nurturing space for
children and youth,
and a congregation
committed to
serving



Youth Ministries

To create a safe and nurturing space for children to learn and love, and grow closer to God and one another.

Sunday School – The superintendent and teachers ensure each school level has appropriate programming and materials through curricula that nurture the spiritual formation of children and youth. Based on Montessori principles and developed using spiritual curriculum, Godly Play is the education model for three years through 5th grade.

Middle School and Thresholds – This program for teens grades 6-12 is adapted from the Rite 13/J2A curriculum. We provide youth with experiences and safe spaces to grow confidently into faithful young adults. We spend time together building trusting relationships, discussing topics relevant to their lives, and participating in community projects to live out their faith. Our goal is rooted in faith formation, team building, service and fellowship.

Senior High School Pilgrimage – Our senior high students are invited into a journey of reflection, spiritual development, and service. They are guided through a process to choose a destination and plan their experiences. A long tradition at Nativity, we have traveled to Quebec, San Francisco, Maine, New Orleans, Seattle, and most recently Navajoland in Arizona. Our youth builds community and leadership skills in an inclusive atmosphere that promotes understanding, encourages open communication, and supports cohesiveness through service. Through these trips, our young adults increase their cultural awareness and knowledge as it relates to the overall trip theme, while increasing self-understanding and personal spirituality.



Camp is about leaving behind the busyness, connecting with nature, and building long-lasting friendships.



[Learn more about Youth Programs](#)

Nativity Youth Camp

Nativity Youth Camp is a flagship program for Nativity, welcoming youth for over 100 years. Held at Lake Choconut in Friendsville, Pennsylvania, this is a much-anticipated week of residential camp for youth from second grade completion through high school. We offer crafts, lake time, music, and field games all wrapped around a theme for a week of education, worship, and team building. Campers, counselors, and staff come back with trusted bonds, lasting memories, and friendships that endure for a lifetime. We adapted for COVID and offered camp throughout the pandemic knowing how important this week away is to refresh the soul.



During their time at camp, counselors are responsible for leading their teams and their cabins. They learn valuable interpersonal and organizational skills. Campers enjoy the camaraderie of this church community, knowing that it is a safe space for them to learn and grow.

We celebrate our seniors, shed some tears, and express gratitude for the gifts they have shared with us.



What an amazing experience! I could be my true self and formed great friendships across generations.

[Learn more about Nativity Camp!](#)

Evangelism/Communication

Marketing and Digital Presence – The Cathedral’s digital communication includes a comprehensive website, Facebook’s community building, weekly emails, YouTube for live streaming and service archives, and our deep library of concerts. The Cathedral also makes its resources and programs known to the general community through print, radio, social media, and fun Nativity merchandise.

Welcome Ministry – The Welcoming Ministry Team oversees the shepherding of new people into the parish.

Administration Ministries

Vestry – The governing body of the Cathedral is made up of 12 elected and active members of the parish and led by the senior and junior wardens. Vestry members also serve on various committees and community boards to ensure communication, mission focus, and timely action.

Nominating Committee – This committee finds talented people who are able and willing to participate in elected positions and enters those names into nomination at the Annual Meeting.

Property Committee – The maintenance of the Cathedral’s historic buildings is crucial and this committee recommends needed repairs, ensures proper maintenance, and looks for ways to modernize the facilities while keeping historical integrity.

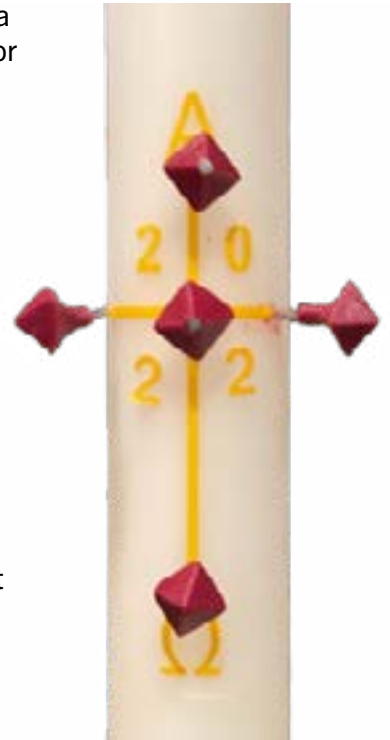
Finance Committee – Working closely with the bookkeeper, the treasurer and the committee carefully manage the Cathedral’s finances. This committee creates and faithfully administers the annual budget, oversees our growing investments, and works closely with the Vestry to ensure financial gifts are matched with parish and community needs as we live into our mission.

Technology Committee – Investments in technology over the years created flexible programming options and allowed us to deliver streaming services during the pandemic. This committee oversees the purchase and maintenance of audio, visual, and technology equipment within the Cathedral.

Stewardship

St. Matthew’s Society – Created by Bishop Paul Marshall to recognize members who enable the continuation of parish activities through planned financial gifts.

Stewardship Ministry – Promotes the mission and vision of our parish through our time, treasure, and talent.



Worship – Choir – Music

Acolyte – Young men and women assist the Clergy during worship by carrying the cross and torches, conveying the Gospel Book, and helping the Clergy prepare the table for Holy Eucharist.

Altar Guild – Monthly teams serve all Sunday, mid-week, and special services, as well as weddings and funerals.

Cathedral Choirs – Dedicated and talented signers perform every Sunday at the 10:30 am service and at other services and functions throughout the year. Cathedral Cherubs: Kindergarten and 1st grade. Cathedral Choristers: Grades 2-7. St. Cecilia Girls' Choir: Grades 7-12.

Eucharistic Ministers – Parishioners, trained by the Clergy and licensed by the Bishop, serve the Lord by offering the cup during communion.

Floral Guild – Decorate the church for holidays and special events.

Greeter – Welcoming people as they enter the church, the greeters are the first people to identify and welcome visitors to the Cathedral.

Lector/Intercessor – Parishioners read the Scripture passages and Prayers of the People during the church service.

Usher – Men, women, youth, and families serve to assist parishioners and visitors during the church service. Assist with the offering and sacraments.

Verger – Assist the Clergy as the Master of Ceremonies for liturgies. Traditionally dressed in black and gray, the Verger ensures the dignified flow of actions during worship.

Wedding Belles – A team of parish women who give care and support to the wedding party prior to the ceremony.

[Learn more about our Worship](#)



Education

Adult Forum – Timely programs for education and discussion are held between two of the Sunday services. We often host outside speakers, including professors from Lehigh and Moravian Universities, or present updates on important initiatives. Lively conversations and cups of coffee are enjoyed.

Baptismal Preparation – Adults, youth, parents and godparents seeking baptism personally or for a child.

Confirmation – Newcomers' class for those wishing to be confirmed or received into the Episcopal Church. Confirmation classes are clergy led for youth in middle and high school.

Education for Ministry (EfM) – A four-year theological program that studies the Old and New Testaments, church history and theology. Developed and managed by the University of the South's School of Theology and led by trained mentors within our Diocese.

Foundations – A class dedicated to learning about the Episcopal denomination. Clergy led discussions open to anyone wanting to learn about the Episcopal faith and the Cathedral.

History Group – This group researches and records the history of the Cathedral, and maintains the History Room in the Deanery.

Men's AnD Group (Accountability and Discipleship) – Groups of men making Christ the foundation of their priorities through fellowship and service.

Nursery – Childcare is provided for children under 6 years of age during services and special events.

Nativity Book Club – Meets monthly on the third Thursday to discuss current books.

Past & Present Luncheons invites senior community members to engage in fellowship while learning.

Outreach

Bethlehem Emergency Sheltering

During winter months, this group prepares meals and offers support to those needing lodging at the Bethlehem Shelter for men & women.

(Nativity is founding member)

Better Buy Thrift Shop – Located in the undercroft of Nativity is the booming Better Buy Thrift Shop. This is an ecumenical ministry that sells used clothes, provides clothes at no cost to those in need, and uses earnings from this ministry to fund community programs within South Side Bethlehem and the surrounding community. Parishioners are very active as volunteers in this ministry. *(Nativity is founding member)*

Third Millennium Fund – This board reviews grant requests and approves distribution of over \$50,000 of endowment funds annually to benefit organizations that expand ministry and provide community service. *(Nativity is founding member)*



New Bethany Ministries – This faith-based non-profit agency provides services for homeless families, permanent housing for low-income individuals, and a daily soup kitchen for residents and anyone in need.

(Nativity is founding member)

ShareCare Faith in Action – This non-profit network of trained volunteers provides compassionate, practical services to enhance the dignity, independence and quality of life for elderly women and men and those with special needs.

(Nativity is founding member)

Fountain Hill Community Grocery Partnership – This newly formed non-profit organization addresses food insecurity for students and families of the Fountain Hill Elementary School and surrounding community. Building a grocery store in partnership with the school, Lehigh University, and local community members, distribute nutritious food to those who are in need. *(Nativity is founding member)*

Nativity parishioners have also participated and supported various initiatives and partnered with community organizations. Outreach funding in grants and cash totaled \$64,660 in 2021. Some examples include:

- Bethlehem Interfaith Group (BIG)
- Lehigh Valley Green Faith Circle & Creation Care
- Racial Justice and Reconciliation
- LGBTQ Spirituality Group
- Fountain Hill Elementary Backpack Buddies
- Vaccine Drive
- English in a Tote
- Thanksgiving Baskets for Bethlehem Families
- Christmas Gift Cards
- Lehigh University – After School Mentoring Program
- Celtic Cultural Alliance
- Moravian College Southside Christmas Family Outreach
- Bethlehem NAACP
- Bethlehem YWCA
- Lanta bus tickets
- Refugee Ministry – Joel Nafuma Refugee Center
- Episcopal Relief & Development
- Fountain Hill Elementary Mentoring, School Tutoring
- Seminary in the Southwest
- Navajoland, Arizona Support
- Broughal Middle School Summer Program

History

The Cathedral Church of the Nativity is the seat of the Diocese of Bethlehem and is listed as a contributing property in the Fountain Hill Historic District on the National Register of Historic Places.

It is difficult to talk about the history of Nativity without beginning with the history of Bethlehem and its founding in 1741 by members of the Moravian church. Many of the original buildings still remain. The Moravians were devout missionaries and were looking to escape the persecutions they had suffered in Europe. In the early years, Bethlehem was a closed community with the Moravian Church owning all the land. In 1845, the Church began to sell its property and Bethlehem was incorporated as a borough.

The Lehigh Valley was the best route from the coal mines in Northeast Pennsylvania to markets in Philadelphia and New York, first the canals and then the railroads became of utmost importance. In 1852 Asa Packer contracted to build the Lehigh Valley Railroad in return for stocks and bonds — part of the success of the railroad was due to his Chief Engineer Robert H. Sayre, son of William H. Sayre Sr. the principal founder of St. Mark's Church in Mauch Chunk (Jim Thorpe) in 1835. By 1858 it was decided that Robert Sayre's headquarters, as Chief of Operations would be established in Bethlehem, because it was a strategic point on the Lehigh Valley Railroad line where the railroad coal traffic was routed on the new North Pennsylvania line to Philadelphia.

Robert Sayre and Tinsley Jeter, who had come to the Lehigh Valley to build the Ironton Railroad, took turns hosting services by visiting clergy in their homes. At a meeting in the home of Robert Sayre on November 8, 1862, a temporary vestry formed. In November an appeal for funds was distributed with the wording, "That there is no church of any kind in this place", specifically South Side Bethlehem. At the convention of the Diocese of Pennsylvania of May 1863, the parish was received into the diocese and in August of that year the cornerstone of the Church of the Nativity was laid. The first service in the completed church was held Christmas day in 1864.

Nativity was enlarged from its original building from 1885 to 1887 and the first service in the new enlarged church was held on Easter Day. In 1899 Nativity was named as a Pro-Cathedral and received numerous gifts, among them were the Baptistry, the Rood Screen and the Bell Tower.

From its founding in 1862 to this day, Nativity has been an intimate part of South Side Bethlehem, and the founding of Lehigh University. Rev. Cortland Whitehead, rector 1870-1882, was the driving force behind the creation of St. Luke's Hospital and the Bishopthorpe School for Girls. Several churches owe their beginnings to Nativity, including Trinity Church on Market Street and more recently, New Bethany Ministries and Bethlehem Emergency Sheltering. For over 150 years Nativity has proudly been a part of South Side Bethlehem and of the Lehigh Valley.



Pastoral Care

The Cathedral lovingly visits and cares for those who are hospitalized, ill or homebound. Communion is brought to parishioners unable to attend church.

- **The Pastoral Care Ministry** is provided by Cathedral clergy and lay Eucharistic visitors
- **Hospitality Ministry** plans, prepares, and serves food for parish and diocesan events
- **The Monday Flower Ministry** provides beautiful arrangements for our sacred space

Yarns of Love Ministry

This group offers needleworkers share fellowship as they create hats, shawls, blankets, and other works of fiber art for those in need.

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.



Listening Sessions

Our Opportunities and Hopes

We are fortunate for the many gifts and graces at Nativity. Our congregation is always looking to live out our mission, and we see opportunities to do so.

- Expand our welcoming to invite and incorporate new members into our congregation
- Integrate participants from the variety of services to better know each other
- Reinstate many of our social events held pre-COVID
- Continue being leaders in our faith and service while adapting to our changing world
- Create new outdoor space to be an inviting place in the community
- Maximize our indoor space to allow for greater gatherings, events, and worship opportunities

[Learn more about our Listening Sessions](#)

A Congregation Committed to Serving

Creation Care Ministry - 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.

Daughters of the King – An international Episcopal order for women who adopt a rule of life of prayer and service in support of their parish priest, church, community and the world.

Episcopal Peace Fellowship – This group works toward the goals of peace in personal relationships and throughout the world.

Episcopal Relief and Development (ERD) – Episcopal Relief & Development uses your financial gifts in the most effective ways possible to serve and support people suffering worldwide.

Refugee Resettlement – Teams of parishioners helped to resettle a family of eight from war-torn Syria into a deanery apartment and continues to offer guidance after they moved off campus. Another group offered aid and the deanery apartment to a family who took refuge after Hurricane Maria struck Puerto Rico. We are currently exploring options to aid refugees from Ukraine.

Soup Kitchen – The first Tuesday of each month our volunteers cook noon dinner at the New Bethany Meal Center kitchen.

Thanksgiving Baskets – Annual Sunday School participation project.

United Thank Offering – AS YOU GIVE THANKS, parishioners place coins or dollars into a United Thank Offering Blue Box. These thanksgivings unite with others' prayers and thankful contributions from across The Episcopal Church to support God's mission around the world.

The Welcome Place – Partnering with Lehigh University this program offers a safe community space where public school students receive help with homework during the school year.

New Hope/Kajo Keji Partnership – A partnership outreach ministry of the Diocese of Bethlehem with the Diocese of Kajo Keji, Sudan. Through our partnership, we have helped the diocese build schools, wells, and hope in this war-torn area. Pictured below is one of several Diocesan and Cathedral trips.



Latinx Ministry

The LatinX ministry began on December 25, 2019 and continues to thrive, becoming an important part of Nativity. Weekly services have an average attendance of 28 in person and 8 virtually.

La comunidad celebrates a rich sacramental and liturgical life that includes baptisms, confirmations, Feast Days, Healing Sundays, Thanksgiving Sundays, and more! Our nightly evening prayer in Spanish has attendance from local parishoners and as far away as Central America.

Bilingual Stations of the Cross and other services are well attended and bring our full parish together.

Some youth events are specific to Latino community and many are with the full youth program which includes attending Nativity Camp and the Navajoland Pilgrimage.

Stewardship has strong support for this ministry and the fall campaign included 8 pledges and over \$10,000 for 2022.

Mission work includes meal preparation and delivery for Bethlehem Emergency Shelter. Through Bethany Christian Services, a refugee family from Honduras has been supported and welcomed.

English (ESOL) classes are now offered at Nativity and grow in popularity.



[Learn more about our Latinx Ministry](#)



Home for Healing & Wholeness

This ministry was created in response to a greater need for healing of mind, body, and soul. Many from outside Nativity's congregation participate in these offerings.

Celtic Spirituality Night occurs the last Saturday of each month and is a popular experience inviting visitors to find peace, hope, and healing in the Celtic way. A short-spoken meditation on various themes including hope, wholeness, healing, Love, worry, strength, relationships, peace. Periods of reflection allow people to meditate or visit various stations. A healing station is offered where ministers of healing are available to lay hands, anoint with oil, and ask for healing and hope. During this time of reflection, soft Celtic meditative music is played for reflection.

Mindfulness Meditation focuses on breathing techniques to reduce stress, lengthen focus, and deepen prayer. Wednesday evening meetings are made up of several parts: Sitting Guided Meditation, QiGong; and Silent Meditation.

Spiritual Direction for Moms is an opportunity to gather each month to listen to each other from that sacred inner space. Punctuated by times of silence, our time together will offer a place where moms can tend their own spiritual wellbeing.

Anglican Prayer Beads. The experience is similar to the Roman tradition of praying the rosary but is unique in that there is a more meditative focus. Meeting on Monday evenings, this type of prayer can deepen and transform your devotions into a richer spiritual experience.



Pilgrimage Ministry



The first adult pilgrimage occurred in 2013 with a group of 16 for a Celtic discovery to Wales. Immersed in the Celtic world-view and experiences and guided by renowned author Esther DeWaal, the group journeyed to ancient places of prayer and Bardsey Island, the place of 20,000 Saints. Our second experience brought a group to Rome to pray for and work with refugees at the Joel Nafuma Refugee Center located at St. Paul's within the Walls Episcopal Church. In 2019, we returned to Wales for additional discovery and reflection.

The Cathedral's spirit of pilgrimage invites us to set down daily demands, and journey with hope, to discover the holy voice that is within all of us.

[Learn about our Pilgrimage Ministry](#)

Covid Response for Worship Opportunities

Covid changed many things but not our desire to love and serve the Lord and our community. Our congregation creatively adapted our routines to continue living out our mission.

Covid taskforce – A taskforce, consisting of physicians, other healthcare professionals, and public health practitioners, provide recommendations for Covid guidelines during worship and gatherings.

Video Streaming – Our services, concerts, adult forums, and other events are streamed for those who are unable to attend in person.

Nativity Platz – We gathered outside under a tent on the property to worship when we were unable to safely do so inside.

Outdoor Worship on the Mountain Top Campus – To accommodate larger crowds, we were grateful to Lehigh University who allowed us to celebrate Easter services and confirmation on top of South Mountain.

Drive Through Events – Parishioners and community members were invited to drive through our parking lot to receive blessings, the eucharist, and view our Christmas nativity scene. We also hosted many fundraisers with drive through take-out dinners.

Daily Social Devotions – Many people near and far turned to our Facebook page in the morning with a moment of prayer, a reading or poem, and a warm connection before starting the day.



[View our Annual Report](#)

Our Future

Campus Plan Initiative

This energetic group is committed to the faithful process and development of our campus plan. More than \$3 million dollars has been pledged to help improve the aesthetics of our campus and to make Nativity more inviting and accessible to the community.



Plans include *(renderings on right)*

- Place Cathedral signage at major intersection to increase our community visibility
- Improve outdoor gathering spaces
- Increase entrance gateways from all directions to walk into and through our spaces
- Labyrinth for meditation
- Fountain Hill Community Grocery Partnership has been initiated with a 501C3 to build a food pantry at the local elementary school - seed funding of \$130,000
- Create additional parking spaces

Our Next Dean

We invite candidates who are . . .

- An **effective preacher and teacher** to continue to broaden the varieties of worship and spiritual experiences
- An **experienced executive** with strong business skills to inspire generous stewardship and work with lay leaders to fulfill the plans of our successful capital campaign
- Congenial, loving, and prayerful, with energy for our children and youth, attentive care for our seniors, and enthusiasm for attracting new members to our congregation. **Someone who wants to have fun with us!**
- Eager to support existing parish leaders and raise up new ones to **expand our wide range of ministries** outside our doors
- Excited to worship with our **Spanish-speaking congregation** and work collaboratively with Hispanic community leaders
- A **dreamer with boundless ideas** to extend our service to God and partner with our neighbors in the city, the diocese, and beyond

Do you feel a call to Nativity?

Join us in discernment

Submit cover letter,
OTM Profile and resume to
The Rev. Canon Melinda Artman
Melinda@diobeth.org

For more information:

Search@NativityCathedral.org

Links to Community Ministry Portfolio,
Livestream, and much more on:
NativityCathedral.org (Dean Search tab)





Vestry

Siobhán Ardizzzone, Sr. Warden
Tom Edwards, Jr. Warden
Don Appleton, Treasurer
Meg Storm, Clerk
Connie Andrejko
Rob Curzi
Richard Guyer
Joe Mozingo
Lauren Quiel
Heather Scattergood
Barbara Solito
Lee Velez

Clergy

The Very Rev. Barry J. Harte,
Interim Dean and Rector
Maryann Philbrook, Curate
The Ven. Richard I. Cluett,
Archdeacon-in-Residence
The Rev. Dr. R. Jane Williams,
Associated Priest
The Rev. Rodney Conn, Deacon
The Rev. Charles Barebo,
Deacon

Staff

Tracy Eisenreich, Director of
Administration & Finance |
Executive Assistant to the Dean
Peggy Bankowski,
Administrative Assistant
Canon Stephen Williams, Canon
for the Ministry of Music &
Performing Arts
Winston Alozie,
Musician-in-Residence
Becky Berkenstock, Lay
Christian Formation Leader
Bill Korp, Bookkeeper

Jose Mendez, Lead Sexton
Waldina Orellana, Housekeeper
Neftali Mendez, Housekeeping
Maria Flores-Barahona,
Housekeeping
Connie Gilbert, Better Buy Thrift
Shop Coordinator

Photography

Millard Cook
Mike Karlan
Nativity Parish Community

To apply or learn more, visit NativityCathedral.org (dean search tab)