

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DECEMBER 22: SERVICE OF HOPE AND HEALING

As part of our Advent and Christmas offerings, we will be having a Service of Hope and Headling on Sunday, December 22 at 7 pm. The service will include quiet music as well as a time set apart for offering our grief and sorrows to God. If you need transportation assistance—or are able to help—please contact the office.

CHRISTMAS AT NATIVITY

Join us on Christmas Eve at 4 pm or 9 pm as we celebrate the birth of Christ. The 4 pm service will include congregational carols, candles, and a Children's Moment; the 9 pm festival service will have pre-service music beginning at 8:30, candles, and choir. We will have a quiet, spoken service on Christmas Day at 10 am.

OFFICES CLOSED

The Church offices will be closed from December 24 to January 1.

USHERS NEEDED FOR CHRISTMAS EVE

We are expecting a larger turnout than ever for our Christmas Eve services this year, and we are looking for volunteers to help with ushering, especially at the 9 pm service. The duties include coming to the church at 8:15 pm, greeting attendees in the Narthex, handing them a bulletin, and helping people find seats as needed, passing the collection plate during the offertory, directing people to the communion rail to receive communion, and thanking people for coming as they depart. George Douglas will be the Vestry Person of the Day for this service and will be there to answer questions and participate as well. As we need to know that we have adequate help, please respond to George at gbdouglas3@gmail.com or call 919-745-7514 if you are available and willing to help. Many thanks!

THE COLOR OF COMPROMISE

Join us for a 12-session study of *The Color of Compromise* by Jemar Tisby, an eye-opening exploration of the American church's complicity in racism and a call to respond with courage and conviction. Beginning January 8, we'll meet weekly on Zoom each Wednesday from 7 to 8:30 pm. We'll unpack Tisby's historical insights and discuss actionable steps for justice and reconciliation in our communities. Each session offers space for reflection,

CALENDAR

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22

- 8:30 am: Rite II Eucharist, spoken (Nave)
- 9:30 am: Choir & Pageant Warmup (Nave)
- 10:30 am: Rite II Eucharist, with Music and Bishop's Visitation (Nave)
- 11:50 am: Nativity Show & Reception (Corlett Hall)
- 7 pm: High School Potluck and White Elephant (Corlett Hall) (Corlett Hall)

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24

- 4 pm: Christmas Eve service with candles, congregational carols, and a Children's Moment (Nave)
- 8:30 pm: Pre-service music
- 9 pm: Festival Christmas Eve service with choir & candles (Nave)

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25

- 10 am: Christmas Day service (Nave)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29

- 8:30 am: Rite II Eucharist, spoken (Nave)
- 10:30 am: Rite II Eucharist, with Music (Nave) (Corlett Hall)



meaningful connection, and thoughtful engagement with others dedicated to understanding and addressing racial injustice. This study is open to all; we welcome you to join us in this important journey toward equity and healing. We invite you to sign up to receive the Zoom link for the study.

FILM SCREENING: PHILADELPHIA ELEVEN

Join us in Corlett Hall on January 5 for an inspiring evening of food, film, and discussion. We'll start with a potluck dinner at 5 pm, followed by a screening of *The Philadelphia Eleven* from 6 to 7:30 pm. This compelling documentary tells the story of 11 women who, in 1974, defied church rules to be ordained as Episcopal priests, reshaping the church and inspiring future generations. A panel discussion will follow, exploring the film's themes and the legacy of these trailblazing women. This free event is open to all.

ADULT PILGRIMAGE TO THE UK

Join us on a transformative pilgrimage through Scotland and England in 2025! Explore historic Christian sites like Edinburgh, Lindisfarne, Bamburgh, and Durham Cathedral, where you'll walk in the footsteps of saints and delve into the rich tapestry of faith. Experience guided tours, spiritual reflections, and the beauty of these sacred lands. For more details on this enriching journey, check out this blog post and register today.

DAY OF GIVING 2024 A RESOUNDING SUCCESS

The Church of the Nativity identifies itself as a community that cares for each other and for the larger society. This was so well demonstrated during this year's Week and Day of Giving. The spirit of the season could be felt throughout Estill House this past Sunday through the conversations with outreach representatives, the amazement over the many beautiful homemade items, and of course chatting amongst friends.

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This year's Week and Day of Giving brought in more funds than any other year, with estimates bringing the total to over \$26,000. There were 15 different organizations represented on Sunday; all seemed deeply appreciative of Nativity's support. One visiting representative commented that she didn't know of any other church in the area that puts on an event such as ours. What a compliment to Church of the Nativity.

Nativity's Outreach Team provided the foundational support for this annual event, without which its continued success would not be possible. It takes a whole church family to put this kind of event together. We are deeply thankful first and foremost to all the organizations who were a part of this year's Day of Giving and the work they do to serve others. A huge thank you to all those who gave of their time and talents and donated items towards the raising of funds for the Hurricane Helene Relief effort. Thank you to all who contributed refreshments for Sunday morning and to those who served and cleaned up. We deeply appreciate those who came on Saturday and helped on Sunday in setting up Corlett Hall and putting it back together. Thank you to members of the Outreach Team who assisted on Sunday — whether by hosting some of the tables or counting funds at the end of the day.

Nativity is a very special place because of its people; all who helped put this event together and all who came and supported it reflect God's love and message of caring for our neighbors. Thank you all so much!

