

The Episcopal Church of the Nativity

Announcements

23 August 2026

Welcome! This morning, the Rev. Dr. Barrie Bates presides, and our own seasonal member Kathleen E. Frank-Hand preaches. Our musician is Sal Page.

Kathy Hand has served with one foot in the church and the other in the world—the consummate role of a deacon. She has cooked soup for the homeless and worked as an altar server, assisted a mission group to Belize and helped found a congregation—but before that she studied for a Ph.D. in clinical psychology, worked as a massage therapist, and acted as a business consultant. Nowadays, she and her husband, Bob, spend their winters in Moline, Illinois, and their summers with us. We are fortunate indeed!

Many thanks to those who help with, contributed to, and attended our annual parish picnic on Friday.

Nativity is participating in the Church Ecology Project of the University of the South, and they want as many of us as we can to take a survey. “The more folks from your congregation who take the inventory, the clearer picture we may have of how worship is functioning,” they tell us. There is a link on the home page of our web site, episcopalboyne.org.

Spotlight on Hymnody: CHELSEA SQUARE is the name of the tune of our opening hymn today (#521). It is the home of the General Theological Seminary in New York City (or was, before they became all “virtual”). Chelsea was also the name of the farm owned by the family of Clement Clark Moore, whose famous 1823 poem *A Visit from St. Nicholas* named each of Santa’s reindeer for us. Moore donated the land to the seminary, and then became Professor of Oriental and Greek Literature, Divinity, and Biblical Learning. The tune was hummed by Howard Chandler Robbins to Ray Francis Brown.

Brown then wrote the harmony, although it was Robbins who wrote the text—when they were both faculty members at the seminary.

Who Knew? What’s so “proper” about Sunday worship? You may have noticed that in the season between Pentecost and Advent, each Sunday is designated by the style “Proper 5” (with the number changing from week to week). Sometimes, these appear with a letter “A,” “B,” or “C” following; these letters correspond to the three-year cycle of the Sunday lectionary. Historically, the Eucharist consists of the *ordinary*, or unchanging parts of the text, and the *propers*—the collect, Scripture lessons, and preface. By looking up the numbered proper for a given week, you can prepare for Sunday worship with a brief at-home Bible study. You will find the books, chapters, and verses of next week’s lessons online at lectionarypage.net.

This afternoon at 4:30, there will be a presentation by Sudanese Grace Church in Grand Rapids, at Christ Episcopal Church, in Charlevoix, 200 State Street. This inspiring event will share the story of faith, resilience, and hope from the South Sudanese community. And yes, they’ll be asking for your money—whether \$10, or \$1,000, or more. They need our help.

Quote of the Week: “We are bound together by the most powerful of all ties, our fervent love for freedom and independence, which knows no homeland but the human heart.”

—Gerald R. Ford

Episcopalian and XXXVIII President of the United States

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The Rev. Dr. J. Barrington Bates, *Priest-in-Charge*