

The Episcopal Church of the Nativity

Announcements

2 August 2026

Welcome! This morning, the Rev. Dr. Barrie Bates presides and preaches. Our musician is Sal Page.

Spotlight on Hymnody: Regarding Hymn 690, “Guide me, O thou great Jehovah,” both the text and tune come to us from the great singing people of Wales. The poem was authored by William Williams, for whom life as pilgrimage was a chief theme—as if the geography of ancient Palestine could be superimposed on his contemporary 18th-century Wales. At one parish of Barrie’s acquaintance, they repeat the final phrases three or four times: “songs of praises, songs of praises, I will ever give to thee, I will ever give to thee.” Perhaps someday we’ll give that a try?

Who Knew? Beginning in 1855, the Episcopal Church admitted women to an office called “Deaconess.” These women were not ordained, but “set apart” for service—a practice that was not officially authorized by the General Convention until 1889. By 1930, we had over 200 active deaconesses, serving as nurses, as teachers, and in other social ministries. By 1970, we came to our senses and legislated that women—like men—would henceforth be ordained as deacons. In 1976, we ordained the first women priests in the Anglican Communion, and in 1989 the first woman bishop, Barbara Harris.

Save the date: Our annual parish picnic takes place on Friday, August 21. Watch this space for details!

Famous Episcopalian Franklin Delano Roosevelt once said, “The test of our progress is not whether we add more to the abundance of those who have much; it is whether we provide enough for those who have too little.” He served as President of the United States, 1933-45.

Church of the Nativity, Post Office Box 228, Boyne City, Michigan 49712
episcopalboyne.org episcopalchurchofthenativity@gmail.com

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

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