

The Epistle

November, 2001

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Inviting Your Gifts

St. Ann's is moving forward in mission. On Sunday, November 4 at our only Eucharist of the day at 9:30 a.m., we will be offering to God our gifts in response to God's giving to us. At the offertory on that day we will be offering our talents, time and money pledges to God as a sign of our commitment to cultivate a life of prayer, study and service.

This is a transitional year for stewardship at St. Ann's. Having focused so much energy over the last three years on completing our building, we are now ready and poised to attend to other vital areas of our mission and ministry. The Vestry and the Stewardship Committee are challenging each of us to begin deliberately cultivating our spiritual lives by prayer, study and service and giving. We are invited in our gifts and talents pledge to give beyond ourselves with our time and to cultivate our talents in so doing.

The Vestry is also leading us into the next step of our ministry plan by contracting to purchase the vacant lot next door to our church on Woodland Street. This purchase enables St. Ann's to expand its ministries over a whole city block. Now that the capital campaign will be completed in December, the Vestry is asking us to substantially increase our pledges to our operating budget to cover the costs of this

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Christmas with a Conscience

Okay. So you can go on line and do your Christmas shopping in your pajamas. Or you can make a difference with those dollars.

On November 11, during hospitality and Christian Education, the Outreach Committee is hosting a special Christmas event—**Christmas with a Conscience**. We have invited several ministries, which have cottage industries, to display their wares, to talk about their work, and to give us the opportunity to support their Mission by purchasing gifts.

Thistle Farms, the cottage industry of Magdalene House, a ministry of recovery and healing of women who have made their living on the streets in prostitution, will be selling aromatherapy products. Judy Grace, representing the Hispanic ministry of St. David's and Holy Trinity, will be selling items from Honduras and Ecuador. African Team ministries, which serves in a variety of ministries in West Africa, will be offering jewelry and a variety of craft items.

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Rector's Note

Dear People of God,

Many years ago Eric Erikson, a noted psychotherapist and teacher, created a scheme that described stages of psychological development for the whole of life. He claimed that at each phase of life, individuals faced choices/competencies---they included trust, autonomy, industry, etc. Erikson's polarity to describe mid-life was the choice of stagnation or generativity. By stagnation, Erikson meant a kind of "resting on your laurels", knowing what you've been good at and doing what you do. In stagnation, there is no need to share or pass on wisdom, no demand to learn new things, no requirement to meet new people. Stagnation means holding the course. Generativity, on the other hand, comes from the decision to pass on what you've learned to the next generation, to continue to grow and learn so that you can mentor others. Generativity is, to use the words of Moses, the decision to choose life.

Like individuals, congregations have life cycles too. Congregations are born; they grow, mature, plateau, and die. They also have choices to make about stagnation and generativity. Over the past 12 years, we have seen St. Ann's face death, choose life, grow and mature. We are now at a plateau, facing a choice. As a congregation, we can continue to coast (stagnation) or we can choose to break out of our comfort zone and change for rebirth (generativity).

In creating this very ambitious Strategic Plan, your Vestry has made a decision. It chooses life for this parish, now and into the future. They also recognize the need for a paradigm shift, a change in the way we look at our ministry.

When the tornado blew our building away, it became clear that we needed to decide who we would be, where we would worship, and in what. We poured our talent, time and money into building a home for our community. That task is now done. We could choose to plateau in this comfortable spot or we could decide to grow and to share what we have and what we've learned. The Vestry has chosen the latter course.

Rather than be focused on capital campaigns and buildings, the Vestry is inviting us to focus on developing our prayer lives, sharpening our minds, building relationships, serving others besides ourselves, sharing our faith and forming partnerships for ministry. The congregational task forces working in concert with the Vestry will create the particulars, or programmatic aspects of this plan. However, what the Vestry has done is to say what we value as a community of faith. We care about nurturing the soul of every member of our community. We want to share hospitality with those outside our congregation. We believe we are stewards of all that we are and have. We believe we are called to pray, to learn, to care and to serve.

This is a tall order. But in choosing generativity, the Vestry invites us all to choose life. As we assert at the close of the daily offices, "Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to God from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever" (Ephesians 3: 20-21).

Peace,
Lisa

Islamic Discussion and Dinner

On Sunday, November 4 at 5:30 p.m. the East Nashville Islamic Center and St. Ann's Episcopal, East End UMC, Woodland Presbyterian, Eastwood Christian, Inglewood UMC, and Eastminster Presbyterian churches are sponsoring a joint panel discussion/dinner feast at Woodland Presbyterian Church.

The panel discussion will feature a short explanation of Muslim beliefs by the Imam, a shorter

explanation of some Christian beliefs, followed by a time for questions. Following the discussion we will be hosted to food prepared by the Muslim community, at which time we hope you will take advantage of the opportunity to meet and chat with members of the Islamic congregation.

If you plan to attend, please contact St. Ann's office at 254-3534 or email at: office@stannsnashville.org to give the Islamic Center a rough estimate for food preparation.

Director's Notes. . .

I stood by the subway tracks waiting for Duke Ellington's fabled "A-Train". I was bound for the Red Cross Headquarters in Brooklyn for out-processing so that I could return to Nashville the next day. One of the many interesting phenomena of New York's grand subway system is the way people intently stare down the dark tube in anticipation of a faint rumble, a gentle push of wind, a hint of light, all announcing the arrival of a train. There was a grumpy gentleman standing beside me, attempting, I guess, to hurry his train's advent by "harumphing" and swearing at the black hole.

I thought about him this morning. We seem to have a DNA programmed urge to see the future. We want to preview the next episode. The Weather Channel and Nostradamus both scratch our itch to see through the glass a little less darkly. But no matter the protestations of the man in the subway, God arrives when God

arrives. Then, sometimes, we don't want to know so much. Other times, the Holy event so far surpasses our expectation, we become giddy with joy. My guess is God occasionally giggles too.

I don't know what is up ahead. I am glad I do not. What I do know, is that God loves ... me, you, us, them ... the whole slimy lot of us. Knows us as we truly are and chooses to bosom us anyway. That promise of grace and mercy in Advent is what keeps me going.

I want to take a little space to thank those of you who stayed in touch with Patti and Dakota while I was away. It meant a lot to all of us.

May peace and love and music and beauty wrap us all as we approach Advent.

Maintain,
Sheldon Curry

Church-Wide Work Day Set for November 3

The B&G Committee asks everyone who can, to participate in what we are calling our Work Day Reunion. It is set for Saturday, November 3 and starts at 8:30 a.m.



Prior to the tornado, St. Ann's held an annual Fall Work Day to rake leaves, clean the alley, winterize the yard, and scour, mop, and polish inside the church. The tasks have changed – for example, few

leaves to rake -- but we still have plenty to do, and we need LOTS of volunteers to do it. Charlsie will prepare lunch for the workers.



The following is a sampling of our tasks: weeding, re-apply mulch, plant bulbs, pick up trash, rake, over-seed, clean up the alley, clean windows, bathroom, and kitchen. Some of the tools we will need are stiff tine rakes, brooms, and blowers.

Inviting (con't)

step forward, along with paying for ministries of prayer, service and justice through our parish. Our hope is to expand our offerings by 25% over last year.

Extra pledge forms are available at church if you have misplaced your own. We ask that you complete your pledges thoughtfully and offer them to God this Sunday.

Christmas (con't.)

The Outreach Committee hopes this event will be an opportunity to learn about ministries in our community and around the world. We will also have the chance to support mission as we spend Christmas dollars.

TNT Gets Passing Grade!! by Mike MacMillan

Metro Public School officials received a passing grade on October 22. At a Monday evening meeting, officials from the Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools Department of Operations met with representatives from over 60 member organizations of Tying Nashville Together (TNT) at Eastwood Christian Church. Eight representatives from St. Ann's were in attendance. The purpose of the meeting was to report on the Department of Operations' responsiveness to TNT's 2001 survey of conditions in 67 schools. The survey was presented earlier this year on June 24th at a meeting at Hillsboro High School and identified a list of health and safety-critical concerns. Eighty percent of the problems identified have been fixed or are being fixed. The remaining problems will be addressed in future renovations, or have become non-issues due to school closings or extenuating circumstances.

For future progress on the issue of public schools in Nashville, TNT is forming a city-wide group/roundtable to consider long-term school issues, funding, baseline standards, and equity. Dr. Pedro Garcia has committed to participate in the roundtable.

Anyone interested in further information about TNT can contact Susan Johnston or Mike MacMillan.

Security Alert!

We are now using the alarm system in the church. Everyone who uses their code to enter the church needs to follow these procedures:

1. To unlock the door from the outside, enter your code number and *.
2. When you enter, if the alarm is set, it will be buzzing and a red light will be showing on the keypad. Enter your code number **only** on the inside keypad to turn off the alarm.
3. Call the office at 254-3534 to get the password **before** you use your code. If you set off the alarm, you **must** have the password to cancel it and stop the police from coming to the church. We are allowed only one more false alarm between now and April. Any additional alarms will incur a fee.
4. If you set off the alarm, call Creative Alarms, Inc. (not the police) at 781-0111 to cancel. The number is also listed on the instructions on the wall beside the door and at Charlsie's desk in the office.
5. If you are the last person to leave the building (please check to make sure there isn't anyone else here), set the alarm by entering your code number on the inside keypad. You will have 60 seconds to exit the building. When you get outside, pull on the door to make sure that it is locked. If you need to come back inside immediately, be sure to enter your code to disable the alarm.
6. If you have any questions, please call the office.

From the Kitchen by Charlsie Holmes

Once again, I come to you asking for help. No one has signed up for hospitality for the months of November or December. Please choose a Sunday that would be convenient for you and complete the signup sheet located on the kiosk in All Saints' Hall. Remember, it doesn't have to be fancy.

There are several dishes that have been returned by the Claus family. It would be a big help if these were picked up, since we have limited cabinet space.

Thanks to all who have given us a helping hand in cleaning up after hospitality and before and after the Stewardship Brunch.

Have you heard what the Spirit is saying to God's people?

It is never easy to step out into the unknown. It is much easier to sit with what we have known and find comfortable than to experience something of which we are uncertain. During the last two months, while creating a new worship experience at St. Ann's, a core group of parishioners have experienced the holy presence of God.

For those unfamiliar with the new service, let me first explain that what we have created is NOT a contemporary service as most might understand that term. It is a contemplative service with music. It calls upon

some of the earliest traditions and models of our faith and brings them into a form which encourages us to examine our contemporary lives. It's not often that one gets the chance to sit and find meaning in the daily lessons after they are read and to actively engage the clergy's reflection on the scriptures. Here we get to do both.

In the coming months we will continue to test the waters of our newest service and to search out its voice within our own community and the community at large. Presently there is a consistent number of people who

attend almost every Sunday. The biggest challenge we face right now is determining what day and time best serve its growing congregation. As we prayerfully contemplate the structure of this service, we ask you to do the same. We also extend an open invitation to anyone who would like to join this venture, and experience God in new and sometimes different ways. The only requirement is an open mind and an inquiring heart.

By Allen Finley

InterPLAY is coming!

Off the Deep End Ensemble

With certified InterPLAY leaders, Ginny Going and Tom Henderson, will be helping to lead the 11:30 Eucharist on November 18. This group united movement, prayer and storytelling to assist folks in opening their hearts, minds and bodies to the movement of Christ within them.

The group will be teaching the congregation some simple movements to complement the Psalm for the day that can be shared by participation or observations. They will also be leading the response to the Gospel on that day. St. Ann's members are invited to join with the troupe for lunch and their concluding workshop at 1:30 p.m.

InterPLAY

*is devoted to fun * helps adults recover a spirit of play * emphasizes the power of affirmation * honors the wisdom of the body * uses easy, incremental forms * values and creates community * is a practice that any body can do * creates art from life - solo, partner, group play * brings body, mind, heart and spirit together!

InterPLAY! is a philosophy and set of simple, body-centered activities using movement, story, song, stillness and dance. It invites us to make stuff up in the moment, have fun, laugh with others, discover ourselves. It was created by Phil Porter and Cynthia Winton-Henry over a 20-year partnership as artists, educators, performers and ordained ministers.

There will be 2 sessions on Saturday, Nov. 17 at the Global Education Center and 1 session on Sunday, Nov. 18 at St. Ann's. To find out more about this wonderful opportunity, pick up a flyer at St. Ann's or contact: Diane Ault, InterPLAY, 305 Canberra Court, Hermitage, TN 37076, phone 615-884-8074, or email: celebrate@onemain.com. Be sure to pre-register to reserve your spot. (Suggested donation—\$15 per session, \$35 for all 3 sessions)

Stewardship Update by Chris Klein

TURN IN YOUR PLEDGES BY NOVEMBER 4!

Our commitments of time and money reveal the substance of our beliefs, the things that matter most to us. The Vestry, through the strategic plan, and the Stewardship Committee, through the Wish Budget, challenge you to increase your gifts of time and treasure. Spiritual growth comes with risk. Now is the time to act in faith to take the risks that commitments to the ministries of St. Ann's demand. Let your actions show where you stand.

The Wish Budget requires a 25% increase in income for 2002. This presents an opportunity to us all to maintain a higher level of giving as our commitments to the Capital Campaign conclude. Financial and Gifts & Talents pledge forms were mailed during the week of October 15. Forms are also available at St. Ann's. Please return your pledge forms by November 4. Forms may be placed in the offering plate, or dropped off or mailed to St. Ann's. If you do not return your forms, a member of the Stewardship Committee will call to check on your pledge status during the week following November 4.

At its next regularly scheduled meeting, on Wednesday, November 14, at 7:00 p.m., the Stewardship Committee will review our projected income for 2002 and recommend a preliminary budget plan to the Vestry. The Vestry will consider the 2002 budget at both its November and December meetings. If you have any comments or questions, contact one of the Stewardship Committee co-chairs, Chris Klein or Gayle Bradley.

Financial Highlights as of September 30, 2001 are:

Operating Budget Year to Date

| | Budgeted | Actual | Annualized Percentage |
|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------------------|
| Income | \$157,425 | \$143,428 | 68% |
| Expenses | \$157,755 | \$156,041 | 74% |

Remaining Capital Budget

| | |
|---------------------|-------------|
| Total 2001 Budget | \$1,035,953 |
| Total 2001 Expenses | 715,658 |

Combined Balance Sheet

| | |
|-------------|-----------|
| Assets | \$300,845 |
| Liabilities | 19,446 |
| Equity | 281,399 |

What: Advent Retreat

Why: To explore the W's of this holy season: **W**aiting, **W**atching, **W**ondering, **W**orshipping

When: Saturday, December 8, 2001 — 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. — Cost: \$15.00

Where: Cross Winds Contemplative Center, P. O. Box 138, College Grove, TN 37046

Who: Jerry Redditt, Spiritual Director and Retreat Leader

Call 615-368-7525 - Fax 615-368-2263 - Email: crosswindsretreat@prodigy.net to register by **Dec. 1**

New Medical Clinic Established

Faith Family Medical Clinic has been opened to bring affordable quality primary medical care to the low-income working people unable to secure health insurance. It is a non-profit organization supported mainly by donations, that will base payment of services on income and family size. The clinic is located at 326 21st Avenue North. Contact by phone 341-0808 or fax 341-0881 for more information on patient eligibility, volunteer opportunities and donation needs.



MINISTRY SCHEDULES FOR NOVEMBER

| | <u>11/4/2001</u> | <u>11/11/2001</u> | <u>11/18/2001</u> | <u>11/25/2001</u> |
|--------------------------|--|--|---|---|
| Acolyte | Bob Wyatt, Max Farrar, Keith Hime, Androlic Brooks | Mary Kantanie, Androlic Brooks | Lynn Bingham, Keith Hime | Bob Wyatt, Louis Claus |
| Altar Guild | Meg Sherrill, Sandra Bennett, Thomas Greer | Terry Lawrence, Gayle Bradley, Laura Weems | Donna George, Cathy Sanford, Chip Boykin, Sue Carpenter | Meg Sherrill, Sandra Bennett, Thomas Greer |
| Bread Guild | Allen Finley | Roberta Thomas, Jane Thompson | Maggie Thomas | Sue Carpenter |
| Chalice | Lyn Bingham | Peggy Hardin | Jim Hughson | Terry Lawrence |
| Counters | Ned Overton, Sandra Bennett | Leigh MacMillan, Joe Taylor | Jim Hughson, Pat Campbell | Laura Weems, Bruce Farrar |
| Greeters | Jeff Swoner, Lee Russell | Kris Dixon, Isabel Rice | Larry Brown, Robyn Smith | Gayle Bradley |
| Lector | Anita Buggy | Alvin Burt | Carol Downton | Bruce Farrar |
| Prayers | Rosemary Burdeshaw | Tom Hardin | Lyn Bingham | Bob Wyatt |
| Hospitality | | | | |
| Altar Flowers | Gayle Bradley in thanksgiving for her children | Terry Lawrence in memory of her parents, Ed & Celia Steele | Harry Gibson in memory of his mother, Harriett | Bill & Bev Weems in thanksgiving for Laura & Alison |
| Evening Prayer Officiant | <u>11/7/01</u> Lisa Hunt | <u>11/14/01</u> Andy Peterson | <u>11/21/01</u> Gayle Bradley | <u>11/28/01</u> Bruce Farrar |

Let us Give Thanks

St. Ann's will join with other Christian Churches in an ecumenical Thanksgiving service on Tuesday, November 20, at 6:30 p.m. at Stratford High School.

This is an opportunity for us to get to know our neighbors in a context of worship. We will also have a chance to experience the school which is the zoned high school for our area.

This liturgy will include choirs, members, and ministers from a variety of Christian traditions. If you are interested in serving at this service contact the rector at 254-3534.

Lisa Hunt



