

The Epistle

December, 2001

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Capital Donors to be Commemorated in Plaque

The Capital Campaign, which supplied the funds for the reconstruction of St. Ann's after the 1998 tornado, will draw to a close this month. While parishioners may continue to contribute to the fulfillment of their pledges, the Vestry will begin the process of recognizing those who completed their pledges by commissioning a plaque in the new year.

At the time of the campaign, givers were offered the chance to designate a thanksgiving or memorial with their offerings. The Vestry will be appointing a

committee to research and create a plaque, which will recognize those who gave to make the building possible and their dedications. This group will also determine the placement of the plaque.

The Vestry opted to recognize everyone who pledged to the building and to provide a unified form of remembrance, rather than putting individual plaques on items. The goal of this commemoration is to offer our corporate thanks to those who gave of themselves to make our building possible.

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Advent Comes!

December 2nd begins the season of Advent this year, a time in which we prepare for the coming of Christ into the world. Rather than add "another thing" to our culture's rush to buy and overdo, the community of St. Ann's invites you to take time to reflect and prepare for the coming of our Lord.

On **Sunday, December 2nd** during Church School, folks of all ages are invited to make Advent wreaths for home use. These rings of candles help count down the days until Christmas,

and provide a focus for prayer and meditation in a daily way. Meditation books will be available to use with the wreaths. In the **afternoon, at 4:00 p.m.**, the choirs and people of St. Ann's will hold an Advent service of Lessons and Carols.

On **December 9th**, the second Sunday of Advent, the People's Choir will join with other choristers from Belmont University and other congregations to present a production of Amal and the Night Visitors at 6:00 p.m. in Martin Hall.

We will hold the Hanging of the Greens on **Sunday, December 23, at 4:00 p.m.** Getting the church building ready for Christmas is a fun event for the whole community. We will decorate and then share a simple supper together.

Of course, throughout the Advent season, we will continue to offer Evening Prayer on Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m. Those who wish to observe this season of waiting and anticipation are invited to join in a walk of the labyrinth following Evening Prayer.

Rector's Note

Dear People of God,

Darkness seems to be so much more present these days. With standard time, we may get up with the sun, but we head home in darkness. The days shorten. SAD (seasonal affective disorder) seems to afflict us all.

Of course, the darkness also has a symbolic aspect as well as a literal one. The darkness of bloodshed, terror, poverty, fear, hatred, and ignorance creeps beneath our surveillance screens robbing us of freedom and peace. We fear another attack. We wonder whether our jobs really are secure. We dread the desperation of those who hate us. We are caught in cycles of anger and reprisal. The darkness casts shadows not only on the international scene, but also on the fabric of our own families—deeper still, in the crux of our own hearts.

We probably have not needed a season of Advent as much as we do now. We need someone to say that it is dark out there. It really can be overwhelming; there is so much out of control and unknown. There is also the reality that darkness allows dormancy, a time of unseen rejuvenation, but it's hard to perceive from here.

Into the night of Advent, come little lights. Not like the points of light celebrated by the senior Bush, these points of light are not necessarily sweetness. These are lights of judgment, rays of justice, beacons of hope, searing love, which betokens change. These are the lights of Christ about to come into our worlds, into us.

Rather than spend ourselves into well-being and normalcy, the Church invites us to become focused on the Light that shines in the darkness. We are called to anticipate the reality that God is creating in the darkness and to participate in the bringing of light. As we light the candles of our Advent wreaths, may their light shine in our darkness to remind us of the judgment, justice, hope and love that await us all.

Peace,
Lisa

Christmas Eve at St. Ann's Promises Special Treats

We will be celebrating the Feast of the Incarnation (also known as Christmas) with two Eucharists on December 24th. There will be a 5:00 p.m. Eucharist which will incorporate elements of the

Christingle service, an Anglican adaptation of the Moravian tradition of giving lighted candles to children on Christmas Eve. We will sing carols



which are familiar to both the old and the young. This service is especially accessible for folks who have children and are new to church—invite a friend!

At 10:30 p.m. we will begin the Vigil Eucharist of Christmas with a program of choral and instrumental music. Parking will be available at our lot, the Nashville Baptist Association and

at the First Church of the Nazarene. A festive reception will follow in All Saints' Hall; parishioners are asked to bring finger foods to share.

It is also rumored that we will have our restored stained glass windows installed in Martin Hall by Christmas. As in all matters of construction, we'll see!

Kid's Stuff for the Holidays

The children of St. Ann's will once again be producing an Epiphany pageant for the delight of the whole parish. This year the pageant will actually be offered on the feast of the Epiphany, January 6, at the 9:30 Eucharist. Parents will be receiving a rehearsal schedule in a separate mailing.

The kids will also be leading the way this holiday season with a project for our companion parish. Introducing themselves with photographs and stories, our children will be beginning to form bonds with our sisters and brothers in Guayaquil, Ecuador.

Director's Notes. . .

The great circle of life ... beginnings beget endings
beget beginnings and on and on.

I am at this moment preparing for the announce-
ment of the end of my time on staff at St. Ann's.
The Vestry and Lisa already know. I will tell the
members of The People's Choir at this Thursday's
rehearsal (11.29.01). An announcement to the
parish at large will come this Sunday.

My reasons for moving on boil down to, "'tis the
season." I need time for family and friends and look
forward to diving into some writing opportunities
that have long lain waiting. I need to replenish my
spirit and rest my soul.

My anticipation meets a joyful tear. Through it I see
missed opportunities, faces of friends made here
whom I will miss - we will never look at each other
in quite the same way again. I will always be from
"another time", the Director who followed Marjory
and preceded ??? and I hopefully remain a friend.

Thanks to all the members of St. Ann's family but
in particular ...

The Reverend Lisa Hunt ... for whom I acquired
deep respect and love,

The two Vestries I served ... for their daring leader-
ship, unqualified confidence and bold vision,

The People's Choir ... for giving 112% when I asked
for 110,

The Young Children's Chorus ... for their big
dedication to leading in worship though their
numbers were small,

The West Gallery Quire ... for their willingness to try
making something new from something old.

Gratitude to Jackie, Charlsie, Battle ...all the folks
who have helped my family and me during our
sojourn here. Blessing and peace and grace be to
you all.

Please ...please value and do not take for granted
the gift God has at 419 Woodland Street. St Ann's
Episcopal Church does not HAVE to exist. She does
so by the grace of God made evident through the
commitment of her people to the work of
community, missions, and graceful fellowship. God
needs this place. Nashville needs this place. You
need this place.

I hope you are able to join us for festive music-
making through this Advent and Christmas season.
Watch and listen for times of the various offerings.

Maintain,
Sheldon Curry

The Second Coming—who will drive your car??

Adult Christian Education begins a new season on the second Sunday of Advent, December 9. Bruce Farrar will lead a lectionary Bible study in the Hagar room upstairs. Lisa Hunt and Tom Hardin will be leading a look at the Second Coming of Christ. Using Scripture, our tradition, and a novel by Tim LeHay, the class will examine popular assumptions about the Second Coming and the way our Anglican heritage has understood it.

Bob Wyatt is Made Postulant for Holy Orders

Bob Wyatt, an active member of St. Ann's and communicant of Holy Family Parish in Chicago, has been made a postulant for Holy Orders, a first step in becoming a priest in the Episcopal Church. Bob has offered a variety of ministries at St. Ann's including: seminarian, vestry member, acolyte, lay reader, and pollster. Currently, Bob is attending Vanderbilt Divinity School. In January, he will attend Seabury Seminary to complete his Anglican studies requirement. He hopes to be ordained to the diaconate after his retirement from MTSU. Terri Lackey, Bob's wife, will remain in Nashville while Bob is in school.

Bob is one of a long line of persons who have been called to the ordained ministry from St. Ann's. In the past 15 years, St. Ann's has been instrumental in the formation of nine persons for ordained ministry.

Stewardship Update by Chris Klein

PLEDGES ARE STILL BEING ACCEPTED FOR 2002!

In dedicating ourselves to the ministries of St. Ann's, we work to make the Kingdom arrive in the world, to spread the good news of Jesus Christ by our actions and example. One means through which we dedicate ourselves is by pledging our time, money, and abilities. A pledge is a leap of faith that, paradoxically, builds up the faith of those that give, as well as those that receive; it is a challenge to spiritual growth and theological depth. To this end, the amount of the pledge is less important than is the act of pledging. Pledge in thanks to God for the wonders of the world and for God's gifts to us that let us work wonders, too.

If you have not pledged for 2002, but intend to, please do so as soon as you can. Pledge cards may be mailed to, or dropped off at, St. Ann's or placed in the offering plate. Additional pledge cards are available at the church for your convenience. The Stewardship Committee is continuing its efforts to contact everyone who has not yet pledged.

We have received 66 financial pledges for 2002 totaling about \$185,000. Although the pledges received thus far are over 30% higher than the same pledges last year, we remain about 20 pledges short of last year's total. We are also short of funds for next year's budget. If we receive these 20 additional pledges in amounts similar to

last year, we can fund a bare-bones budget, with few increases and some cuts. No funds for purchase of the property next door would be included. More pledged funding will allow us to do more.

At the next meeting (Wed., December 12, 7:00 pm), the Stewardship Committee will formulate a balanced budget for 2002 to present to the Vestry. This budget will take into account all pledges received up to that time, as well as projections of our expenses and other income for next year. If you have any comments or questions, contact one of the Stewardship Committee co-chairs, Chris Klein or Gayle Bradley.

Financial Highlights as of October 31, 2001 are:

<u>Operating Budget Year to Date</u>			
	Budgeted	Actual	Annualized Percentage
Income	\$174,928	\$164,888	79%
Expenses	\$176,393	\$175,883	84%
<u>Remaining Capital Budget</u>			
Total 2001 Budget		\$1,035,953	
Total 2001 Expenses		721,081	
<u>Combined Balance Sheet</u>			
Assets		\$395,024	
Liabilities		34,821	
Equity		360,203	

Gifts and Talents will be Cultivated

Special thanks to everyone who has completed a gifts and talents pledge form. Jackie Harris, our parish business administrator, has been busy inputting your information into our new parish computer program. Committee chairs will be receiving lists of those who offered themselves for ministry, once all the pledge forms have been received. They will then be contacting you to follow up on your offering of time and talent. The Vestry is also in the process of recruiting chair persons for the task forces created in the strategic plan. The Vestry is inviting all committee chairs, including the new task forces, to join them on retreat in February to begin to equip us for leadership in our various ministries.

MINISTRY SCHEDULES FOR DECEMBER

	<u>12/2/2001</u>	<u>12/9/2001</u>	<u>12/16/2001</u>	<u>12/23/2001</u>	<u>12/30/2001</u>
Acolyte	Jim Hughson Max Farrar	Leo Lindsay, Androlic Brooks	Charles Jones, Keith Hime	Terry Lawrence, Max Farrar	Bob Wyatt, Louis Claus
Altar Guild	Terry Lawrence, Gayle Bradley Laura Weems	Donna George, Cathy Sanford, Chip Boykin, Sue Carpenter	Meg Sherrill, Sandra Bennett, Thomas Greer	Terry Lawrence, Gayle Bradley Laura Weems	Donna George, Cathy Sanford, Chip Boykin, Sue Carpenter
Bread Guild	Allen Finley	Roberta Thomas, Jane Thompson	Maggie Thomas	Sue Carpenter	Allen Finley
Chalice	Rosemary Burdeshaw	Mike MacMillan	Lyn Bingham	Gayle Bradley	Rosemary Burdeshaw
Counters	Ned Overton, Sandra Bennett	Joe Taylor	Pat Campbell, Larry Brown	Laura Weems, Lee Perry	Jeff Swoner, Sandra Bennett
Greeters	Ned Overton, Sandra Bennett	Roberta Thomas, Jane Thompson	Larry Brown, Robyn Smith		Jeff Swoner, Lee Russell
Lector	Rosemary Burdeshaw		Shelia Reynolds	Sue Ross	Anita Bugg
Prayers	Anita Bugg	Alvin Burt	Carol Downton	Gayle Bradley	Rosemary Burdeshaw
Hospitality	Penny Burnett, Nickie Wilhelm	Deanna Dunn, Patty Harmon	Sue Ross	Charlie Burdeshaw	Terri Lackey, Bob Wyatt
Altar Flowers			Carlene Hunt in memory of mother Frances Stahlman Hunt	Charles Jones in thanksgiving for mother, Nancy Jones	
Evening Prayer Officiant	<u>12/5/01</u> Andy Peterson	<u>12/12/01</u> Alvin Burt	<u>12/16/01</u> Gayle Bradley	<u>12/26/01</u> Bruce Farrar	

Vestry Nominations Sought

Each year at the Annual Parish Meeting, confirmed communicants in good standing elect three members of the Vestry to serve three year terms. St. Ann's Vestry is composed of nine members. The responsibilities of the Vestry include: providing for the funding of the ministry of the parish; approving the budget; providing for the maintenance of the parish buildings; calling a rector, and working, in concert with the rector, setting the direction of the parish. In the Episcopal Church, the congregation elects the Vestry to set policy and make decisions on its behalf; it is the vestry which has fiduciary responsibility for all matters dealing with the parish.

The bylaws of St. Ann's require that in order to be nominated for the vestry, a person must be at least 18 years old and a confirmed communicant in good

standing, which means that a person is regular in worship and gives and works for the upbuilding of the kingdom of God. By tradition, vestry nominees have been part of the St. Ann's community for at least one year; they pledge; they are willing to serve on at least one other committee; and they are not related to anyone currently serving on the vestry.

If you are interested in serving in this ministry, contact Andy Peterson at 226-6516. Any communicant of the parish may nominate another person, with their permission. The election will take place at the Annual Parish Meeting which will be held on January 20. Nominees are asked to hold open the weekends of February 1-2 and February 8-9 for the leadership retreat.

December, 2001

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 8:00 Eucharist 9:30 Eucharist 10:30 Hospitality 10:45 Christian Education 11:30 Eucharist 3:30 <i>Re! Housing</i> 6:00 <i>Stonewall</i> 6:00 Advent Lessons and Carols	3 6:00 <i>Rediscover East</i> 7:00 Contemp. Prayer	4 Life Enrich. Lunch 7:00 Outreach 7:00 W Gallery 7:00 Spiritual Direction	5 11:30 Women's Prayer Group 5:15 Young Children's Choir 6:00 Evening Prayer	6 7:00 Peoples Chr 7:00 <i>CWG</i>	7	1 8
9 8:00 Eucharist 9:30 Eucharist 10:30 Hospitality 10:45 Christian Education 11:30 Eucharist 6:00 2nd Sunday Concert 6:00 <i>Stonewall</i>	10 6:00 <i>Rediscover East</i> 7:00 Contemp. Prayer	11 5:30 Est Nash UC 5:30 <i>Re! Urban Design</i> 7:00 W Gallery	12 11:30 Women's Prayer Group 5:15 Young Children's Choir 6:00 Evening Prayer 7:00 Stewardship Committee	13 7:00 Peoples Chr 7:00 <i>CWG</i>	14	15
16 8:00 Eucharist 9:30 Eucharist 10:30 Hospitality 10:45 Christian Education 11:30 Eucharist 3:15 <i>Titans</i> 6:00 <i>Stonewall</i>	17 6:00 <i>Mediation Works</i> 6:00 <i>Rediscover East</i> 6:30 Parish Council 7:00 Contemp. Prayer	18 7:00 W Gallery 7:00 Vestry	19 11:30 Women's Prayer Group 5:15 Young Children's Choir 6:00 Evening Prayer	20 7:00 Peoples Chr 7:00 <i>CWG</i>	21	22
23 8:00 Eucharist 9:30 Eucharist 10:30 Hospitality 10:45 Christian Education 11:30 Eucharist 4:00 Hanging of the Greens 6:00 <i>Stonewall</i>	24 5:00 Eucharist 10:30 Eucharist	25 <i>Christmas</i>	26 11:30 Women's Prayer Group 5:15 Young Children's Choir 6:00 Evening Prayer	27 7:00 Peoples Chr 7:00 <i>CWG</i>	28	29
30 8:00 Eucharist 9:30 Eucharist 10:30 Hospitality 10:45 Christian Education 11:30 Eucharist 12:00 <i>Titans</i> 6:00 <i>Stonewall</i>	31 6:00 <i>Rediscover East</i> 7:00 Contemp. Prayer					

