

CrossRoads



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From the Priest

Dear friends in Christ:

As we move into a new church year at Advent and toward our annual parish meeting this Sunday, December 4, I'd like you to know you are on my list of thanksgivings.

Thank you for six years of sharing worship; it's the joy of my life.

Thank you for sending Mike and me on sabbatical. It gave us rest, time for deep companionship, and the pleasures of writing a few meditations for Upper Room's *Disciplines* and knitting a rug for Emily. We came home renewed and eager to reconnect.

Thank you for showing up for Christ's ministry, mission, leadership, and service within the church and beyond it. Your light is not hidden. It shines wherever you go.

Thank you for so many prayers: prayers for the sick, prayers for those who have died and their families, prayers for our parish, prayers for discernment, prayers for me, prayers for the world, prayers for the Episcopal Church. Our connection to God in prayer steadies us as we face tides and times that challenge our hope, our faith, our habits of heart and our habits of mind.

Thank you for offering your passions in the service of others; they and your delight in them are God's glory. That includes all the "official stuff" such as lecturing, acolyting, bearing chalice, serving communion to shut-ins, singing in the choir, and swinging the thurible. But that's just a start.

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Thank you for taking the time to listen to each other, to your own souls, to me, and to the Good News that God is with us and for us—period.

Thank you for taking risks for Jesus' sake: leading, compromising, talking, giving and letting go.

Thank you for all your hands-on efforts: cleaning, repairing, digging, tree-trimming, wiring, patching, planning, selling ads and tickets, convincing sponsors to support us, spreading gravel, scraping off rib-cooking sites, planting flowers, pruning bushes, mending gutters, rerouting plumbing, blowing leaves off the sidewalks, shoveling snow off the sidewalks, lighting bonfires for s'mores, laying kindling for Easter Vigil, and lighting incense for holy days.

Thank you for teaching children, playing with children, welcoming and talking with children, smiling at children, telling Bible stories to children, giving our children bibles and bible story books, for swabbing down our children's spaces, toys, and furniture so our nursery and classrooms are less germey, dressing up like Moses, spraying piñatas so they look like golden calves, making them stoneware tablets of the 10 commandments.

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Thank you for gathering and counting the offerings, writing notes about pledging, signing up for suppers and services, opening up the church on Sundays, giving out gift bags to guests, turning on the sound system, turning out the lights, locking and unlocking the doors, calling in a locksmith to repair our locks and remastering them to work with one key.

Thank you for buying a pig twice a year, laying hands on a pig, basting the pig with Rodney's special sauce, taste-testing the pig, pulling the last tidbits off the pig and sending it home with many.

Thank you for cooking and delivering meals, communion, cards, rides, flowers, wreaths, food for Good Samaritan, gifts for Toys for Tots, gifts for adults in the group homes. Thank you for asking me to bless your wedding vows, your grief, your engagements, your surgeries, your sick bodies and worried minds, your children, your birthdays and anniversaries, your pets, your baptisms, your confessions, your week-to-week life in this world.

Thank you for giving me your suggestions about music, liturgy, Christian education classes, folks who need attention, folks who are upset.

Thank you for building houses with Habitat homeowners, sewing quilts for folks in need or joy, feeding and protecting animals in distress, leading health initiatives in our schools, distributing emergency GPS devices to folks with Alzheimer's, providing dental, mental health, legal, translation, and other professional services to those who need them.

For smiling in the pew as I preach, for singing with gusto, for coming to the altar rail with teary eyes, stiff knees, hungry hearts, and hungry children—thank you.

For laughing, apologizing, asking questions,

borrowing books, recommending books, lending books, returning books, asking me to return books, telling me what you think, thinking things over before you tell me, and allowing me to do the same—thank you.

Thank you for recommending each other to me and me to each other.

Thank you for setting tables, making coffee; gathering, scraping, and washing dishes; making coffee, laundering tablecloths, making coffee, bringing goodies for coffee hour, making coffee, cleaning out coffee pots, making more coffee.

Thank you for making pots, sewing pot holders, carving walking sticks, polishing gourds, tying bows, fluffing bows, cutting and tying nandina berries, baking cookies, painting stations of the cross, arranging flowers, hanging wreaths, trimming candles, polishing brass, ironing linens, baking bread, grilling hamburgers.

Thank you for leading study groups, attending study groups, recommending study groups, asking for study groups, opening your hearts and ears in study groups, keeping confidentiality in study groups.

Thank you for pledging, fulfilling your pledges, tabulating the pledges, cutting checks, turning in receipts, not turning in receipts, donating to special causes, watching the budget month by month.

This is our Lord's church and it is your church. It is alive with the Spirit. Thank you for sharing six years of its life with me and my family.

Peace and blessing,

Claire †





Thank You Notes Sent to Prayers and Squares And Members of the Church of the Resurrection

The idea of a prayer quilt is so unique and that it is so full of love and prayers is amazing. We believe in the healing power of prayer and appreciate your love and support.

I want to sincerely thank you for the beautiful quilt and most importantly the prayers said for me while tying each knot. The cross on the reverse side of the quilt is so meaningful to me. We must each day take up our cross, but we do not have to carry it alone.

Thank you again. I am truly blessed and what an incredible blessing your ministry is.

Thank you so much for the prayer quilt. It is beautiful. It stays on my couch and when I'm there I'm usually touching it - it is really a comfort to know people are praying for you at times like this.

Your ministry is a blessing in so many ways. You care for people and your faith in God are wonderful reminders of what is really important in life. Your ministry has blessed my life.

Annual Parish Meeting - Sunday, December 4th

Thank you to the many parishioners that made it to our Annual Parish Meeting. We always seem to have great food for our potluck lunch and this year was no exception.

Andrew Wilkinson gave a presentation on the Ribfest Committee and the need for a new Chair and Vice-Chair (or Co-Chair). Andrew Wilkinson and Tom Wart have spearheaded this committee for the past three years and are stepping down from their leadership roles. They still want to participate, but need someone else to take the lead.

Andrew also reported that Church of the Resurrection will be building a Habitat House next year and will be partnering with St. Elizabeth's Episcopal Church in Farragut. Habitat for Humanity plans to build many houses next year with the first ones to begin construction in February.

The election of the new vestry members was held. The new vestry members are Tom Griffith, Judy Hadjian and Debbie Henry. Please congratulate them and thank them for taking on this important ministry. The final meeting of the existing vestry will be Thursday, December 15th at 7:00pm.

Bishop's Letter



Dear friends,

It is such a great joy and privilege to visit different parishes around the Diocese each week. I do realize that when there is an Episcopal visitation, usually everyone is on their best behavior, and people are nice, and cook their best dishes, and clean house, and the choir works extra hard to sing something wonderful. Those are all great, and natural, and I am honored to receive such kind hospitality. And I am overjoyed to find life and vitality and a strong sense of mission and ministry in your parishes. Thank God, and thank you!

Usually, when there are confirmations and/or baptisms, I highlight one of the vows in those liturgies. After the candidates and/or sponsors make their initial vows, the congregation is asked, "Will you who witness these vows do all in your power to support these persons in their life in Christ?" The correct answer is "We will," and I encourage the congregation to shout it out, rattle the windows, and say it like they really mean it.

This highlights to me one of the most important aspects of our life as parishes, as communities of Christ - to support, encourage, mentor people on their journey. They may be new to the Christian faith, new to the Episcopal Church, or they may be seasoned, informed, committed church people. Whatever and whoever they are, they will benefit and grow and flourish through the support of their fellow journeyers in the parish. This is a community-based religion to which we belong, this Christianity. We are members of the Body; we have our identity as part of a whole. "We who are many, are one Body, as we share one bread, one cup."

We also have an opportunity, no - a sacred responsibility - to encourage, receive, and embrace the support and knowledge and experience and ideas of people who are new to our own communities. They have much to teach us. They have fresh eyes, to notice things about us that we have grown accustomed to, which may not make us our best. I remember someone once saying, "Why are those chairs stacked up on the side of the Parish Hall? It looks cluttered." At least two potential responses here: first, "Because we don't have enough storage, and that's a convenient place to keep them." That's usually our response, maybe even with a tone of defensiveness. How does this sound: "Thank you for pointing that out; they really do clutter up the place, and we will find another place for them right away." Simple, with a profound message. We are open, we are listening.

These folks God has sent to us are unfamiliar with "the way we've always done it," and that is a gift, not a liability. We should ask God's forgiveness if we ever say those words to someone new to our communities, and we should listen to their new, fresh ideas.

So friends, on this Thanksgiving holiday, I give thanks for the Diocese of East Tennessee; for the strong, faithful, seasoned leadership of our fine parishes; for the powerful, loving support given to those who join our communities of faith; and for the wisdom, energy, and imagination of those God has sent to us.

And for, as A General Thanksgiving (BCP p. 836) says, "for the blessing of family and friends, and for the loving care which surrounds us on every side." God bless you!

Calendar Reminders:

December 7th, 14th & 21nd - Wednesdays in Advent, beginning with dinner at 6:00pm.

December 4th - Annual Parish Meeting & Vestry Election, One Service Only at 10:30am, Potluck and meeting to follow. Bring your favorite potluck dish to share.

December 18th - Paper Bag Pageant at 5:30pm

December 15th - Vestry Meeting at 7:00pm NEW VESTRY members invited

December 24th - **Christmas Eve**
 Family Service at 4:30pm
 Lessons & Carols Vigil at 10:30pm
 Festal Eucharist at 11:00pm



December 25th - **Christmas Day**
 Eucharist at 10:00am - NO SUNDAY SCHOOL

January 1st - Christmas II - Services at 8:00am & 10:30am; NO SUNDAY SCHOOL

January 8th - First Sunday After Epiphany - Services at 8:00am & 10:30am;
 SUNDAY SCHOOL RESUMES



Thanksgivings And Concerns

CONTINUED CONCERNS: Joan, Kim, Jerry, Margie, Adyson, Betty, Mary Elizabeth, Maria, Heidi, Ralph, Matthew, Rebecca, Sherri, Joseph & Yesenia, Sandy, the Butler family, Richard, Helen, Mary Levi, Claire, Jessie, Michelle, Sandy, David, Dan, Mary Lynn, Kristin, Herman, Brad, Chris, Peggy, Richard, Jeanne, Marty & Hayes & Phil, Ron

SERVING IN HARM'S WAY: Brent, Matt & Delta Company, Karson

Transfers In

Drew Hawley
 Keytha Graves

December 2011

NOTE: Look for birthdays & anniversaries in bold!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 5:30 pm AA (women's group) 6:00pm Prayers N Squares	2 9:00 am Prayers N Squares 7:00 pm AA (open) 6:00pm Family Friday Night	3
4 Sunday School 9:15 Holy Eucharist 10:30 Annual Parish Meeting Potluck Lunch Ruth Hennessy	5 8:30 am Body Awareness for Healthier Living 7:00 pm AA (open)	6 1:30pm Bible Study	7 10:00 am Holy Eucharist/Healing <u>Advent Wednesday</u> 6:00pm Soup Supper & Activity	8 5:30 pm AA (women's group)	9 7:00 pm AA (open)	10 Shawn Fiebke
11 Holy Eucharist 8:00 Sunday School 9:15 Holy Eucharist 10:30 Induction of new Daughters of the King members 10:30am service Jan Hebble Rosemary & Gregg Kitts	12 8:30 am Body Awareness for Healthier Living 7:00pm AA (open)	13 1:30pm Bible Study	14 10:00 am Holy Eucharist/Healing <u>Advent Wednesday</u> 6:00pm Soup Supper & Activity	15 5:30 pm AA (women's group) 6:00pm Prayers N Squares 7:00 pm Vestry Amy Frost	16 9:00 am Prayers N Squares 7:00 pm AA (open) CrossRoads Deadline	17 Jerry Ploeger
18 Holy Eucharist 8:00 Sunday School 9:15 Holy Eucharist 10:30 <u>Advent Lessons & Carols</u> 10:30am <u>Paper Bag Pageant</u> 5:30pm	19 8:30 am Body Awareness for Healthier Living 7:00 pm AA (open)	20 1:30pm Bible Study	21 10:00 am Holy Eucharist/Healing <u>Advent Wednesday</u> 6:00pm Soup Supper & Activity Ellie Barnard	22 5:30 pm AA (women's group) Paul & Jeanette Fiebke Will & Nancy Heathcote	23 7:00 pm AA (open)	24 Christmas Eve Family Service 4:30pm Lessons & Carols 10:30pm Festal Eucharist 11:00pm
25 Christmas Day Holy Eucharist 10:00am (dress casual) LAMS Pet Food & Supplies Collection Belle Marsh	26 8:30 am Body Awareness for Healthier Living 7:00 pm AA (open) Jessica Harper Michael Mott	27 1:30pm Bible Study Rame Coombes Mike & Claire Keene	28 10:00 am Holy Eucharist/Healing	29	30 Mel Hines	31

LAY MINISTRY SCHEDULE	4-December-11		1-December-11		18-December-11		24-December-11		25-December-11	
		10:30 AM	8:00 AM	10:30AM	8:00 AM	10:30AM	4:30PM	10:30PM		10:00AM
Acolyte	One Service Only at 10:30am	Jack Lefler	Nancy Wart	Lisa Amelse	Andrew Wilkinson	Kelly Johnson	Lisa Amelse	Vera Mosey	One Service Only at 10:00am	Andrew Wilkinson
Eucharistic Minister		Kelly Johnson		Chip Parker		Roger Phelps	?	Kelly Johnson		
Lector	Annual Parish Meeting & Potluck Lunch	Judith Kubesh	Vera Mosey	Bob Haldi	Nancy Wart	Donna Jackson	Andrew Wilkinson	Chip Parker		?
Usher		Andy Hadjian & Bob Haldi	Ron Bailey	Rame & Janey Coombes	Jerry Ploeger	Wayne Tolbert & Andy Hadjian	?	Tom & Nelda Griffith	N/A	?
Coffee		Jeanne Phelps	Kathleen Bailey	Monty Ross	Peggy Rogers	Nancy Heathcote	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Offering Counters	Frank Richardson & Monty Ross		Tom & Nelda Griffith		Will Heathcote & Dick Reardon		N/A		N/A	
Altar Guild	Jeanne Phelps		Kathleen Bailey		Judy Egan & Janey Coombes		Donna Jackson		Donna Jackson	
Flower Guild	Rosemary Kitts		Dianna Stimpson		Sara Sampeer		Flower Guild		Flower Guild	
Readings	Isaiah 40:1-11 Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13 2 Peter 3:8-15a Mark 1:1-8		Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 Psalm 126 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24 John 1:6-8, 19-28		2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16 Canticle 3 or Canticle 15 or Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26 Romans 16:25-27 Luke 1:26-38		To Be Provided		To Be Provided	

Holiday Lay Ministry Schedules

There are several openings in the December schedule that need to be filled. Please let Amanda know if you might be able to serve. Scheduling is changing, please be sure to check the Sunday Bulletin and weekly email updates for the most current version.

VESTRY CONTACTS

<u>NAME</u>	<u>PHONE</u>	<u>E-MAIL</u>
Kelly Johnson, Senior Warden	865-483-8506	kjchurch917@gmail.com
Jerry Ploeger, Junior Warden	865-458-5966	gploeger01@charter.net
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Glorifying God by
Refreshing Souls, Bridging Communities,
Engaging People In Service

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Financial Snapshot

October 2011

Operations	Month	Y-T-D
Income	\$17,930.02	\$156,987.49
Expenses	<u>\$18,455.49</u>	<u>\$154,682.11</u>
Balance	(\$525.47)	\$2,305.38
Pledges		
Actual	\$14,206.00	\$133,618.00
Budgeted	<u>\$13,344.00</u>	<u>\$133,440.00</u>
Difference	\$862.00	\$178.00



Christmas Flowers

Donations for Christmas Flowers can be sent in to the church office or placed in the offering plate through December 18th. Please be sure that "Christmas Flowers" is clearly written on the check/envelope, and if the donation is made in memory or in honor of someone, please be sure that the name is clearly marked.

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