

Thanksgiving Dinner and Annual Charge Conference

November 22nd

Pot Luck: 6 pm in Huiet Hall

Bring your holiday best dish (enough to share) and join our celebration in gratitude for all this year's blessings.

Charge Conference: 7 pm in the Sanctuary

Everyone welcome;

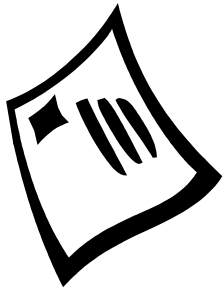
Administrative Council Members expected.



November, 2009
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The Rev. Susan Allen Grady,
Pastor
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The Epistle

A Publication of
St. Paul United Methodist Church
A Good Neighbor



We Gather Together

Several years ago, Dave and I invited both sides of our family to come to our house for Thanksgiving. Being an excellent cook, Dave prepared enough food for a fabulous feast including baking a turkey and homemade cranberry sauce. We set places at our table for my sister, my parents, 2 of my aunts, Dave's aunt and uncle and their 2 daughters, and some friends of ours and their 2 children who were not able to travel to be with their family for the holiday. I was thrilled to be able to open our home to so many people whom we loved.

When we sat down to eat, we all passed dishes and loaded our plates except for one of Dave's cousins, who only selected a roll for her plate. She was about 7 years old, and her diet included bread and tacos. Since there were no tacos on our table, she went for the only other thing she recognized and of which she approved. We had prepared all the food, the table, and the house so that people would take full advantage of being there, and all she took was a roll.

It was hard to get ready for that day. Bathrooms had to be cleaned; floors had to be vacuumed and swept (although not well enough, apparently!); beds had to be made; rooms had to be straightened up. I had to polish a few pieces of silver that had tarnished since the last time we used it, and we had to make sure that everyone would be comfortable. And all Dave's cousin took from the whole thing was a roll.

In the end, though, it was a great day. They came and went in the course of about 6 hours. It seemed to be over so fast after everyone was gone. I wondered why we go to so much trouble to prepare our homes and hearts for days like Thanksgiving when those days and celebrations come and go so quickly. Yet, we continue to do it year after year.

Week after week, Sunday after Sunday we continue to gather in a place we have prepared for worship. We prepare bulletins so that everyone gathered will be able to participate more easily in the service. We prepare music to help summon the minds and hearts of those gathered into a time of prayer and openness to the mind and heart of God. It may seem like a lot of work to do every week, but when the service is over and there are new friends to greet, we feel glad and grateful for the opportunity to invite others into our community. It is a lot of work for just a few hours, and it is worth every moment we spend getting ready for it.

We are called to provide radical hospitality in the kingdom of God. It is very different than the kind of hospitality offered in other places or by other people. We welcome people completely with the expectation that they will continue to come and be part of our fellowship week after week and share their lives with us completely. Where else do we find this kind of community in life offered to us without price?

I want to encourage you to continue doing all the things it takes to get ready for worship on Sunday. That means not only the things we do to prepare the building and the service but also the things you do to prepare yourself to be open to new people and new things and, especially, to the ways God may be calling or leading you by which you may be surprised.

New people are always stopping by for the feast we share. And even if they just take a roll, it is worth all the things we do to prepare to welcome them with our whole hearts.

I look forward to seeing you in worship.

Susan

**GRANT PARK
CANDLELIGHT
TOUR & HOMES**



2009

**Grant Park Once Again Lights Up for the
29th Candlelight Tour of Homes**

Complete your holiday shopping, gather decorating ideas and join this "walking holiday party" in Grant Park December 12 & 13

For nearly three decades, the Grant Park Candlelight Tour of Homes has brought the diversity, uniqueness and quirkiness that only an Atlanta historic neighborhood can bring to a tour of homes. Held in the evening by candlelight with homes all aglow, our Candlelight Tour is the most eclectic and welcoming tour of homes in the Southeast.

With renovated houses built at the turn of the 20th century, the 2009 tour will feature about ten homes spread throughout Grant Park, plus the St. Paul sanctuary. The tour begins in the sanctuary of St. Paul, which also hosts the Artists' Market Saturday and Sunday evening from 5:00 until 9:00 p.m. up on the third floor. With outdoor tents and low lights masking the gym as a bizarre, the Artists' Market will be styled as a festive European advent market.

Also in the church on Saturday from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. is the annual Winter Wonderland Children's Celebration. Sponsored by the Grant Park Parent Network, this year's event is themed "Winter in the Forest" and will feature "green" forest-themed crafts, forest animal mascots, candied apples and a bake sale. In addition, there will be a themed story and music time featuring Peter and the Wolf. Santa will be in attendance, so bring your camera and take advantage of the photo opportunity!

In addition to St. Paul, the Candlelight Tour of Homes benefits two of our community partner organizations, the Grant Park Cooperative Preschool and the Grant Park Parent Network. Tickets may be purchased for \$12 in advance at select sponsor locations and at St. Paul, as well as on our web site. Tickets also will be available the weekend of the tour for \$15.

A NEW SMALL GROUP FOR LGBT CHRISTIANS is forming at St. Paul! The inaugural meeting will be held on Monday, December 7th, 7:30 PM, at the home of Jeff McCord, 689 Rosalia Street. This small group will be a prayer, fellowship, discussion and support group for LGBT persons within the community of believers at St. Paul.

THE 2009 CHRISTMAS ATLANTA FESTIVAL

CONCERT will be Saturday, December 5 and Sunday, December 6, both concerts at 3:00 PM. Christmas Atlanta has been one of our community's beloved holiday traditions since 1989. Performers include The William Baker Festival Singers, The Northside Young Singers, The Cobb Festival Singers, The Northside Festival Singers, The Midtown Brass, and Organist Sue Goddard.



The concerts will be performed in the magnificently restored GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, 458 Ponce de Leon Avenue in Midtown Atlanta. The 90-minute concert features a wide variety of beloved traditional carols and timeless Christmas classics that you know and love.

Admission to all seats is only \$10 in celebration of the 25th anniversary season of The William Baker Festival Singers.



**Special Friends and Family Rates Available
for St. Paul Members
At the Holiday Inn Capitol Conference Center
November 1-November 30, 2009
For Further Information contact Bill Ericson at
bill.ericson@hislectatlanta.com.**

Forget the checkbook . . .

Ever get to church on Sunday morning, the offering plate is about to come your way and oops – forgot the checkbook! With on-line bill pay, you'll never need to worry about your checkbook again. Most banks provide this service, free of charge, to their customers. Simply go to your checking account on-line, click on bill pay, and set up St Paul United Methodist Church as one of your bills. You can then set up the amount you wish to give, the frequency for the check to be sent, and you're done – even if you can't be at church on Sunday, your mind will be at ease, knowing that your tithe will be sent, and you'll never have to bring your check book to church again. For more information on how to set up or any other questions regarding your contributions to St Paul, please feel free to contact Finance Chair Teresa Davis at (404) 556-7222 or at tdavis280@aol.com.





Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday		
1 11:15a-11:45a Children's Church (3rd Floor) 12:15p First Sunday Fellowship Lunch (Huiet Hall) 6-8p Atlanta Freedom Band Rehearsal (3rd Floor)	2 10a-1p Candler Contextual Ed Class Meeting (Huiet Hall) 12p ADOX District Clergy Lunch 7-9p Finance Committee (Teresa Davis' House)	3 9:30a GAC 7:00p FA (Third Floor)	4	5 9:30a GAC 6:30p Worship First Praise Team Rehearsal (Chester Commons) 7p GP Community Group Meeting (Huiet Hall)	6 6:30p Guitar Lesson (3rd Floor)	7 2-4p Four Seasons Chamber Orchestra 5pm AGE (Huiet Hall)		
8 6-8p Atlanta Freedom Band (3rd Floor)	9	10 9:30a GAC 7:00p FA (Third Floor)	11	12 8:30 am Staff Meeting (Highland Bakery) 9:30a GAC 6:30p Worship First Praise Team Rehearsal (Chester Commons) 7-9:30p GPCP Board Meeting (Huiet Hall)	13 6:30p Guitar Lesson (3rd Floor)	14 2-4p Four Seasons Chamber Orchestra		
15 12:15p Administrative Council 12:15p Missions Committee 6-8p Atlanta Freedom Band (3rd Floor)	16	17 9:30a GAC 7:00p FA (Third Floor)	18 7-9:00p Men's Ministry (Adult Sunday School Room)	19 9:30a GAC 6:30p Worship First Praise Team Rehearsal (Chester Commons)	20 6:30p Guitar Lesson (3rd Floor)	21 2-4p Four Seasons Chamber Orchestra		
22 6p Pot Luck Thanksgiving Meal (Huiet Hall) 7p Charge Conference (Sanctuary) 6-8p Atlanta Freedom Band (3rd Floor)	23	24 9:30a GAC 7:00p FA (Third Floor)	25 NO WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPER	26 HAPPY THANKSGIVING 8a-12p FA Thankathon (3rd Floor) 	27 6:30p Guitar Lesson (3rd Floor)	28 2-4p Four Seasons Chamber Orchestra		
29 6-8p Atlanta Freedom Band (3rd Floor)	30	<table border="0" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> Every Sunday: 8:30a Worship First (Chester Commons) 10:00a Sunday School Classes (Youth and Adult) 10:00-10:45a Children's Sunday School (3rd Floor) 10:55a-Noon Morning Worship </td> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> Every Wednesday: 6:00p Children's Choir Rehearsal 6:30p Wednesday Night Supper 6:30-8:00p Disciples of the Trinity Youth Group 7:00p Wednesday Night Book Discussion 7:30p Chancel Choir Rehearsal </td> </tr> </table>					Every Sunday: 8:30a Worship First (Chester Commons) 10:00a Sunday School Classes (Youth and Adult) 10:00-10:45a Children's Sunday School (3rd Floor) 10:55a-Noon Morning Worship	Every Wednesday: 6:00p Children's Choir Rehearsal 6:30p Wednesday Night Supper 6:30-8:00p Disciples of the Trinity Youth Group 7:00p Wednesday Night Book Discussion 7:30p Chancel Choir Rehearsal
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NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

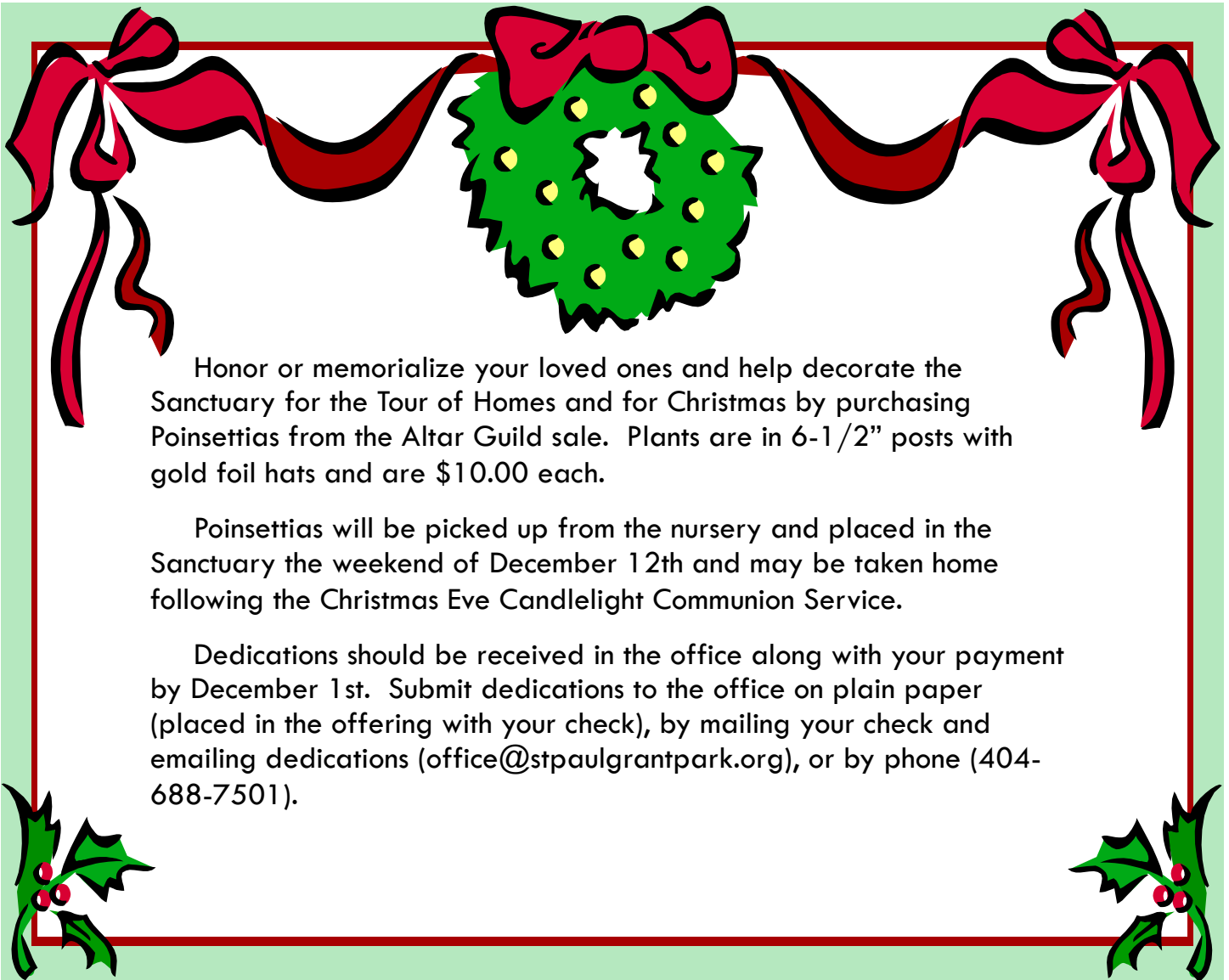
- | | | | |
|--|--|---|---|
| 1 David Mantooth
James White | 5 Evan Wells
David Carlock
Paul Gardner | 13 Se'Varius Raines
14 Kelly Greene
15 Zxelema Stafford
Michelle Levan | 26 Glenn Boyette
Allen W. Graham |
| 2 Chris Mayer Seymour
Sara Henry Thomas | 7 Zachary Johnson
8 Angela & Bryan Russell | 16 Talley Wells
19 Gretchen Garrett | 27 Chadwick Tennes
Molly Harrington |
| 3 Marcus Merritt
Pam Haas
Michael Hodges | 9 Leslie Truman
11 Alice Burns
Ben Johnson | 25 Shelly Hart & Mark Crenshaw | 28 Laura Wells
29 Telia Garner
30 Elliott Montgomery Warner |
| 4 Ava Wawerna | 12 Rebecca Wallace | | |

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- Sam Bangura (Sierra Leone missionary)
 - mother of Greg Barron
 - Katherine Brown (Ginny Pavey's niece)
 - Katy Cafiero (Ginny Pavey's sister, cerebral palsy, pressure sores improving)
 - Cathy Carlock's aunt Caroline (94)
 - Bill Cash (Paul Bowman's brother-in-law's father, rare disease)
 - Beulah Cockrum (Terry's mother, age 93)
 - Terry Cockrum's aunt Naida (doing poorly after pacemaker installed, 86, congestive heart issues)
 - Bob Collins (Talley Wells' sister Shelley's father-in-law, brain cancer)
 - Dottie Copeland (Lana Hardy's mother)
 - Mabel Couch (Tim's mother)
 - Mark Crenshaw's parents
 - Stewart Crenshaw (Mark's brother, broken bone)**
 - Charlie Davis (Charles' father, lymphoma)**
 - DeAndre (Zxelema Howard's year old cousin, custody battle)
 - *Patrice and Langston Daniels
 - Janice Freeman (Gretchen Garrett's grandmother, stroke)**
 - Jess Gaines' uncle (congestive heart failure, infection)
 - father of Will Gaines
 - Ramiro Garcia, Sr. (Ramiro's dad, cancer recurrence)
 - Ralph Garner (Bryan's father, inoperable lung cancer)
 - *Tom Gazaway
 - *Gracie Gazaway
 - Michael George's grandmother and grandfather
 - Patsy Green (Melissa Mason's relative, early stage pancreatic cancer, finishing chemo, upcoming surgery)
 - Ed Greene (Kelly's father, prostate cancer)
 - Madison Greene and parents Ashley and Chip (Talley Well's niece, kidney removed, chemo)
 - father of Lana Hardy
 - Stella Hardy
 - Francesca Harris (cervical cancer)
 - Jeff (Leslie Truman's friend, wrongly imprisoned)
 - Sister of Jaime Hester (cancer)
 - mother of Joan Hildebrand
 - Carol Howard (Zxelema's mom)
 - Ben Huiet, Jr.
 - Ben Huiet, III (chronic health problems)
 - Mariana Hurd (Ginny Pavey's friend)
 - Irene Jackson (Vanessa's mom)
 - *Vanessa Jackson
 - Michael Johnson (Terry Cockrum's friend, cancer)
 - Brenda Jones (Susan AG's cousin, long term care)**
 - Rev. Rex Kaney (cancer)
 - Allysa Kropp (Teresa Davis's cousin, deployed to Iraq)
 - Nate, Jonathan Kidwell's friend (deployed to Iraq)
 - Kristina Kirkby's dad (laid off)
 - Lou Lindic (Louis' son, job search)**
 - Jenny Mae Love (St. Paul GAC member, cataract surgery)**
 - Beth Luten (Michelle's friend, cancer)
 - Joan Mayer (Donna's mother, rehab following hospitalization, illness and fall)
 - Ed McCoy (Mark Crenshaw's co-worker, prostate cancer, lost job)
 - Jack McCollough (Candace and Celeste's dad)
 - Chris McQuaid (Annette's friend, brain tumor)
 - Bill Meriam (Becky Boyette's friend, chemo following surgery)
 - Karen Merritt's father (84, sciatica)
 - Marcus Merritt's sister-in-law Linda (cancer treatment)
 - Wanda Messina (back surgery)**
 - Glenda Nesbitt (Vanessa Jackson's cousin, needs kidney)
 - Jim Nelson (James Palmer's uncle, myopic muscular dystrophy)
 - Peter O'Leary** and family (Ginny's friends, traumatic brain injury)
 - Pachman family (father undergoing cancer treatment)
 - John Pearce (Cockrums' friend, death of wife)
 - John Peterson's friend's father (kidney transplant, prostate cancer)
 - *David Pettis
 - Pat Phillips (Mark's mother, cancer)
 - Meredith Ragain's friend whose adopted Ethiopian child is suffering PTSD**
 - Susie Reaves (St. Paul GAC member, 98, in rehab)**
 - Julia Richardson's (visitor) brother Ben—deployed to Afghanistan
 - Neil Robertson (Charles Davis' friend, healthcare issue)
 - Mary Schwartz (water broke 9 weeks early, on bed rest)
 - *Se'Varius, Se'Vunyah and Se'Ven Raines (Vanessa J's nephews)
 - father of Erica Ray
 - Zxelema Reese (Zxelema Howard's aunt)
 - Remesse (Zxelema Howard's friend, hospitalized for duration of pregnancy)
 - Wayne Sons and family (Ginny's friend, 41 year old severely disabled by multiple strokes)
 - friend of Robin South (tonsil cancer)
 - *Anne Spealman
 - Guin Stanton (Leslie Truman's niece, kidney problems)
 - James Stephens's friend Pat (breast cancer)
 - Joan Stephens's mother**
 - Amanda Tomlinson (Rachel Wayte's granddaughter)
 - Frances Truman (Leslie's mom)
 - ***Leslie Truman**
 - Leslie's aunt Patricia (Alzheimer's) and father Don (unable to visit sister)
 - Virginia Vickery
 - Bill Wawerma (Mike's dad, multiple myeloma)
 - Katherine (Rachel Wayte's niece, desert training, likely to deploy)
 - *Su Watson and Bob Vermillion
 - Paige Swaim's mother and grandmother
 - *Becky Wellman
 - Talley Wells's mother
 - Rev. John Winn (Lane's dad, hip broken in fall)
 - Myrtle Zappa (Elizabeth's mother, breast cancer)
- General Intercessions:
- world peace
 - our national leaders
 - our troops, especially those in harm's way
 - those struggling with addiction and depression
 - all those with cancer
 - those family and friends separated by physical distance or broken relationships, especially during the holiday season
 - those seeking work
 - those suffering the effects of natural disasters
 - the economy
 - all children!

**November Prayer Calendar**

The November Prayer Calendar, "Prayers of Thanksgiving," is available to download at www.ngumc.org under the "Resources" drop-down menu. Prayer Calendars are the work of our parishioner, Sybil Davidson.



Honor or memorialize your loved ones and help decorate the Sanctuary for the Tour of Homes and for Christmas by purchasing Poinsettias from the Altar Guild sale. Plants are in 6-1/2" posts with gold foil hats and are \$10.00 each.

Poinsettias will be picked up from the nursery and placed in the Sanctuary the weekend of December 12th and may be taken home following the Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service.

Dedications should be received in the office along with your payment by December 1st. Submit dedications to the office on plain paper (placed in the offering with your check), by mailing your check and emailing dedications (office@stpaulgrantpark.org), or by phone (404-688-7501).



Winners of the GAC Cookoff with their prizes are (L to R) Ginny Pavey (2nd PI Entrée Cranberry Glazed Pork Loin with Kraut, 1st PI Dessert Chocolate Cobbler), Becky Wellman (2n PI Appetizer Ham and Cream Cheese Swirls), Laureen Herzig (1st PI Appetizer Pumpkin Chorizo Soup), Jenny Wellman (1st PI Entrée Chicken Enchilada Suisse). Not Pictured: Inell Conrad (2nd PI Dessert Sweet Potato Pie). The grand prize was awarded to Laureen Herzig for her Pumpkin Chorizo Soup. Voting was done by attendees. All prizes were donated and all proceeds will benefit the St. Paul Golden Age Center.

(continued from page 6) Potato Pie, but I also tasted crumbs of Pineapple Sour Cream Cake, Stilton Mushroom Caps, Hot Chili Dip, Savory Spinach Cheesecake, and one bite of anything else anybody was serving. It was all YUMMY.



I have been watching on Wednesday nights to see the folks making new **Chrismons** for the St. Paul tree. Chrismons are Christian symbols that remind us of God's love. Many of them are biblical symbols, but not all. It is not too late for you to help make them for Advent. Yes, it is almost Advent again. In the church year, you know that is like New Years. A good Methodist Mouse, I love the flow of the church seasons. In case I have forgotten anything about the story of salvation, I can be reminded in the readings and the sermons next year. Be sure to order your Poinsettias for the Sanctuary early.

Your Church Mouse

Scene Through a Knot Hole



Probably, you have never seen me, but my family has lived at St. Paul since the beginning. We've watched generations of St. Paul children grow up and their children and then their grand-children be born and baptized here.

We've seen your comings and goings, sometimes having sent along a son or daughter of our own with one of yours leaving for good.

Church mice, as a rule, are nice and clean and quiet folk, on the wise side—at least smart enough to stay hidden until they know they're welcome. I myself have been a friend to the last several pastors and have tried to be helpful without being obtrusive in matters that fall within my area of expertise, like lost keys and eye glasses. I see and hear most of what goes on at St. Paul.

I know most of you by sight and all of you by name, and I'm tired of staying quiet and hidden. That's why I went on purpose to the **First Annual Neighborhood Cookoff and Talent Showcase**. A lot of you didn't and you missed a perfectly terrific time! My favorite kind of time is one where you have great entertainment, plenty to eat and lots of folks to talk with, and you listen to the performers while they

are performing, then talk till you get hungry then eat, then talk some more. That's exactly what we all did.

We heard an amazing performances by the **Four Seasons Chamber Orchestra** (yes, the very same group who practice in our gym on Saturday afternoon). They are a group of all ages and all levels of musical skill. Office Manager **Ginny** was so impressed I hear tell that she is thinking of joining them with her violin. And we had a stirring performance by the **Atlanta Freedom Band**, who practice at St. Paul on Sunday nights. They are the very same group who not long ago played a concert in our Sanctuary, and more recently marched in the Pride Parade. (If you managed to miss both of those chances to hear them, you will get another on December 20th when they play their Christmas concert in our Sanctuary.) After the groups, **Rachel Wayte** and **Leslie Truman** serenaded us, separately and together, and sometimes we could sing along. Mice love sing-alongs—their voices are too itty bitty to sing solos. Honestly, we have so much musical talent around here some can't help but rub off on me, and I'm not talking about our professionals even.

Of the food entries in the cookoff, I believe my personal favorite was **Wanda Messina's** Chicken and Wild Rice Salad, or Maybe **Inell Conrad's** Sweet

(Continued on page 5)

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