

Community of St. Ninian
Annual Report
November 5, 2021

The Community of St. Ninian marked our 30th year as a community this year.

After our last annual meeting we continued to hold our regular meetings via Zoom, with an average of 11 participants. It was less-than-ideal, but we are grateful for the technology that enabled us to stay connected and in community with one another. Starting in May, after all of us were fully vaccinated, we began meeting outdoors in-person with the possibility of distancing and with each of us bringing our own food. We also resumed our fifth Friday “fun nights.” Now that it is getting colder and darker, we have resumed meeting at the Shalom House. Unfortunately, in these unusual circumstances, we are not yet able to welcome guests to our meetings. We are not comfortable with this inconsistency with our stated commitment to hospitality; however, with many of us having risk factors for COVID-19, we want to be careful enough that members feel safe enough to attend. We hope that this will be a short and temporary situation.

We have continued to make our charitable donations to groups early in the year so that the recipients can make their plans and have the funds available to use as needed during the year. We made donations to Family Promise, Strength for the Journey, the Volunteer Ministry Center, the Interfaith Clinic, Positively Living, the Tennessee Equality Project Foundation, A Place at the Table, and the MCKK Deacon Assistance Fund for a total of \$2,800. We also gave an additional gift to Family Promise to help upgrade their facilities for their guests and a donation to Rainbow Railroad to help LGBTQI+ Afghans find safety after the Taliban’s takeover of the country. In addition, we have given \$511 to assist individuals since our 2020 annual meeting.

We continued to provide our Family Promise meals, but have had to do it via socially distanced delivery to their main location since they are not housing families in churches during the pandemic.

We currently have nine covenanting members, including one new member this year. It is a blessing to have been able to welcome a new person to our community during a pandemic. A total of sixteen persons (fourteen adults and two children) have participated regularly throughout the year.

As a some-time follower of Star Trek, I was interested that William Shatner was actually able and willing to truly go where few have gone before. Although none of us will probably ever reserve a seat on a suborbital space flight, we are all (individually and collectively) still pioneers. This can be a transformative time for our faith and for what it means to be children of the living God. We have been called to serve. There continues to be much for us to accomplish in God’s name. We continue to strive to adapt to the rapidly changing conditions we deal with while maintaining our values of hospitality and welcome and while shaping our lives as individuals and as a community to be more Christ-like in all that we say and do.

Jan Thomas
Prior