

Community of St. Ninian
Annual Report
November 3, 2023

September 2023 marked the 32nd anniversary of the Community of St. Ninian.

Since our last annual meeting we have become adapted to the COVID-19 world. We have been meeting in person but have continued to have a virtual option, so many of our meetings have been hybrid with some joining in person and some by Zoom. This has worked out well and has allowed those who have not been able to attend in person to remain connected with the community. We have settled in to our meeting space in the “main” building at Church of the Savior. This has been a welcoming and functional space for us and we are grateful for the hospitality of Church of the Savior.

Wayne Thomas led us in a hospitality study early in the year, using Henri Nouwen’s Reaching Out as a discussion prompt. We continue to seek to find ways to be hospitable and welcoming to all.

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, Bryant’s Bridge, and A Place at the Table for a total of \$1,900. (The Tennessee Equality Foundation has not cashed their check.) We have also designated \$1,000 for the MCKK Deacon Assistance Fund for them to request when needed.

We shared a joint Thanksgiving dinner with Bryant’s Bridge and will be doing so again this year. This collaboration seems to be a natural fit for us.

We continued our association with Family Promise as a support congregation, providing meals during their residency at Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd. It was nice to be able to return to in-person meals and accommodations this year. We have one more meal scheduled for this year.

We again held our ice cream social at Victor Ashe Park and approximately fifty people attended. It seemed that everyone had a good time and enjoyed both the ice cream and the fellowship. Many thanks to Randy and Rick for the many flavors of ice cream and for everyone else who helped make it a success.

Fifth Friday “Fun Nights” were a good time, and Bob and Rick hosted us twice at their home. The s’mores were delicious!

We currently have nine covenanting members. A total of fifteen persons (thirteen adults and two children) have participated regularly throughout the year, with occasional visitors.

As followers of Jesus, we affirm that all people are created in the image of God, and we seek to build a world that reflects that. In the face of heartbreaking and discouraging moments of world events, may we find resilience, the ability to tackle challenges, and inner resources of grace to grow. Let us renew our commitment to God’s work of building beloved community.

Jan Thomas
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