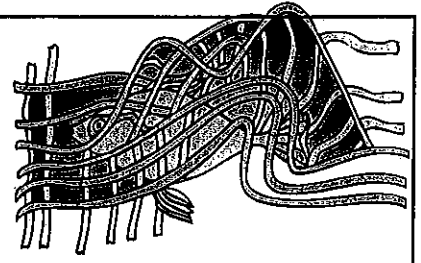


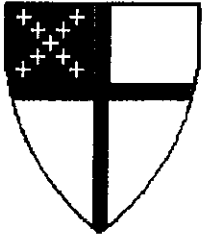
THE SEA NET

December 2000



St. Andrew's By-the-Sea Episcopal Church, 307 Hwy 98, Destin, Fl 32540
The Rt. Rev. Charles F. Duvall, Bishop of the CGC

*File
This is 1st issue
of Sea Net.*



Vestry Reports!

Exciting times are here! We are confident that this community, with God's help, will be successful in re-establishing an Episcopal presence in Destin.

The vestry has been meeting about every 10 days to decide the necessary process that will assure rapid growth.

On Monday, November 27, Duane St. John met with Bishop Duvall to outline our needs for the coming year. Bishop Duvall was very supportive of our plans and asked us to proceed.

Our next step is to present this plan to the Commission on Missions. We are prepared to ask for a one year grant that will allow us to be able to handle the following expenses:

- An Interim Rector
- Mortgage Payment
- Operating Expenses
- Building Repairs

A detailed explanation of these expenses will be presented to the Commission on December 12. Your prayers are needed as we prepare for this very important meeting.

Father Don Cramer is being sought to celebrate our December services. We are calling him to be our full time interim rector. Bishop Duvall has some reservations about our needs for a full time interim to help rebuild our church. The vestry is convinced otherwise and will continue to pursue this course through the diocese commissions available to us.

**Sunday Services
11:00 A.M. followed by coffee hour....**

At 8:00pm on Christmas Eve, all of the surrounding Episcopal Churches will come together for a special Christmas Holy Eucharist at St. Andrew's By-the-Sea. Numerous volunteers are needed to serve as we prepare to host this event. Please check the sign-up sheets located in the narthex for a listing of what needs to be done.

Volunteers are Needed

If you do not know how many hands are needed to run a Church service, then it is time to find out. We need help from everyone! There are simple behind the scenes jobs that need to be done as well as the more visible ones. Please check the lists that are available in the narthex to find the "right" job for you. If you are still unsure about a job, then call Kathy McGee and she will be glad to help guide you.



Christmas Eve Service 8:00pm



Our Christmas WISH List

Are you wondering what you can do to help? Here are a few suggestions:

1. Tables and chairs for the Parish Hall
Tables are \$100
Chairs are \$25
2. New Church Software
3. 2 new chalices
4. Paschal candle and stand
5. Christmas wreaths for doors
6. Gospel Book
7. Church Banners
8. Stations of the Cross
9. Visitor's Book
10. Artwork for the Narthex
11. Copier & Fax machine



Donations may be given in the form of a check designated for the intended gift. Feel free to contact any member of the vestry for more information regarding costs of specific items. Your gifts are greatly appreciated and will be enjoyed by all.

Quote of the Month Taken from "The Greensheet"

"Funny how a \$100 bill looks so big when you take it to Church, but so small when you take it to the mall!"

Preparation for ADVENT

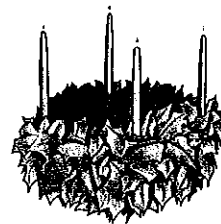
*"Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.
.....all flesh shall be the salvation of God. Luke 3:1-6*

Advent comes from the Latin word meaning "to come." This special season of the Christian year includes the four Sundays before Christmas Day. It is a time to prepare for GOD's greatest gift, the birth of Jesus Christ.

Many of us like to have our trips clearly mapped out before we travel. We gather all kinds of information about where we are going and about what we are going to do once we have arrived at our destination. If only the human heart

could be so clearly navigated. It is often filled, jumbled with all kinds of thoughts and emotions. It may even be broken and in need of reconstruction. During Advent, we travel the roads that lead to our hearts. We reflect on the things that dominate our hearts and ask, "Is this what GOD is calling me to? Is this worthy of a child of GOD?"

Advent is time to enter the silence and listen, listen to the gentle voice of Jesus calling us to HIM.



It is time for us to look at these roads leading to our hearts and see if they need repair or rerouting. It is time to make these roads lead to Emmanuel, GOD with us. Then, come Christmas Day, Jesus will once again walk the roads of our hearts and find a place to rest.

Kay Morgan and Kate Driggers have accepted to serve as our convention delegates. On Saturday, December 16, Kay and Kate will attend the "Walk About" in Mobile where they will meet all the candidates for our new Bishop. Then on January 6, Kay and Kate will travel over to Brewton to cast our vote for the new Bishop. If you have anything to share with them regarding this election, please contact them directly prior to these dates. Congratulations, Kay and Kate for being our very first convention delegate!

Archbishop of Canterbury's Christmas 2000 Message

My favourite Christmas carol is "O Little Town of Bethlehem". Written by Philips Brooks, former Episcopal bishop of the Diocese of Massachusetts, it captures so eloquently and beautifully the magic of Christmas. He composed it following a never-to-be-forgotten visit to Bethlehem in 1868 when he was then rector of Trinity Church, Boston.

Some years ago Eileen and I visited Bethlehem at Christmas in connection with the Orthodox Celebrations. With the Patriarch and many other pilgrims we made our way through the narrow streets of the town to the Church of the Nativity. And then, stooping low to enter the tiny entrance to the church, we entered a brilliant interior lit with the candles of hundreds of pilgrims. The rich liturgy of the Greek Orthodox Church then began. I confess I don't recall much of what happened thereafter! But what I do remember is that, following the service, we drifted into the lovely Franciscan church nextdoor. As we did so a girl's voice started to sing:

*'O little town of Bethlehem,
How still we see thee lie!'*

And then, spontaneously, we all took up the carol which rang and rang around the beautifully decorated Church:

*'Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by:*

*Yet in thy dark streets shineth
The everlasting light:*

*The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight'*

Bethlehem is very much on my mind at the moment. The carol speaks of 'peace' - but there is little peace in the Holy Land at this present time. I find myself asking: 'Are we doing enough to support our brothers and sisters in this land, loved above all others? Are we praying enough for Muslims, Jews and Christians to live in harmony one with another? How many others have to die violently before the leaders of all parties realise that there will never be peace until the land belongs to all? But the carol speaks of God's gift of his Son:

*'How silently, how silently,
The wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of his heaven.'*

And I find myself thinking: "Hold on, Christian, you who are so concerned about issues of justice and social care, are you in danger of neglecting the heart of the Christian message? That our message is about God's gift which is offered to us all and which transforms all?" Of course, this message will include social care and issues of justice but they follow on from the gospel message articulated so splendidly by John 1 that "As many as receive him to them he gives power to become chil-

dren of God". Philips Brooks knew of the importance of keeping that truth uppermost at all times. It is the answer against many a single issue obsession which weakens witness and spoils our fellowship.

*'No ear may hear his coming,
But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive him still
The dear Christ enters in'*

The conditioning adjective here is 'meek', or we might say 'humble'. I have often wondered if Brooks had in mind that small Crusader entrance which is so low that adults have to stoop to enter. Brooks would have entered the same door and the image must have hit him forcefully. But the image bites both ways. Christ stoops so low to enter our hearts - here is a piercing reference to the incarnation! This is the 'dearness' of the Christ who enters human life. But the reverse is true as well; we too must make that journey to 'Bethlehem' and stoop to enter into the fullness of the Christian life.

I offer you this meditation on this carol because it sums up so clearly the Christian message and Christian hope. May we Anglicans be Bethlehem people', characterised by a devotion to a Lord who wants all to share his love and eager to be men and women of peace. Eileen and I send to you, our brothers and sisters, our devoted love and earnest desire that all our hopes and fears will be met in the One who is eternally "Immanuel".

Definition of Remnants

1. Something left over; a remainder
2. A leftover piece of fabric remaining after the rest has been used or sold
3. A surviving trace or vestige
4. Often remnants are a small surviving group of people

(From the American Heritage Dictionary)

Remnants are good.

These quilts were not only very beautiful, but also exceptionally durable so that they were passed down to be cherished by another generation.

They were not thought of as "left-overs", but as bright, new creations. Indeed!

Just so with the sturdy remnants of three of our congregations in this Diocese.

They are sturdy, durable, and quite lovely.

The ones hand-stitching these congregations are each contributing their particular skills and talents. Their stitches are a feast for the heart to behold.

I am sure that Our Lord is enjoying the warmth and beauty of these quilts.

Mary Hughes
Christ The King

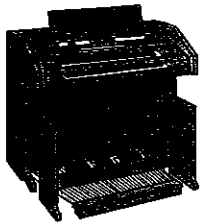
THE SEA NET GIVES THANKS



A special Thanks
to the Men's Group
from
St. Simon's for cleaning and
inventoring our kitchen.

PROJECT HOPE

A special collection for needy parents to buy what their child wants for Christmas will be collected on Sunday, Dec. 10. Please designate your check as "Project Hope."

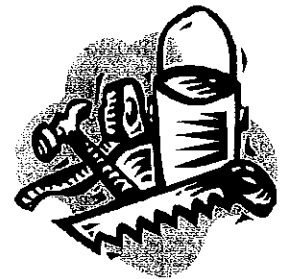


Time and Talent

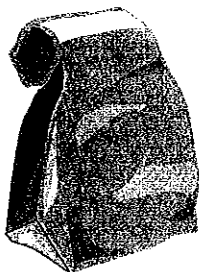
Did you know that 2 of our members have taken on BIG jobs for our Church?

Kate Driggers has volunteered her time and talent to play for our morning worship service twice a month through January. And **Wesley Poole** has taken on the job of caretaker for our buildings.

Let us all remember to thank **Kate and Wesley** for their generous gifts of time and talent!



OUTREACH



Food bags are available in the narthex. Please remember to pick them up and carry them in your car. If you see someone in need, please stop and give them a bag of food with love from St. Andrew's Episcopal Church.

"Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten, nor the hope of the poor be taken away."

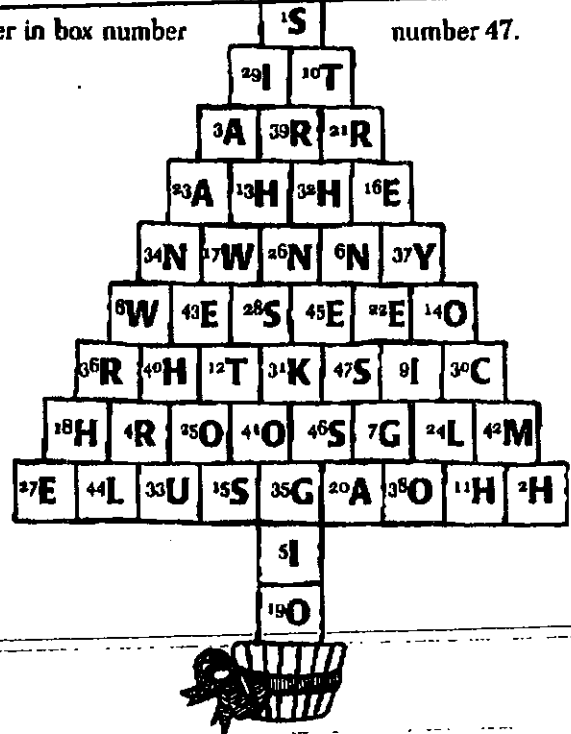
THE SEA NET ENTERTAINS

The Spirit of Christmas

Finish the message by putting the letters from the boxes in order on the lines provided below. Start with the letter in box number



1. Then find the letter for box number 2 and so on. Your last letter will be the one in box number 47.



CONTACT LIST NEEDED

We need to get a corrected Contact List for St. Andrew's. Please look for your name on the list out by the nametags and give us the missing information or make any corrections. We hope to soon be able to have a dinner in our fellowship hall and would like to make sure that we know how to contact you.



**Drop Off Time
Dec. 23
10:00 -
NOON**

Donations of Poinsettias for the greening of the Church are welcome. Plants may be dropped off at the Church on Sat., Dec. 23 from 10:00am to Noon.

The way you can keep the spirit of Christmas with you the whole year is by

Church office Phone Number
is
850-650-2737

St. Andrew's
By- the -Sea
Episcopal Church
307 Highway 98
P.O. Box 1658
Destin, FL
32540-1685

SERVING St. Andrew's

Senior Warden	Duane St. John	654-1013
Junior Warden	Stu Smith	269-2170
Treasurer	Joyce-Walters Smith	269-2170
Clerk	Cece Allen	654-4115
Worship	Kathy McGee	837-2539
Outreach	Len Doty	267-0672
Communications	Nancy Skinner	837-7094
Caretaker	Wesley Poole	650-1595