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Dear, beloved Nell,

I cannot let this, my feast day, pass without sending you a little note. It is almost midnight, so I am just getting under the wire. I have been at the desk from nine this morning until seven this evening, but then some company came in to help wish me a happy Feast Day, and we served them some of the feast day pineapple upside-down cake and had a pleasant time.

My fever is up, so the doctor put me right back on antibiotics and I think it is already going down again. The poor doctor always wonders just where to start looking for trouble in me and although he never says it, I always have the feeling he is saying to himself: "God, what now?"

I am enclosing, because everything about her touches me so deeply, a note I received this week from Mrs. Leonia M. Smith, the mother of Clyde Kennard (about whom I sent you the tape - the young Mississippi martyr who was refused treatment for cancer). I was particularly moved by her asking "How is our little baby girl?" I am sure I told you she sent Amanda a quilt for Christmas, one she had made herself. I immediately wrote her an answer to this note and sent along some of the pictures of Amanda.

She will never ask for money, God bless her, but when she says she is "not so able to do anything" I always know she is in need and so I sent her some money, too, to help her out. The last time she said that, I did not get the point and learned that her electricity had been turned off. No one, of course, will ever dare to give her work because of what was done to her son, and also because she took in Vernon Dahmer's widow and child after Mr. Dahmer was burned to death by the Klan. If anyone gave her work, the racists would be all over them in a moment. Note, too, that it was written on June 19, which is the South is celebrated as Negro Emancipation Day, so a day full of significance for all Negroes, ignored by the whites except that no one can escape the reality of the Negroes' picnics and restings and churchgoings.

All for the moment. God love you as we do on this great Feast of St. John.

*John*