

The Messenger

December 2007



Dear Friends,

I read recently that anthropologists have discovered that in certain parts of the world, people would go into hibernation during the winter months. As the daylight hours decreased, the warmth of sunshine gave way to damp cold, food became scarce, and people would huddle close together in the winter months for long hours of sleep.

One can imagine that the small glow of a fire in the hearth and a flicker of light in the night sky would seem like a daily luxury for these people. This manner of life exceeds the call to simplicity that brings us closer to the heart of God; it is truly an example of deprivation that forces people to expend all their energies on merely trying to survive.

Advent is the season when we live with hopeful expectation of God among us. We are called to consider a vision of what salvation would be like in the world of our time. For people who live on the streets of our cities, salvation would be a warm place to sleep; for children who go hungry day after day, salvation would be a daily hot meal; for people in our city neighborhood, salvation would be a cessation of violence; for those in Iraq and Afghanistan, salvation would be an end to war.

When we sing our Advent and Christmas carols this year, let us remember that the harsh cold and unrelenting darkness are not simply spiritual metaphors. They are a way of life for many people. As people of God, we are called to bring a glimmer of light into the darkness, the warmth of human kindness into the cold, and vision of a new reality where despair and cynicism prevail.

Yours in Christ,
Vicki

Christmas Eve Services:

- 4:00 p.m. Family Service
- 10:30 p.m. Musical Prelude
- 11:00 p.m. Candlelight Holy Eucharist



From our
Seminary Student



Dear Friends,

It was a true joy to be back in Rochester last month and to visit Incarnation! I enjoyed very much catching up with many of you and celebrating All Saints Sunday together. Thank you for your generous hospitality!

As Advent begins here at seminary, I am finishing the fall semester of my third and final year - hard to believe! This term has been full and exciting already. I have designed a new church from start to finish and built a representative model of it for my class on worship spaces, created and led a Bible study on the Gospel of Matthew at my internship parish and facilitated some new spirituality programs for the seminary community....among many things.

Once exams are over, I am looking forward to spending the Christmas holiday at home with my family. It will be a shorter break than usual this year since I have to be back at school by New Year's Day to take the General Ordination Exams (GOEs). They are four days of essay exams given nationally to all seminary students by the Episcopal Church testing all areas of necessary knowledge. It is part of my final preparation for ordination to the transitional diaconate in the late spring. Please keep me in your prayers during those few days! And in February, (I'm considering this my reward for getting through the exams) the Berkeley senior class will be making a pilgrimage to Canterbury, England for one week.

So there is much I have to look forward to in the next several months and much I have yet to do and learn before I leave seminary. These days I feel like my life has entered preparation mode in high gear -- preparation for the end of the term, preparation for ordination, preparation for the GOEs, preparation for finding a parish job next year and preparation for moving forward to a life in ministry after seminary. Perhaps for that reason, I feel a particular identification with the season Advent this year, the season in which we as Christians prepare ourselves and our lives to welcome Emmanuel, God with us, at Christmas. It is my hope that among all of the hectic preparations, I will allow there to be time to still both the outward demands of the season and the inward thoughts of my heart to receive the free gift of God's very presence into my life. And that would be my hope for all of you as well. May your Advent and Christmas celebrations be filled with new joy, deep peace and abundant blessings!

Yours in Christ,
Jennifer



The East Rochester Community Resource Center is grateful to all the church school children, friends and parents who visited and brought food on Sunday, November 18th. Thank you for putting the food on the shelves, for your interest in what we do, and for all your questions. You have helped us to help our less fortunate neighbors who may be in need at this time. The need for food at area food pantries is on-going but is especially great during the holidays. Thank you for being so generous!

- Pat Cragg, Associate Director
East Rochester Community Resource Center

CHILI COOK-OFF RESULTS



This year's 5th Annual Church of the Incarnation Chili Cook-Off was a success at many levels. First, there were 8 different kinds of chili from 7 different cooks, and each of them were wonderful. They ranged from very spicy to very mild and everything in between. Second, there were a tremendous amount of volunteers that helped set up the church great room, clean up after the event, and support the event by helping to serve the guests, take the money at the door, cook the rice, and bring the salads and desserts - which were also terrific. To all of these people - THANK YOU!

The results of the chili cook-off were as follows: 1st Place – **Scott Seabridge**, 2nd Place – **Heather Melnick**, 3rd Place – **Tom Marullo**. Many people from the church and the community came to enjoy the fellowship of our parish. There was even a TV showing the New England & Indianapolis game for those who couldn't miss it! The event raised \$175 for the church. Next year we will return to holding the event on a Saturday evening so we can catch all the football fans we missed this year!

- Joel Maness, Chili Cook-off Coordinator

IMPORTANT PARISH DATES



- Dec 16 Christmas Pageant during 10am service
- Dec 23 Advent IV – 8am & 10am services
- Dec. 24 4:00 p.m. Family Service
10:30 p.m. Musical prelude
11:00 p.m. Candlelight Holy Eucharist
- Dec 30 8am & 10am services

SAVE THE DATE



- Jan 13 Rev. Miriam Owens preaches
- Jan 20 Family Service (no church school)
- Jan 27 Annual Meeting
- Jan 30 Incarnation Day at Meal & More

NAMETAGS

Several of you have mentioned that you need nametags but, unfortunately, if I don't have your request written on paper I don't remember when I get home. If you need a new nametag, please e-mail me at nmdinan@aol.com or leave a note for me in the church office. I try to fill nametag requests so that you will have them the following week so look in the rack the following Sunday. Thanks for your patience.

- Nancy Dinan

Gifts of Appreciated Stock

If you would like to make a gift of appreciated stock to the Church of the Incarnation, please contact our Treasurer, Lyn Omphroy at 264-1436. She will be happy to assist you.

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT



Back by popular demand... this year's Christmas Pageant will be held on *Sunday, Dec. 16th* during the 10am service. Children of all ages are encouraged to participate - we're looking forward to working with everyone again! The rehearsal schedule is below; please attend as many as possible:

- Sat. 12/1: 1:00-3:00 – 1st read-through + dances
- Sun. 12/2: after service – read-through + dances
- Sat. 12/8: 10:00-12:00 – run-through + songs
- Sun. 12/9: after service – 1st dress rehearsal
- Sat. 12/15: 10:00-12:00 final dress, pizza following!

Please call Sherry McCarthy (242-9840) or Sara Cegelski (249-9538) with any questions, or if you'd like to help!

BUILDING REPAIR & CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Our building and grounds are one of our most significant assets in our ministry with our members and to our community. During the past year, the vestry has made a significant commitment to address maintenance needs of our facility. Several people have stepped forward to make personal contributions toward needed repairs of the electrical system, the steeple, and the shed.

The biggest challenge we faced this fall was the driveway repair. The vestry held several extra meetings during the summer and fall to explore various options that were developed in conjunction with the Financial Future Committee (FFC) and the Property Committee.

It was decided that to defer repairs on the driveway would mean incurring significantly greater costs within the next year or two. For that reason, the vestry voted to secure a loan from the diocese to make the repairs this fall. The loan of \$60,000 covered the cost of the driveway, the repair of the gutters and the balance of the bill for repairing the steeple.

The vestry voted to move forward with this loan with the understanding that we would undertake a capital campaign in the spring to pay off the debt, to secure funds for future capital needs, and to get money for the endowment.

The Financial Future Committee (FFC) has been meeting with representatives from other parishes that have recently done capital campaigns. They are currently in the process of outlining a plan to be presented to the vestry within the next month.

Roger Quinn, Peter Melnick & Lyn Omphroy



PARISH NOTES

- ✓ We welcome newly baptized into our parish family: **Joseph Benson**, and **Maya Elizabeth Masceri**. Congratulations to their proud parents, Deb & Paul Benson and Laura & Tony Masceri.
- ✓ Congratulations to our newly confirmed parishioners, **Kelly Appleton** and **Elizabeth Wilkins** and welcome to **Peter Melnick** who was received into the Episcopal Church.
- ✓ **Bob Lemmey** would like to thank everyone for their prayers and support during his recent surgery and hospital visits.

- ✓ Big congratulations to **Mike Povia** for recently finishing his Master's of Science in Product Development through R.I.T. His wife and family couldn't be prouder!
- ✓ Congratulations to **David Evans** for being chosen to perform in the Senior High Area All-State Music Festival Choir. David is also a member of the Penfield Boys Varsity Volleyball team, who had an undefeated season this year, and went on to win sectionals.
- ✓ Thanks to the prayers and support from all of you at the time of my surgery and recovery, I am now a 5 year survivor of ovarian cancer (my cancer is in remission). Thanks be to God! **Nancy Dinan**
- ✓ Congratulations to **Teddy Appleton** for recently catching a 30-lb. salmon in Irondequoit Creek. Way to go, Teddy!

EUCCHARISTIC VISITORS

In preparation for the rector's sabbatical last summer, a lay pastoral care team was organized. One component of this team is the Eucharistic Visitors who were commissioned last spring to take communion to people who are not able to get to Church. This important ministry has continued beyond the sabbatical time.



Presently four people in our parish are licensed by the Bishop as Eucharistic Visitors. These are **Tod Timmel**, **Cork Dinan**, **Andy Johnson** and **Bob Dobbins**. Beginning with the first Sunday of Advent, the Eucharistic Visitors who are planning to take communion out during the week will be acknowledged in the service as a way to recognize that their ministry is an extension of the morning liturgy.

FLOWER GUILD NEWS

The Flower Guild has chosen the theme "O Little Town of Bethlehem" for Christmas this year. We look forward to sharing our creations with the congregation.



The envelopes for Christmas flower donations are included with this newsletter. Please place your envelope with write-up and check in the collection plate. *All envelopes must be received by **Sunday, December 16th**.*