

The Messenger

February 2008



Dear Friends,

Have you noticed that the days are getting longer? The extending periods of light seem to make a statement to the dreariness of winter that it will soon give way to the brightness of springtime.

The season of Lent derives its name from the word "lengthen". It occurs during the time of year when days begin to lengthen. In agricultural communities, people would begin planting for a new harvest. It is a time when hopefulness stretches with the dawn of the new day.

It is this hopefulness that underlies our ability to enter into season of penitence. When we think that nothing can change our only recourse is numbness and denial. The Christian message is that entering into a life with God reveals new ways of being. With that possibility before us, we can dare to examine our lives.

It is the tradition of our Church to encourage people to enter into a special discipline during the season of Lent. We are encouraged to "give up" something; to take note of our consumption of food and drink; to be more rigorous in prayer; and to consider how we can help others. Many people use this as a time to seek spiritual growth by doing extra reading or study.

A penitential attitude enables us to see things about ourselves and our world that are in need of healing and transformation. In some instances we come to identify ways that we need to change. Often, however, we become more aware of things we must offer to God for healing and forgiveness.

As we move through Lent toward Holy Week and Easter, we will find that the brightness in our heart grows with the increased knowledge of God. May this be a blessed Lent for all of us.

Yours in Christ,
Vicki



VESTRY APPROVES CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

The Vestry recently approved a recommendation from the Financial Futures Committee (FFC) to move forward with a Capital Campaign. The FFC has been meeting since April 2007. Their deliberation included input from Holliman Assoc. -- Consultants to Episcopal Church Foundation, a professional engineer who issued an inspection report, contractors and our own Property Committee. Deb Lattime, a professional fundraiser, also consulted with us and offered to "coach" us without charge.

The purpose of the campaign is to eliminate our indebtedness to the Diocese, provide funding for some future facility improvements and possible endowments. Mike Povio has graciously agreed to chair this effort.

Our Diocesan loans are:

\$60,000 -- Parking lot, flat roof, gutters

84,000 -- Partnership and re-roof loans

Future projected needs:

75,000 -- Sewer hook-up, energy efficient windows

While these items total over \$200,000, our final goal has not yet been established. Meetings will be held with parish committees and with the whole congregation for input on additional items. Everyone will have the opportunity to contribute ideas. It is anticipated the Campaign will begin in April 2008.

The entire Financial Futures Committee agreed to be part of the Capital Campaign Committee. We're very optimistic that this effort will be successful and put our Church in a vastly improved financial situation.

2008 ANNUAL MEETING RESULTS

Close to 100 parishioners attended Incarnation's 51st Annual Meeting on Jan. 27. We gathered as a parish family, feasted on a wonderful brunch coordinated by Heather Melnick and her helpers, and listened as fellow parishioners presented some of the highlights of 2007.

Many congratulations and thanks to those who agreed to serve the Incarnation family over the coming year in the following positions:

Warden, term of 2 years:

Warden, term of 1 year:

Vestry, term of 3 years:

Vestry, term of 2 years:

Vestry, term of 1 year:

Diocesan Delegate:

Scott Seabridge

John Marshall

Mhorag Hay

Brian Mitchell

Tracey Povio

Ray Owens

Judy Masten

Tom Marullo

*From our
Seminary Student*



Dear Friends,

I hope all were able to enjoy a blessed Christmastide and New Year since I last wrote! Over the break, as many of you know I was taking my General Ordination Exams as one of the last assessments before ordination in June. The four-day written examinations, more than just being a test of our endurance and knowledge, were a true witness for me to the power of Christian community. The seminary staff generously provided meals and hospitality for us, our other classmates held us in prayer and we gathered each day to encourage and support one another – all true marks of Christian community. With the exams thankfully behind me, the semester is shaping up to be a busy, but exciting one. I'm taking classes in Pastoral Care, Church Administration, and a non-Christian course requirement in apocalyptic religions in different cultures.

Very shortly, I'll be traveling to Canterbury, England on pilgrimage with my graduating classmates and our seminary dean. It promises to be a wonderful time of exploration and spiritual journeying into the heart of our Anglican roots.

I'm looking forward to returning to Incarnation over my spring break during the second week of March to visit and complete my diocesan ordination interviews. I will be sure to bring pictures from Canterbury!

As the season of Lent begins, I pray that it may be a fruitful time of repentance and renewing of my own commitment to follow Jesus every day, in all I do - both big and small things. And may it be so for all of you as well.

Faithfully yours,
Jennifer

SAVE THE DATE...

JENNIFER ZOGG'S ORDINATION WILL
TAKE PLACE ON *SATURDAY, JUNE 14*
HERE AT INCARNATION.

MORE DETAILS TO FOLLOW!!!

LAY EUCHARISTIC MINISTRY AT INCARNATION



Although The Church of the Incarnation has had a very successful program for visiting and caring for people that are homebound; Home Communion to shut-ins has fallen solely to the clergy.

As part of the planning for Vicki's sabbatical this issue surfaced as a serious potential void while she was gone. The plan to train and certify lay people to administer communion was quickly implemented.

Four people were enlisted to perform this function.

They are:

Cork Dinan	Andy Johnson
Bob Dobbin	Tod Timmel

During the sabbatical we collectively visited eight different people, with a frequency matching the communicant's wishes.

When Vicki returned from sabbatical it was determined that:

- We would continue lay visitations to supplement clergy visits
- Lay Eucharistic Ministers would meet on a regular basis with clergy.
- We would be open to additional training; perhaps from the Diocese.
- We would continue to work with key Incarnation staff to identify people wanting home visits.
- We would expand the number of trained Lay Eucharistic Ministers.

All the Lay Ministers have shared that this is a deeply rewarding experience in many ways.

The Development of new personal relationships, and assuring members of The Church of The Incarnation that they can **always** be linked to the church; long after they can no longer attend formal services represent a few such outcomes.

Anyone interested in joining in this ministry should consult Vicki for more information

Sincerely,
Tod Timmel



ASK THE RECTOR

Whether you grew up in the Episcopal Church or are new to the traditions and rites, there are things we don't always know or understand. If you have a question or something occurs to you that you would like clarified, write it down and we can "Ask The Rector." Questions can be submitted to the Rector, left in the offering plate or emailed to the church at incarnation@frontiernet.net.

Q: WHAT DOES THE DIOCESE DO FOR US?

A: The Episcopal Church is a "connectional" church. That means our ministry is organized through dioceses not individual congregations. This way of organizing church life began in the 4th century. It is important to note that:

- a diocese is headed by a bishop.
- a diocese covers a specific geographic area. It is a geographic unit comprised of at least 6 congregations
- in pursuit of its mission goals, a diocese has the authority to found congregations.
- a diocesan convention must accept a congregation into membership before that congregation can rightly call itself an Episcopal Church.

Dioceses are governed by representatives of congregations serving as members of Diocesan Convention and are led by a bishop. Representatives from each diocese comprise the governing body of the Episcopal Church through the General Convention, which meets every three years.

A portion of the operating revenues of each parish are paid to the diocese each... The formula for arriving at the required amount is set by each diocese. The Church of the Incarnation pays approximately 14% of its annual operating income to the Diocese of Rochester.

People often look at that and wonder "What are we getting for our money?" or "What is the diocese doing for us?"

The first thing to note is that the Diocese of Rochester pays approximately 21% of its budget to the national church each year. All in all, nearly 50% of the diocesan budget goes to others – to the national church, to parishes in need of assistance, to programs that ministry to other, etc.


The Church of the Incarnation has benefited significantly from the resources of this diocese. Had we been on our own, we likely would not have

survived the crises of the late 1990's. Because the parish was willing to commit itself to a ministry of reaching out to the community, the diocese agreed to enter into a partnership of revitalization of our congregation. We were the first parish in the diocese to enter into this kind of partnership in the diocese, through which we received grants and loans for a five year period. In addition to financial assistance, the diocesan staff provided training to our leaders in new member ministry, stewardship, and organizational dynamics.

Having served in other dioceses, I am aware that the level of commitment that the Diocese of Rochester makes to the local parish is truly extraordinary. Although we are a connectional church, the front line for ministering in the name of Christ is the local congregation. The Episcopal Church is only as strong as the parishes of which it is comprised. Likewise, it is our connection to the larger church that gives us a more comprehensive view of the mission of the Church and allows us to have a presence in places beyond the reach of individual parishes.



IMPORTANT DATES THIS MONTH:

- Feb 5 Pancake Supper – 5:30-7:00 p.m.
- Feb 6 Ash Wednesday services at 12:00 p.m and 7:00 p.m. 
- Feb 10 Rev. Miriam Owens, Guest Preacher
- Feb 10 Lenten Study begins, meeting Sundays from 9:00-9:45 a.m., until *Mar 9*.
- Feb 17 Family service at 10:00 a.m.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:



- Mar 16 Palm Sunday services at 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. – Children process at 10a
- Mar 20 Maundy Thursday service – 7:00 p.m.
- Mar 21 Good Friday Solemn Liturgy – 7:00 p.m.
- Mar 23 Easter Sunday services – 8am & 10am Egg Hunt following the 10am service

PARISH & COMMUNITY NOTES

- ✓ Thank you to **Gil & Marlene Williams** for donating the Bibles presented to the Great Room Sunday School class during the 10 a.m. service on February 3.
- ✓ **Eastern Service Workers** wrote to let us know that they deeply appreciate the donation from the church of our old computer and office equipment.
- ✓ **A Meal & More, Inc.**, sent letters to Incarnation thanking us for our continued and generous support of the Christmas Bag Project.

INCARNATION WINTER FUN DAY

This is a new fellowship event designed to welcome new members and give everyone a chance to get away from the “winter doldrums” for a while. The event will take place on Sunday, March 9 at 1:00 p.m. at the lodge in Eyer Park, located in East Rochester, off Lincoln Road (maps will be available). The lodge is enclosed, heated, has a bathroom, fireplace, kitchen, and includes firewood. We ask everyone attending to bring a dish to pass and your own place settings. Coffee and hot chocolate will be provided. A sign-up sheet will be posted in early February. Kids, be sure to bring your sleds and come ready for an afternoon of winter fun!



PATCHWORK WOMEN

Patchwork Women will meet on *Wednesday, February 20* at 12 noon in the Great Room at the church. Nancy Dinan will share her Collection of Crosses and present the history of many of them. Because of this interesting presentation, feel free to bring a friend but be sure your captain knows you are bringing a guest. This will be our usual brown bag luncheon with dessert furnished by Pris Dye and Betty Quinn. If you have any questions contact Pris at 241 3826 or Betty at 377 1538.



THE GARDEN OF THE RESURRECTION

The Church of the Incarnation is fortunate to have a beautiful, well maintained columbarium for parishioners and family members who wish to be interred on the church grounds.

The Garden of the Resurrection is located outside the east entrance of the church and is complete with an outdoor altar. Our policies concerning the upkeep and continued beauty of the area are outlined in our informational tri-fold, available in the church office. The Garden of the Resurrection committee put much effort into assuring that the structure itself will provide a dignified, secure resting place as well as comfort for all who visit. As the Garden of the Resurrection has a landscape plan, no unauthorized plantings are permitted and we have some new conditions concerning decorations. There are approximately 75 niches available at this time.

Questions or requests for interment may be directed to the Rector.

FAITH AND HEALING



The Gospels give many examples of Jesus' healing presence to those around him. In some cases people were cured of illness; in other instances he mended the brokenness of people's lives.

“Healing” in the Christian sense is not synonymous with “cure”. One may find healing in the last stages of a terminal illness. Healing refers to being brought into wholeness between oneself and God. In that sense it is closely related to reconciliation.

Lenten Series on Healing

Our Lenten study this year will take on the topic on “Healing in the Christian Tradition”. It will be led by the Rev. Miriam Owens and the Rev. Vicki Prescott.

Sessions will be held on Sunday mornings from 9am to 9:45 on the following dates: February 10, February 17, February 24, March 2 and March 9.

8 a.m. Healing Services

Beginning on Sunday, March 2, healing services will be incorporated into the 8 a.m. Eucharist on the first Sunday of every month.