



## *The Episcopal Church of the Incarnation Parish Post ~ April 2009*

*520 Main Street ~ Post Office Box 729*

*Highlands, North Carolina 28741*

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### ***Holy Week & Easter Offerings***

**Palm Sunday April 5 10:30AM** Liturgy begins on 5th and Main St. with procession into the Nave

**Monday -Wednesday April 6-8: 5:30** Holy Eucharist in the chapel.

**Maundy Thursday Service 7:00 in the chapel** with foot washing, the stripping of the altar, and overnight vigil of the Blessed Sacrament. If you would like to sign up to hold vigil in the chapel throughout the night there will be a sign up sheet in the office.

**Good Friday 12:00:** Community Stations of the Cross beginning at Our Lady of the Mountain processing through town and ending at The First Baptist Church.

**1:00 Good Friday Liturgy** followed by meditation; 3:00PM bell rung to symbolize the time Christ died on the cross.

#### **Easter Services - April 11 & 12**

**The Great Easter Vigil 7:00 PM on Saturday in the chapel** will be the first Easter service with Baptism and sung liturgy.

**Easter Sunday Services** will be 9:00 and 11:00 in the church.



#### **The Reverend Brian C. Sullivan**

Lent is a time to consider who we are and where we are going as children of God. In a recent sermon I equated the time Jesus spent in the desert as a retreat. Of course, it was no retreat to fast for forty days. But it was a spiritual time AWAY from the world. It was a time to consider becoming the sign of God's grace on earth. How his presence was the Kingdom of God being near. Ways in which his body had become a living temple. It was also a time of temptation.

As a church we contemplate the same things. How are we going to be a living sign of God's gift to the world? How can we share ourselves to others in ways they will experience God in the world? The vestry is the body that you have elected to:

Help discern the vision toward which God is drawing that particular community

Articulate and communicate the vision

Hold the community accountable for its realization of that vision

Keep the mission of the church clearly before the parish community

In order to accomplish these goals, once a year we spend time away from the world on retreat. We learned a very important thing about our parish. Statistics, based on our average Sunday attendance place us squarely in what is called a "program-sized parish." As a church which has been affected by tremendous growth, we are transition

Continued on next page...

*The Reverend Brian C Sullivan continued...*

ing from the activity and leadership of “pastoral-sized parish.” In a program-sized parish, leadership comes from many areas of the parish, which relies on programs and smaller groups for intimacy, education, and events. Whereas, a pastoral sized parish relies mostly on the rector to be involved in all aspects of the life of parish from leadership, to education, to pastoral calls. Another interesting lesson learned, is that our summer identity functions more like a “corporate-sized parish.” As a result, we function differently throughout the year. Knowing this about ourselves, helped us determine ways we can strengthen the positive aspects of Incarnation that we all enjoy.

The first area we are strengthening is congregational development. We will accomplish this goal through awareness of our mission statement (look to the top left of this page). We will also be determining the time and talents already available within the parish. As a result, you will see the mission statement more prominently in our communication around the building and even as a prayer during Sunday worship. We are also supporting a comprehensive and biblical approach to stewardship through our Stewardship Commission which well underway through the talents of Michael Murphy.

In the area of getting people involved in the work of the church, you will see a more user-friendly entrance, newcomer follow-up from our greeter teams, an article in the newsletter about membership and nametags, improved signage about events (such as the sign about our Lenten Noonday Prayers), and job descriptions written for all the volunteer opportunities available in the parish.

In the area of relationships with the vestry, clergy, and staff we are working on a way to evaluate our mutual ministry together. We will also be creating a line-item in the budget for continuing education and awareness about my sabbatical coming next year.

Our communication of the tradition was the focus of some discussion. We all agreed that Peter Gorday’s Sunday class on Anglican tradition has helped strengthen us in this area. We also determined that offering a Bible Study during the weekday as well as Sunday would be a wonderful addition. See Peter’s article on the next page for more information.

Finally, we heard from our consultant the importance

of “making room” for newcomers. As mentioned above, our parish functions differently during the summer. Most research shows that when a Sunday worship service has reached over 80% capacity, newcomers feel unwelcomed. Currently our 10:30 service in the summer is at about 115% capacity with overflow watching the service from the chapel. To create a more welcoming atmosphere, we will be adding an additional service at 9:00AM on Sunday. This service will have music from a new choral group forming under the direction of Grat Ros-saza. We are calling ourselves the “schola” made up of folks who like making a “joyful noise.” We will be getting together throughout the Easter season. The style of music will be simple and add a more contemplative feel. With additional silence, simple music, and shortened readings and prayers, this new Eucharist will attract folks who:

- 1) enjoy worship in the chapel
- 2) desire more silence and time for contemplation
- 3) a more creative approach to liturgy
- 4) non-traditional worship
- 5) a shorter service

The 9:00 service will begin on Memorial day weekend and end on Labor Day weekend. We are looking for a few additional ushers, readers, and chalice bearers. Let me know if you would like to join us. Look for some musical “teasers” during the 10:30 service in Easter.

So this has been a very productive Lent for Incarnation. I hope it will lead to a resurrection of our ultimate goal which is to seek and serve Christ through love, worship and service. Your vestry is definitely dedicated to this mission, and as a result, it is my hope that you will too.

*Brian+*



## The Reverend Peter Gorday

### Back to the Bible!!

One of the many insights that came from our recent vestry retreat at Lake Logan was the need for more regular, structured, disciplined (!) Bible study at the church of the Incarnation. Staff and vestry members realized that churches that are growing in every way and that are engaged in effective ministry in the name and spirit of Jesus Christ are churches where the Scriptures are the object of constant prayerful attention. I was reminded of one of my favorite collects from the Book of Common Prayer (Proper 28, p.236), because it expresses our hunger and need for this divine nourishment perfectly:

“Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn and inwardly digest them, that we may embrace and hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ”

As the prayer suggests, God feeds us directly not only with the sacramental Body and Blood of Jesus in the Eucharist, but also with the “bread of life” in the Word of God. The habit of faithful study of Scripture is essential to the balanced diet and spiritual metabolism needed for Christian living!

To that end several new educational offerings are in the works at Incarnation. First, Linda Arnold will be offering on the Sundays of Easter season a 9:00 a.m. adult class that takes a careful look at the Scriptures (the “lections”) that will be read in the worship that day. This class will be an excellent preparation for worship as well as an opportunity for you to be with Linda, who is a gifted teacher and serious student of the Bible. Incidentally, we list these lection-texts each week in the e-mail notice sent to the parish, so that you can do your own study ahead of time, and they are printed on a separate insert in your worship bulletin on Sunday.

Second, I will be offering a Tuesday morning Bible study at 10:00 in the library each week, beginning the Tuesday of Easter week. This will be a “Come one, come all” study, informal, relaxed, conversational.

Continued ...

The Reverend Peter Gorday continued...

Bring your Bible and come join us. I will probably start with John, the gospel of the Incarnation.

Third, and under consideration, is the resumption of a Wednesday evening program, with supper, in which I will do a systematic Walk-Thru the Bible class, for those who finally have the courage, determination and stamina to become Biblically literate! I’ll plan to do a lecture here and be more didactic. I like to do “big picture” views of the individual books of the Bible, and like for people to learn how to move around more easily in the Bible. I have had so many Episcopalians say to me (sheepishly) over the years, “Only Baptists really know the Bible”, that I am resolved to stamp out that misconception. It’s never too late – come and join me for this Biblical Literacy Action program.

Finally, our parish library contains some great Bible study tools, and Father Brian and I are always ready to recommend Bible translations, aids, and commentaries for your own private study. Just ask us.

*Peter+*

# Episcopal Church of the Incarnation

## Vestry Minutes

### March 11, 2009

**I. Call to Order:** Rev. Brian Sullivan called the March Vestry meeting to order with prayer at 4:00 pm.

**Present:** Rev. Brian Sullivan, Rev. Peter Gorday, Deborah Berlin, Dan Adcock, Christine Murphy, Mary Lou Worley, Joe Parrott, Helen Moore, Peggy Woodruff, Bill Temple, and Carl Norman

**Absent:** Betty Chesna, Ann Maxwell, and John Underwood

**II. Bible Study:** Mark 8:31 - 38

#### III. Minutes:

The minutes of the February meeting were presented for approval. Motion: Deborah Berlin, 2<sup>nd</sup>: Carl Norman. Approved.

#### IV. Treasurer's Report:

The February financial statement was presented for approval. Motion: Bill Temple, 2<sup>nd</sup>: Deborah Berlin. Approved.

#### V. Reports

**a. Rector:** No report.

**b. Senior Warden:** No report.

**c. Junior Warden:** Written report. In addition, Deborah Berlin reported on John Underwood's behalf: 1) Ice machine was fixed. 2) Fire sprinklers were inspected and passed.

#### VI. Ministry Reports

**a. Christian Formation:** Written.

**b. Children and Youth:** Andrea is working on incorporating stewardship into the children's program.

**c. Caring:** Written. **Attached.**

**d. Outreach:** Outreach committee is in the process of being "split" into 4 areas:  
1) an Executive Committee 2) Friends of Haiti  
3) Ministries 4) a Clearinghouse for all local groups and donors.

**e. Stewardship:** Vestry Stewardship Retreat – May 2: 9:00 – 3:00.

#### VII. Old Business:

**a. February Vestry Retreat Notes:** Written.

**b. Sexton Job Description:** Deborah Berlin reported that she, John Underwood, and Rev. Sullivan have rewritten the Sexton's job description. They met with Oscar today (with a translator) and went over the job description. Anyone needing Oscar to do a job should give it to either Rev. Sullivan, Teresa Hollingsworth, John Underwood, or Deborah Berlin.

Vestry Minutes continued...

#### c. Safeguarding God's Children at May Vestry Meeting

#### VIII. New Business:

##### a. Finance Meeting

**1. Continuing Education:** Bill Temple explained that the Vestry needed to add \$1,000 to the budget at Line Item #12 (Employee Benefits) for each clergy to have \$500 for continuing education. Motion: Joe Parrott, 2<sup>nd</sup>: Helen Moore. Discussion: Amount would be balanced at Line Item #7 (Reserve Transfer). Approved.

**2. Expense Line Item:** Bill Temple explained that the Vestry needed to add new line item to the budget called "Clergy Expenses". This would be for moneys used for the clergy to use for expenses such as lunches with area clergy, etc... The line item would be funded by moving \$500 from the current Discretionary Fund line item. Motion: Joe Parrott, 2<sup>nd</sup>: Bill Temple. Discussion: Can money come from somewhere else? Rev. Sullivan explained that these expenses were being paid out of his Discretionary Fund so it was really just making it a separate line item with remaining amount being enough. Approved with two dissents.

**3. Housing Equity Share:** Bill Temple explained the history of the agreement between the church and the Sullivans. He also explained the revisions. **Written. Attached.** Motion: Bill Temple, 2<sup>nd</sup>: Mary Lou Worley. Approved.

**b. Parochial Report:** Rev. Sullivan reviewed the new Parochial Report with the Vestry. Motion to approve and send the report: Deborah Berlin, 2<sup>nd</sup>: Dan Adcock. Approved.

#### IX. Discussion

#### X. Adjournment:

Rev. Brian Sullivan adjourned the meeting with thanksgiving at 5:20 pm.

**Respectfully Submitted;**  
**Christine Murphy, Vestry Clerk**



**Peace in the Middle East –  
The Search for Kids4Peace  
2009**

The news from Israel and Palestine carries a glimmer of hope these days. In spite of recent developments, the Israeli-Palestinian struggle is still mired in uncertainty. Some think peace is a lost cause, and that nothing can be done but wait for a miracle. Think again! Kids4Peace, now in its eighth year, is bringing hope for a better way. Since its founding in 2002, Kids4Peace groups from Jerusalem and the Galilee have traveled to Houston, Atlanta, Toronto, Vermont, and last summer here in North Carolina. Kids4Peace participants from Israel and Palestine are 11 and 12 year old boys and girls of three faiths and two nations, divided in a common land but united as voices for peace. They get to know each other before the journey through a series of activities sponsored and hosted by the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem. They explore each other's realities, traditions, languages and dreams. In the United States, they join twelve American youth in the safe and conducive atmosphere of kids4Peace, where they enjoy a distance from the tensions of the conflict and receive the gift of care and friendship from their new American Peace Pals. For the American Kids4Peace, the experience is one in which their world is broadened and they learn of the common heritage they share with other "Children of Abraham".

This year Kids4Peace 2009 is looking for twelve Western North Carolinian youth ages 11-12 for the adventure of a lifetime. The selection to become a Kids4Peace will be held at Trinity Episcopal Church in Asheville, May 16<sup>th</sup> 10-1PM. You can get an application from the Diocese or by emailing the North Carolina director, The Rev. Brian Sullivan, rector of Church of the Incarnation in Highlands (rector@incarnationwnc.org).

If you are selected to become a peace pal, you will be asked to commit to three meetings with your American Kids4Peace before your peace pals from Jerusalem arrive July 15<sup>th</sup>. We will be learning about each other's faith in the Asheville area before going to Camp Henry July 19<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> for the regular 4-6 grade Session (with a Kids4Peace twist). The program will end at the Asheville airport on Sunday July 26<sup>th</sup> where we will bid our new friends a safe travels home.

**BELL TOWER ENDOWMENT CORNER**

**\$1,148,624.70**

The Bell Tower Endowment has 50 enrollees and 6 more people who have made additions to the endowment. We have 15 people who belong to the Legacy Society /Anchor Society and should increase that number considerably during 2009. Hopefully the congregation of Incarnation will consider the Endowment for: gifts of thanksgiving, memory of a loved one, an anniversary, birthday, marriage, baptism, etc. as a way of perpetually remembrance. The Endowment is only for maintenance of our facility (much of which is over 110 year old) and for capital improvements. We hope the Bell Tower Endowment will be high on your priority of "things to do" in 2009.

**Additions to Existing Enrollments:**

Ed & Jean Whitby: In memory of Jack Hoppen

**Living & Memorial Enrollments:**

A. Neil Crawford: In suppose to the BTE

Please fill out a form (on the BTE table in Jones Hall) for making any contribution. Accounting for the money without the accompanying form is difficult. We do not want to omit any donor. The four forms are:

Bequests: adding the church to your will is as easy as picking up an addendum to your will, available at the Bell Tower Endowment table

Living & Memorial Enrollment (for any initial enrollment)

Additions to Existing Enrollment (addition to any enrollment)

Legacy Society (including the BTE in your will)  
Anchor Society (including the BTE in your will)

Thank you for your generous support and we look forward to the BTE being a very integral part of our beloved church. If you have any questions, please contact Virginia Parrott at 200-0997 or [jvparrott22@verizon.net](mailto:jvparrott22@verizon.net)

## Adult Education

### **Tuesday Morning Bible Study**

The Reverend Peter Gorday will be offering a Tuesday morning Bible study at 10:00 in the library each week, beginning the Tuesday of Easter week. This will be a "Come one, come all" study, informal, relaxed, conversational. Bring your Bible and come join us. The class will probably start with John, the gospel of the Incarnation.

### **Sunday Morning Traditional Class ~ Library**

Linda Arnold will be offering on the Sundays of Easter season a 9:00 a.m. adult class that takes a careful look at the Scriptures (the "lections") that will be read in the worship that day. This class will be an excellent preparation for worship as well as an opportunity for you to be with Linda, who is a gifted teacher and serious student of the Bible. Incidentally, we list these lection-texts each week in the e-mail notice sent to the parish, so that you can do your own study ahead of time, and they are printed on a separate insert in your worship bulletin on Sunday.

### **Contemporary Theology Class ~ Vestry Room**

After Easter, The Contemporary Theology class will begin a series of discussions based on a book titled The Faith of Scientists: In Their Own Words by Nancy Frankenberry. The book reaches back to listen to early scientists such as Galileo and Newton, but also includes contemporary voices like Stephen Hawking and Carl Sagan. We will not only learn how the content of their faith intersects with their scientific approach, but also how they can speak to our ever growing and developing faith in the modern world. How DO we reconcile or integrate what can sometime seem to be competing claims on truth and reality? The discussions are always lively - come and join us! 9am Sunday morning in the Vestry room.

***Don't forget we have a wonderful breakfast  
to start your Sunday!  
Offered every Sunday from  
8:30-9:30 in Jones Hall!***

## Stewardship...What's in a Name?

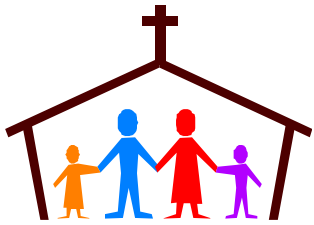
This past fall, the Church of the Incarnation Stewardship Committee became the Stewardship "Commission". More than a name change, it reflected the belief that the true meaning of stewardship needed to be clarified and communicated to the congregation. For many, "stewardship" has signified the church's annual appeal for money - a carry-over, no doubt, from the experience many of us have had in the past when "stewardship" meant a guilt-ridden, even coercive, fund raising effort to meet the well-documented "needs" of the church. Our hope on the Commission is to increase our awareness and understanding of true stewardship, not to collect dollars, but to lead us to experience the joy that comes from giving of ourselves in God's service.

So, how can we define "true stewardship"? The Rev. C. W. Taylor in an article entitled "Stewardship is the Main Work of the Church", which was adopted and affirmed by the Episcopal Church General Convention in July, 1988, said stewardship is "the use of the gifts given to us to carry on Christ's work of reconciliation in the world". It is our response in thanksgiving for God's grace in our lives. (Webster defines "grace" as "the unmerited love and favor of God towards man".) Our response to God's gifts to us can take many forms, giving a breadth and depth to stewardship that gives central focus in our lives.

As we explore the scope of stewardship in our lives together, here are some thoughts:

1. Our stewardship is what we do with what we have and even who we are.
2. Our stewardship is a reflection of our relationships, not only with God, but with our family, our friends, and our neighbors. "Neighbor" in this instance is any stranger whom we can make welcome at our "table".
3. Stewardship offers us a way to break the bonds of consumption that grip us as we are urged to get more and more instead of giving in gratitude for the life of Jesus Christ, God's greatest gift.
4. As stewards, accountable for our own stewardship, we will experience the joy and freedom that come when we trust in God's abundance.
5. Stewardship is a journey, an inward journey, and we are all travelers called upon to "work, pray and give for the spread of His Kingdom". Perhaps the journey is almost as important as the destination.
6. Support for the church and its ministries in God's name is the result, not the end objective, of our stewardship.
7. Stewardship, servant hood, and evangelism then are synonymous. Jesus Christ is our model.

~ God speed us on our journey!!



# Family Fun at Incarnation

For more information please contact ...  
Andrea Chalker 526.2968 x206 [christianed@incarnationwnc.org](mailto:christianed@incarnationwnc.org)

" The child lacks what is usually thought of as power and yet is able to enter (or receive) the Kingdom... when you meet such a child you meet Jesus, the embodiment of the Kingdom"

Jerome Berryman, *Toward a Theology of Childhood*

## Sunday Mornings

8:30 Breakfast Begins

9-12 Nursery provided

9:00 Sunday School

" Old Testament Stories"

10:30 Children's Chapel

Lectionary based curriculum that follows the worship service for ages 2nd grade and under...children are brought upstairs for The Great Thanksgiving.



Youth Group continues to meet on Sunday evenings from 5-6:30 at the HUMC Fellowship Hall

Upcoming Fundraisers to support Older Youth mission trip to Haiti and Younger Youth mission trip to Greensboro

Saturday, April 11 ~ The Youth will be hosting the community egg hunt at the Rec Park on Saturday, April 11 at 11:00am. They will be serving Chic-fil-a picnic lunches. To reserve a lunch, please call Andrea at 526-2968 x 206. All proceeds will benefit their mission trips this summer.

Youth group will not meet Sunday April 5 or Sunday, April 12 due to spring break.

Saturday, April 25 - Earth Day held at the Village Green in Cashiers. The youth will be serving baked potatoes to raise funds for their mission trips.

Sunday, April 26 ~ Go Out to Eat at Sweettreats! The youth will be your servers and 15% of all proceeds will go towards the youth mission trips this summer.

## **Volunteer Training**

Friday, April 17

5:30—8:30

There will be a meeting and training for all adults interested in volunteering with children and youth programs. Dinner will be served and childcare will be provided. The training will last 3 hours and is required by the diocese.

Please contact Andrea for more information.

## **Family Fun Night**

Wednesday, April 15

5:30 dinner

6:15-6:45 Sing for the residents at the Living Center



# April 2009

## Weekly Events

### **Sundays**

8:30 Breakfast  
9:00 Sunday School for children & adults  
10:30 Holy Eucharist Rite II  
5:00 Youth (No Youth April 5 or 12)

### **Monday**

4:00 Women's cursillo in Library  
8:00 AA Meeting in Jones Hall

### **Tuesday**

8am Men's cursillo in Jones Hall  
9:00 Staff meeting in Vestry Room  
12:30 "the bascom" Children's Art Classes  
in Children's Chapel  
5:30 Women's AA Meeting in Jones Hall

### **Wednesday**

12:00 AA meeting in Jones Hall  
2:00 "the bascom" Children's Art Classes  
in Children's Chapel  
1:00-3:30 Steven Ministry Training in Library  
4:00 Education for Ministry in Library

\* Vestry Meeting at 4:00 on the  
2nd Wednesday of the month

### **Thursday**

10:00 Holy Eucharist in the Chapel  
12:00 Al-Anon in Library  
\* Daughters of the King meet 2nd & 4th  
Thursdays at 10:30 in the vestry room

### **Friday**

12:00 AA meeting in Jones Hall

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- Please make sure all meetings are  
scheduled through the church office!

## APRIL SUNDAY MINISTRIES

Date	Lectors	Chalice	Ushers	Greeters	Camera	Altar	Acolytes
April 5 10:30	S. Lucas	C. Murphy C. Norman	Team#1	A. Maxwell	C. Alley	B. Cusachs R. Doe	Ivy, Maddie, and Grace
April 12 9:00	B. Conway	M. Rothermel J. Rothermel	Team #2	J. Harris G. Harris	T. Craig	N. Freese P. Parker	Samuel, Kalob, Alexandria & Tiffany
April 12 11:00			Team #2			S. Wallin A. Maxwell	
April 19 10:30	J. Whitby	L. Turner E. Whitby	Team #3	J. Goddard H. Hamilton	M. Murphy	B. Cusachs D. Conway	Philip, John & Kalob
April 26 10:30			Team #4	L. Doggett B. Roberts	S. Chalker	N. Freese G. Harris	Emily, Oliva & Maggie
May 3 10:30			Team# 1	A. Maxwell	C. Sossomon		

**Thank you for serving in this ministry. We rotate the schedule so that everyone has a chance to serve in their preferred time and place. Please remember that if you are not able to serve that it is your responsibility to find a replacement and notify the church office for the correct information in the bulletin. If you have any questions please contact Lewis Doggett 526-8009 or Bill Conway 526-4030.**

### Birthdays

*Every time we think of you, we thank God, and pray for you with prayers of joy. For God began a good work in you, and will complete that work in years to come. Our prayer for you now is this: that your love grow richer in knowledge and insight of every kind, that you learn by experience what*

### Anniversaries

Transferring In

Transferring Out



*Have you thought about giving flowers as a gift... birthday, anniversary, thanksgiving for a special person?*

### **Sunday Breakfast Schedule**

Sunday breakfast teams will be assigned the Sunday corresponding to their team numbers.

Team #1 (Selwyn) 1st Sunday of the month

Team #2 (Hoyt) 2nd Sunday of the month

Team #3 (Dr. Jim) 3rd Sunday of the month

Team #4 (Mike) 4th Sunday of the month

When there is a 5th Sunday the Haitian Mission Group has volunteered to provide the morning meal



## FLOWERS TO THE GLORY OF GOD

Palm Cross Workshop Come join us in creating palm crosses. Saturday, April 4 10 AM to Noon in Jones Hall. No experience necessary. This popular tradition is a great way to meet new people and spend time with old friends.

Easter Flower Arranging You are all invited to join with the members of the Flower Guild on Saturday April 11 from 9-11am in creating the Easter Flower arrangements for the Parish. Each arrangement will have a guild member in charge who will coordinate and newcomers will be paired with an experienced guild member. Join us as we create flowers to the Glory of God. For information, contact Midge Rothermel 526-5903

Clip & Return to the Church Office  
Your name as you wish for it to  
appear in the bulletin

The wording for your memorial:

“Given to the Glory of God and:  
(check or fill out as you wish)

( ) in loving memory of

Or

( ) in thanksgiving for

***The Church of the Incarnation***  
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