



The Episcopal Church of the Incarnation Parish Post ~ February 2009

520 Main Street ~ Post Office Box 729

Highlands, North Carolina 28741

Phone: 828-526-2968

Fax: 828-526-9290

Incarnation Web Page Address: Incarnationwnc.org

E-mail addresses: incarnation@incarnationwnc.org (parish office)
rector@incarnationwnc.org (rector)

Sundays

8:30 Breakfast

9:00 Sunday School
for children and adults
Nursery provided

10:30 am Rite II Service
Holy Eucharist

Thursdays

10:00am Holy Eucharist
In the Chapel

Ash Wednesday
Services:
12noon & 5:30 pm



The Reverend Brian C. Sullivan

I have been pondering the Gospel Reading for Second Sunday in Epiphany, John 1:34-51. Specifically, my focus is the conversation between Nathaniel and Phillip, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Phillip said to him, "Come and see."

As I pondered this reading, I realize how many Nazareths there are in our lives. Our own personal Nazareth can be a place: the other side of the tracks, over there, that country, region or state. It can be a person: those people, a minority group, a political group, a religious group, your neighbor or your enemy. It can be an idea: the way things have *always* been done, a routine, an understanding of how things work, or what you were told by a "reliable source". Nazareth is the person, place or idea that makes us feel most uncomfortable. In order to comfort ourselves, we compartmentalize it with an easy definition, and stay as far away from it as possible.

Luckily Phillip understands this about our human nature, and knows the only way for Nathaniel to change his notion about Jesus is to "come and see." Phillip is inviting Nathaniel to more than a casual meeting. He is inviting him to an opportunity. It is a privilege to know Jesus, and call him friend. Not because he is a Nazarene, or because you can do something for him, but because he can do so much more for you. The same is true when we confront our personal Nazareths. Here are some examples:

The first is our ministry to Haiti. Before my first visit, I knew all the serious political reasons for Haiti being the poorest country in our hemisphere. I was fearful about this political unrest and the opportunity it presents for violence or ransom. After my first visit I was overwhelmed by the poverty and the hopelessness of Haiti's situation. It literally broke my heart, because it was hopeless. However, after my second visit, I was overwhelmed by two things. The money we are sending to Good Savior Episcopal Church, Partners in Health, and La Pleida Community School in Cange and Tierra Muscody is providing the most important commodity anyone can have - hope. It is the kind of hope, that provides fishing lessons for life, not just fish for the day (to use an old adage). In their hope for a better future the second most important commodity has developed - friendship. In becoming friends with someone, you begin to see them as you see yourself. You compare goals, and expectations, and even a few laughs or tears. In this respect, our friends are just like us. They have the same dreams for their children and families that we do. And for the first time they are proud enough of their situation to invite us into their homes, and bring their illiterate parents to a thanksgiving party, apply for college, dream of a profession, and earn wages by building a school for their children to attend. Come and see, and you receive far more than you can possibly give.

Continued on next page...

The Reverend Brian Sullivan continued...

Another example is our work in this community. There are so many wonderful things we do here in Highlands, which directly affect the Nazarenes in our midst: the poor, the immigrants, the abused, the sick, the friendless and the needy. All you have to do is spend one night at the Community Care Clinic. You will see people who are trapped in a pattern of getting sick, losing their job, losing their health care, not being able to afford medication, which keeps them sick. These are not lazy people. Or by visiting the dental clinic you might meet someone who has become dependent on alcohol because half their mouth is missing teeth from decay. They are not just drinking to have a good time. By visiting the International Friendship Center you might encounter someone who wants what you do for their family, and that desire brought them to a foreign country, for which they are more than happy to do their fair share. They are not just looking for a handout; they need help paying income taxes. Or by visiting the Literacy Council you may see someone just like you, with one exception; they cannot read a sentence on this page. "Come and See."

The final example is the new stewardship approach we are taking at Incarnation. Most of you already have for stewardship - fundraising. This is a Nazarene word. Incarnation is changing course to take a more biblical approach to stewardship, which includes words like, transformation, reconciliation, unity, thankful, response, and joyful. It is based on our baptismal covenant, that all that we have and all that we are is a gift from God. Thus our budget will not be the bottom line. With God's help, it will be a gift of the Holy Spirit which results in the sharing of ourselves with the Body of Christ. Ultimately, by sharing ourselves with others we build the very kingdom we expect to come. By the time you read this our Stewardship Commission (not a committee) will be officially installed. Hopefully, you will read the article by our Stewardship Commission leader Mike Murphy. And if the Spirit moves, you will come and see.

All three of these examples, can only happen if you "come and see." Instead of assuming nothing good comes out of Nazareth, allow your participation to change your mind. Your own personal Nazareths are numerous, by confronting them, by visiting, making friends, and understanding new ways of doing things. All of us will encounter the living Christ, right here in our midst. And that has my hope for Incarnation, so "come and see."

Brian+

Bell Tower Endowment

As of Jan 15, the BTE is the recipient of approximately **\$1,107,000** in planned giving and has a total of \$41,230 cash in the "Living & Memorial Endowment" including "Additions to Existing Enrollments".

Our additions to the Legacy Society are:

Alfred Kennedy & Bill Kenny
Dot Meyer, W. Moses Bond, Carole Simmons
Anonymous

These people are all eligible for the Bishop's Living Stone's Society. Just pick up a Living Stone's brochure from the BTE table and mail as directed. There is no fee; however, your name and address are necessary for permanent registration as a member of the Living Stone's Society.

Additions to Living Endowment:

Ray McPhail: in support of the BTE
Nancy M. Parks: in honor of the Michael & Christine Murphy Family, Stephanie Edgar & Wm. B. Reeves: in support of the BTE

Additions to the Memorial Endowment:

Patricia L. Aspinwall: in memory and praise of the life of David (husband) and Arthur (son)

Additions to Existing Enrollments:

Joe & Virginia Parrott: in honor of the marriage of Eric NeSmith & Connell Sullivant
Nell & Bill Martin: in support of the BTE
Barry Hutner: in support of the BTE
Joe & Virginia Parrott: in appreciation to Paula & Barry Jones, Peggy Woodruff: in memory of Jack Hoppen

The Endowment has 2 separate parts. One is for gifts now and the other part is bequests via codicil in wills. A bequest may be a specific amount or a percentage of an asset. We now have "fill in the blanks" codicils that anyone may take from the BTE table. These codicils can be notarized and attached to your will. A copy of the codicil along with an Anchor Society form or a Legacy Society form---depending upon the amount of the bequest---should accompany the copy of the codicil. These forms are necessary for permission to use your name (amounts are confidential) as well as contact information. If you have any questions, please contact Virginia Parrott at 828 200-0997 or jvparrott22@verizon.net.



The Reverend Peter Gorday

“The Observance of a Holy Lent”

In the opening invitation of the Ash Wednesday liturgy in the Book of Common Prayer we are all urged to make the season of

Lent a time of “penitence and fasting” because of “the need that all Christians have to renew their repentance and faith”. In other words, we all need a spiritual tune-up, maybe even an overhaul (maybe a spring-cleaning or re-booting? – pick your favorite image), on a regular basis! And Lent, the period from Ash Wednesday until Easter, is the time appointed by the Church each year for just that purpose.

That same liturgy then goes to suggest that “self-examination and repentance, prayer, fasting, and self-denial, as well as reading and meditating on God’s holy Word” are the principal ingredients of a good discipline for the Lenten season. In other words, some getting back to basics is always a pretty good idea when you decide to get serious about making improvements in anything, including your relationship with God. Whenever I make up my mind to go back to the gym to work on physical fitness, I find that I have to re-claim basic routines and habits in order to accomplish very much. Spiritual growth is pretty much the same way.

And so we have some opportunities for you at the Church of the Incarnation to build spiritual muscle and flexibility this Lent. First comes prayer, and there are several options. In addition to regular Sunday worship and the regular Thursday Eucharist, we will offer some special Lenten services. On Ash Wednesday itself (February 25), celebrations of the Eucharist with the Imposition of Ashes are at 12 noon and 5:30 p.m. On each weekday Monday through Friday until Palm Sunday (April 5), there will be a short “Noonday Prayer” service (15-20 minutes) with time for meditation in the chapel, led by the clergy or a layreader. On Wednesday evenings at 5:00 p.m., until Palm Sunday, there will be “The Way of the Cross” devotional service in the church before the supper and educational program. The next *Parish Post* in March will also provide the details of special services during Holy Week, or Passiontide, the week between Palm Sunday and Easter.

Second comes learning and Christian formation. Andrea Chalker leads Lenten-themed classes for the children on Sundays at 9:00 a.m.

The Reverend Peter Gorday continued...

At the same time Adult classes meeting in the vestry room and the library will watch and discuss a series of Great Sermons by Frederick Buechner, Barbara Brown Taylor, and others. There will also be a series of Wednesday evening suppers on March 4, 11, 18, 25, and April 1, in Jones Hall, with a 5:30 p.m. soup-and sandwich cuisine organized by Joanna Rainey, preceded by the Way of the Cross in church at 5:00, and followed by a program led by myself on the theme of “Developing Your Spiritual Autobiography”. My plan is to share with the group some of my own spiritual story in order to model a format and structure for thinking about our life-journeys with and into God. Your spiritual autobiography might be quite different from mine, but there are some tools we can both use for doing our “self-examination” and constructing our stories. Come and join us for an interesting time.

Third comes my recommendation for Lenten reading. There are plenty of good books around, but you might want to become familiar with writing from John Claypool, Episcopal parish priest, former Baptist minister, recently deceased, a wonderful man deeply influential in the lives of many. My favorite is his *Mending the Heart*, a profound meditation on the wounds of life that pull us down and the grace of Christ that builds us up. Order it from our local Cyrano’s Bookshop (I have a few copies in my office if you want one quickly!) and enjoy it as you work your way toward Easter.

Fourth, Martha Porter has again prepared for us an excellent daily devotional resource for Lent, on the theme of loving self-restraint in the use of material things, entitled *The World of Enough*. Copies will be available in the narthex of the church.

Peter+

**Wednesday Evening
Lenten Programs
Begin Wednesday, March 4
5:00 Stations of the Cross
5:30 Soup & Sandwich Supper
6:00 Program
* please sign up in the narthex**

Outreach 2009

Even as funding for parish Outreach is tighter and as donations to non-profits are falling, the needs in our communities are growing. Our challenge is to learn how to do more with less, to become more entrepreneurial and more "hands-on" in our efforts to share the gospel vision of healing a wounded world.

If you are interested in being a part of our Outreach efforts, which will include fundraising, crafting and managing projects, etc., please call or write David Moore at 828.526.8651 or at mdavid.moore@wachovia.com.

Our first meeting will take place in early February, so please let us know of your interest right away. You need not be a full time Highlands resident nor a social worker to be part of this exciting enterprise.



Tis the Season

'Tis the Season 2008 raised \$37,000 for ten non-profits and missions, which are sponsored or supported by four area churches. Given the state of the economy and the securities markets, we were extremely pleased with the response of our parishioners and the community in general, AND we were thrilled that the ten non-profits have already received their share of the funds raised. This comes at a critical time for area non-profits as their donations have been dropping for nearly a year now, while their clients' or patients' needs continue to increase.

The 'Tis the Season 2008 planning committee had their final meeting on Thursday, January 22nd, to review our efforts and to celebrate the success. We have turned this effort over to a group of volunteers from Highlands United Methodist Church, which will host the event in early December.

Our common success is due to the generosity of our friends, neighbors, and area businesses, as well as the hard work of our volunteers and church staff. Thanks to everyone who participated and who made 'Tis the Season 2008 an unqualified success!

David Moore

Haiti

Father Brian, David Moore, and I have returned from Cange, Haiti and four days of 75 degree weather, warm sunshine, and balmy breezes!!!! Father Lafontant was in Sewanee, Tenn., receiving an honorary doctorate degree. Father Brian did a magnificent job of leading the Sunday morning church service in English and in Creole. We visited Tierra Mouscady. The school was in session. The church construction is progressing well. We also visited the classes in our friend Leneus' school and in Bon Sauveur, the Episcopal school. David and Brian traveled to a nearby village and one of the ten hospitals of "Partners in Health".

Thanks again for your love and support for our brothers and sisters in Haiti,

Jane Chalker

**Episcopal Church of the Incarnation
Vestry Minutes Highlights
January 14, 2009**

~Bill Temple and John Underwood were unanimously elected as senior and junior warden

~Rev. Sullivan thanked the Vestry on behalf of the staff for the year end bonuses. Rev. Sullivan will be traveling to Haiti from Jan. 15 – Jan. 21. Rev. Sullivan reported that Cain (receptionist) will be switching her days to Monday- Wednesday – Thursday.

~ Bill Temple thanked Jane Chalker for all her work as former Senior Warden.

~ John Underwood reported that the “fire” in the heating system on Sunday, Dec. 21 was due to an overheated fan. It has been fixed.

~Both adult classes going strong. Rev. Sullivan will be starting an adult class in the Parish Hall which will be informal discussions and coffee. There will be an evening class offered during Lent on Wednesday evenings. Stephen’s Ministry has “launched” with training having started. Ideas are being formed about starting a weekday class.

~All Tis the Season is paid. There will be a meeting next week to pass Tis the Season over to HUMC. Rev. Sullivan thanked David Moore, Teresa, and Cain for all their work on this past year’s Tis the Season.

~ There will be a Stewardship Meeting next Thursday (Jan. 22).

~ Parish Retreat (March 27-29) focusing on Stewardship with the theme “Joyful Obedience”.

~ February Vestry Retreat Feb. 20 – 22 at Lake Logan

~ Joe Parrott has agreed to become the Finance Committee chair since Bill Temple will now be the Senior Warden.

Vestry Highlights continued...

~ The 2009 Proposed Budget was presented by the Financial Committee. Bill Stiefel reported that the plate offering was determined by past years. The Investment Earnings amount is less than last year due to Interest Rates being lowered. The proposed budget is a balanced budget due to money being transferred from the reserve funds. This transfer will hopefully be less than proposed as more pledges come in.

~Church Archivists: Isabel & Tony Chambers (Tucker Chambers assisting):
It is time to go through closets and attic and clean out. Isabel and Tony have agreed to help with this project.

~ Safeguarding God’s Children at March Vestry Meeting: Andrea is going to be trained to be a trainer on this course. All Vestry need to receive the training. Andrea will attend the March Vestry meeting to train the Vestry.

Respectfully Submitted;
Christine Murphy, Vestry Clerk



**Tuesday,
February 24
5:30 pm**

**Mardi Gras
Celebration**

**\$10 per person
Sign up sheet
in the narthex or
call the church office**

Adult Education

The **All Things Episcopal and Anglican Class** explores a variety of topics that help in the better understanding the beliefs, practices, customs and values of the Episcopal Church. We look at history, worship, spirituality, forms of church organization, doctrines, ways of understanding Scripture and much, much more. It will often be instructive to consider the English background of our tradition, and to compare/contrast it with other traditions for differences as well as similarities. The central question is always "What does it mean to be an Episcopalian kind of Christian, and what difference does this make in my life?" This is a good class for newcomers and inquirers, but also for old-timers! The class meets in the Library at 9 a.m. on Sunday and is led by the Rev. Peter Gorday.

The **Contemporary Theology** class will explore the faith of scientists in their own words. Drawing from a collection by Nancy Frankenberry, we will look at the faith of scientists from the 1600 and 1700's such as Galileo and Isaac Newton. The second part of this series, which will take up after Lent, will look at more contemporary scientists such as Rachel Carson and Stephen Hawking. Frankenberry gives a brief background for the work of each scientist and then brings their original words to us for reflection and discussion.

Come and join us for this series -- 9 am -- Vestry Room.

Faith & Values

Beginning in Lent, Father Brian will lead "Faith & Values" coffee and discussion in Jones Hall during the Sunday School hour.

RETREAT DAY Friday, February 20

Using an address by Joan Chittister given at Trinity Church in New York, this Retreat Day will focus on her themes of creative work, holy leisure, wise stewardship, loving community, humility and peace. The retreat will be led by Martha Porter. Location to be announced. Pre-registration is required -- sign up sheet will be in Jones Hall, or you can email Martha at porteray@aol.com or leave a phone message at 787-1463. Retreat fee is \$20 for lunch and materials

Stewardship Commission Report

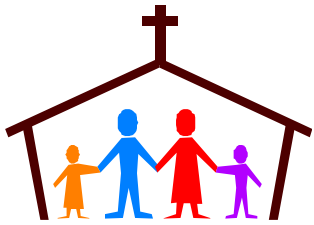
The Church of the Incarnation has started a new journey and direction in the area of Stewardship. Many people fear the word Stewardship as it makes them think of money, fund-raising, or a guilty feeling of not giving enough to the church. As your new chairperson for the new Stewardship Commission, I would encourage you to join our new journey towards the true meaning of Stewardship and a joyful, not fearful, approach to understanding what we each need to do in God's kingdom.

First let me offer a brief definition of Stewardship. Stewardship is the understanding that all that we have is a gift from God. These gifts fall into three categories, Time, Talent, and Treasure. Our challenge as faithful Christians is to determine how God wants us, as individuals, to use the gifts He has given us.

Incarnation used to have a Stewardship Committee. This has now been replaced by a Stewardship Commission. It is a commission because Stewardship is part of everything that we do. The commission will have the primary responsibility of helping each member walk their Stewardship journey. This help will be in the form of education and celebration. Stewardship is now a year-round program, not just a once a year pledge drive.

More details will be shared in future Parish Post articles and other forms of communication. I just wanted to plant the seed that things are changing in the area of Stewardship!

Mike Murphy,
Stewardship Commission Chair



Family Fun at Incarnation

For more information please contact ...
Andrea Chalker 526.2968 x206 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.

Family Feast

Sunday, February 8th

We will going snow tubing at the Lodge in Scaly Mtn after church.

Join us for great family fun!

Family Fun Night

Wednesday, February 18

5:30 dinner

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

Lenten Activities for Children

M&M & Money exchange:

During Lent, each child will be given a tube of m&m's in exchange for filling it with extra change for a Lenten offering!



Events for the Youth

Join us
as we join together...
sharing God's love
with food, fun and friendship!
HUMC Fellowship Hall ~
Sunday evenings from 5:00 - 6:30

February 1

Superbowl Sunday

6:00 @ The Christy's

Bring your favorite snack
& pick up is at halftime!

February 8

Family Tubing Event at the Lodge
Right after church

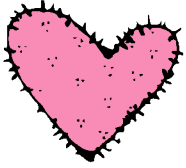
February 15

Death by Chocolate

Bring your favorite chocolate dessert

February 22

Mystery Sunday



February 2009

Weekly Events

Sundays

8:30 Breakfast
9:00 Sunday School for children & adults
10:30 Holy Eucharist Rite II
5:00 Youth

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
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

Special Events

Tuesday, February 24 Mardi Gras Celebration
5:30 pm in Jones Hall \$10 per person

Wednesday, February 25 Ash Wednesday
Services at 12 & 5:30

Friday, February 20 Parish Weekend deposit
& registration due

Friday, February 20 Movie Night
"The Whales of August" starring Bette Davis, Lillian Gish, Ann
Southern, and Vincent Price. The story centers around two
elderly sisters, at their summer home in Maine, remembering
their life journey. Final film for these four superb and prolific
actors

Mark your calendars...

March 27-29 Lake Logan

Joyful Obedience Parish Weekend

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

Lent begins Wednesday, Feb 24

Ash Wednesday Services:
12noon & 5:30 pm

Monday—Friday until Palm Sunday:
"Noonday Prayer" service (15-20 min-
utes) with time for meditation in the
chapel, led by the clergy or a lay reader

Wednesday night programs begin
March 4 at 5:00 and run for 5 weeks.

FEBRUARY SUNDAY MINISTRIES

Date	Lectors	Chalice	Ushers	Greeters	Camera	Flowers	Altar	Acolytes
Feb 1 10:30	J.Diamond	M. Rothermel J. Rothermel	Team #1	A. Maxwell	Z. Sossoman		S. Mosley P. Parker	Ivy & Maddie
Feb 8 10:30	B.Gray	C. Murphy C.Norman	Team #2	J. Harris G. Harris	T. Craig		S. Wallin B. Cusachs	Samuel
Feb 15 10:30	Z.Sossoman	H.Moore N. Mosely	Team #3	D. Rosazza H. Hamilton	M. Murphy		A. Maxwell R. Doe	Emily, Philip & John
Feb 22 5:30	J. Freese	L.Turner E.Whitby	Team #4	L. Doggett	S. Chalker		G. Harris C.Edmondson	
Mar 1 10:30	E.NeSmith	J. Chalker S. Chalker	Team#1	A. Maxwell	C.Alley		C. Harrington M. Matthews	

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.

February Birthdays

2/5 Beverly Coker
 2/6 Barbara Benson
 2/8 Drew Chalker
 Ruth Caliborne
 Wendi Diamond
 2/11 Fritz Toussaint
 2/13 Robert Andrews
 2/16 Edwin Michaels,Jr
 2/17 Hazel Hetzel
 William Martin
 2/18 Mary Lou Fouser
 2/19 Susan Calloway
 Henry Gregory
 2/20 Juliana Stottlemeyer
 2/22 Paula Dotson
 Robert Harris
 John Newsome
 2/23 Ase Sullivan
 2/24 Thomas Bayless
 2/25 Julie McCarthy
 Miller Trant
 2/26 Susan Floyd
 Robert Kirkland
 2/27 Vernon Skiles
 2/28 Meghan Alley
 Jane Chalker
 Michael Kaiser

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 really matters, that on the day you appear before God, God welcome you as a flawless gift, a rich harvest of praise, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

May the Lord bless you and keep you; May the Lord shed his light upon you, May the Lord look upon you kindly and give you peace.

Anniversaries

2/7 William & Sue Clary
 2/10 Daniel & Barbara Center
 2/14 John Kruse & Norma Jean Carrow
 2/22 Tom & Jane Tracy
 2/26 Ernest & Barbara Smith

Transferring In

Peter Gorday
 Virginia Gorday
 Garrison Boyce
 Donald Laier

Transferring Out

Mary Badcock



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



Lake Logan Episcopal Center

**“Joyful Obedience”
Stewardship of our Life**

**Friday, March 27– Sunday, March 29
Lake Logan**

**Registration forms available in the narthex
and on the tables in the downstairs lobby**

***The Church of the Incarnation
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Highlands, North Carolina 28741-0729
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Fax (828) 526-9290
www.incarnationwnc.org***

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