



*The Episcopal Church of the Incarnation
Parish Post ~ March 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
Healing Service
In the Chapel*

Lenten Offerings

Ash Wednesday Services 8:00 am, 12noon & 5:30 pm

12:00 Noon Noonday prayers M-F In the Chapel

Wednesday Evening Lenten Programs Beginning...

Wednesdays, March 4—April 1

5:00 Stations the Cross

5:30 Soup & Sandwich

6:00 Program



The Reverend Brian C. Sullivan

Ah Lent...

As I state every year at this time, "I love Lent." As a person who enjoys the wonderful frenetic nature of parish ministry, Lent gives me time to focus on one thing. There is only one goal in Lent, which is improving the primary relationship in all our lives "by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy Word." Book of Common Prayer pg. 264.

Unfortunately, improving this primary relationship can fall into a yearly pattern of thoughtlessly giving something up at Lent. Thus, Lent turns into a stale routine. The same can happen in other relationships. When the time comes to reestablish relationships, we know the routine. For example, reconciling with a spouse turns into flowers, a nice meal, and a sincere apology. Reconnecting with our child comes in the form of a phone call, a letter, or a romp on the playground. When we lose touch with a friend, we send a Christmas card, email or pick up the phone. When we leave our pets for a long time, we go for a walk, throw a stick, or give them a special treat. The same can true with our relationship with God. While Lent is a time to improve this relationship, it can so easily become a routine of giving up chocolate, attending church regularly without saying Alleluia, and confessing our sins.

This year, I want to challenge everyone at Incarnation to try something new. If you feel comfortable praying in church using the liturgy, try praying extemporaneously in nature (or vice-versa). If you encounter God only when you are alone, try finding God in your neighbor. If you see God outside yourself, try finding God within. If you are comfortable not eating chocolate, skip lunch and try spending that time with God. If you typically give something up for Lent, take something on this year. If you are a creative writer, try keeping a prayer journal, or writing poetry to God. If you have difficulty praying, light a scented candle to represent God's presence in the room.

The incredible thing about being in relationship with God is that no matter where you go, or what you do, as long as you are looking or striving - you will find God. Like most relationships, this primary relationship can fall into a predictable pattern. This Lent let us all be spontaneous and creative with our relationship with God. However, don't be surprised if one change in your primary relationship doesn't affect all your relationships.

Brian+



The Reverend Peter Gorday

“Tradition, Traditions and Stewardship”

At the church of the Incarnation, we have at present two strong 9 a.m. adult classes going on Sunday mornings. The “Contemporary Theology” class, meeting in the vestry room and coordinated by Martha Porter and Peter Ray, addresses in a lively way some of the latest trends in Christian thought and practice. The “All Things Anglican and Episcopal” class, led by myself in the library, takes a more backward look at the traditions and heritage of our particular community-of-faith (I don’t like the word “denomination”). On the one hand, Martha and Peter’s class asks the questions “Where are we spiritually, and how do we put that into action?”, while my class asks the questions “What have we inherited from the past, and how do we carry that forward in a meaningful way into the future?” The two approaches are complementary, really, and we’re going to make use of that fact in the class offerings on the Sunday mornings in March. Both classes will enjoy DVD sermons by some outstanding preachers and then engage in reflection and analysis of the sermon. In the contemporary theology class, the members might, for instance, discuss how the sermons relate to recent topics of concern, such as the problem of wealth and abundance in our society, while my class might ask questions about how the use of Scripture, or tradition, or reason in the sermon is consistent with our Anglican heritage, or not! I think we’ll have a lot of fun with this, and hopefully be edified in the process.

One thing I’ve become aware of since joining the staff at Incarnation is that we take pride in being a forward-looking, creative, imaginative community of faith, ready to take on new challenges and ready to engage in ministry in open-minded and innovative ways. We like being progressives who are “on the cutting edge”. But I have discovered also that we are a community that values the heritage and legacy of the Anglican tradition, as is clear in our worship and its appointments, our music and song, the architecture and decoration of our church building, the partnership of clergy and lay leadership in the pastoral care of the congregation, our ecumenical spirit, and our commitment to practical ministries in the wider community. We like being loyal to what has been passed down to us and taking good care of it. I have been told that one definition of a “conservative” is a person who intelligently treasures what has been inherited so that it can be passed to future generations – I guess that in that sense we are conservatives as well.

So, what do we do when the desire for, and need for, change runs into a love of tradition and the old ways? This is where we have to recover the meaning of the word “tradition” in the best sense by recognizing that tradition,

The Reverend Peter Gorday continued...

which actually means “handing on”, is both a content and a process. The *content* of tradition is what we call “traditions”, that is, the specific customs and practices of specific communities. Our use of the Book of Common Prayer as the foundation of our corporate and personal prayer lives, done since the time of the English Reformation in the sixteenth century, is an example, as is our standard and regular use of the Holy Eucharist as the main service of worship on Sundays, done more and more since the 1960’s. The *process* of tradition is a constant revision and remodeling of these practices as we experiment with them, improve them, adapt them, etc., to changed circumstances. There are all kinds of mechanisms in the Church for doing this work of adaptation (as anyone knows who has toiled through committee meetings), and any of us is free at any time to make proposals and offer insights that might help in making changes. The painful part, sometimes, for persons who are impatient for perhaps overdue change is that all of this takes time and has to “go through channels”, that is, through authorized leadership and bureaucratic decision-making. It is part of the task of good leadership in the Church to promote the positive change of traditions when the right time has come by being out in front of the main body of the community, *but not too far*. No doubt, some would like to move faster, some would like to slow down. If anyone knows just exactly how to fine-tune this process of handing-on-and-changing-of-traditions at the right tempo, I would like for them to let me and the rest of the Episcopal Church in on the secret!

And so one of the things I’m suggesting in this article is that I think we do a pretty good job at Incarnation of trying to hit the right balance between *traditions* and a good process of *tradition*. What makes us a vibrant community of faith is that we challenge the status quo on some things, maintain the status quo on other things, and always remain ready to revisit and reexamine who we are, what we do, and why we do it that way. For me personally there is a genuine intellectual integrity in that mix, that attracted me to Incarnation in the first place and that makes it a strong place of mission and witness, a place where tradition is valued, changed, and never turned into an idol. It is what St. Paul in Ephesians calls being “good stewards of the mysteries of Christ”, because we are loyal to the truth of Christ that we know from the past, but we also know that new truth will constantly emerge out of that legacy as God leads us forward, sometimes in ways that we never expected. This is an exciting place to be a Christian, in a very challenging time!

Peter+



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

FLOWERS TO THE GLORY OF GOD

Each week at least two members of the flower guild plan, order, arrange and care for a floral offering that enhances our worship. At today's prices, flowers and greenery for **one** arrangement of the size we use in the sanctuary, is approximately \$50. Guild members try diligently to use materials from their own gardens or from the woodlands near their homes whenever possible, but at many times of the year, this is just not possible. Our members are creative and are actively learning to do more with less, but your help is needed.

The ministry of the Flower Guild is entirely funded by memorials and gifts. Giving at Christmas and Easter is a big help towards meeting our expenses, but traditionally we depend on memorials and thanksgiving donations for the weekly flower offering. There is a calendar in Jones Hall, above the sign-up table where you may request that flowers on a particular Sunday may be in honor or memory of someone who is dear to you. When you put your name on the date you choose, you then call the church office and tell Teresa in whose honor the flowers are given and how you would like the wording of this printed in the Sunday bulletin. There is no set amount that must be given to do this. Some weeks are chosen early, so if there is a particular date that is meaningful to you and you would like to reserve the flowers for that week, please call the church office, or Midge Rothermel (526-5903) to make those arrangements.

This is a wonderful way to remember a birthday, an anniversary, to honor the ministry of a special person, or to give thanks for the life of a friend or family member. At the close of the service, flowers from the arrangements will be taken to parishioners who are ill or shut-in along with a Sunday bulletin noting in whose memory/honor the flowers were given.

Outreach 2009

If you, or someone you know, has a working used computer (desktop or laptop/notebook) and would be willing to donate it, we have an immediate need for computers for our partner school in Cange, Haiti. They are now offering a beginning computer class for their high school students and need more computers, given the strong interest that they've seen from their students.

***Please contact Jane Chalker or David Moore if you would be willing to donate your good used computer.
Thanks!***

Adult Education

"All Things Episcopal and Anglican" Class

During Lent the "All Things Episcopal and Anglican" class will be viewing, and reflecting on, a series of DVD sermons in the "Great Preachers Series", which is also being viewed by the Contemporary Theology class. We will be connecting the sermons with themes of the Lenten season as well as with emphases in the Anglican theological, liturgical and sacramental tradition. We will be raising questions about how preaching is intended to function in relation to prayer, scripture, creed and communion in the context of the Eucharist. Come and join us for thought-provoking discussion on what makes preaching "good"! Class is led by The Reverend Peter Gorday in the library."

Contemporary Theology Class

During Lent, the Contemporary Theology Class will listen each Sunday to a different "great preacher" and then discuss both the content and the form of the sermon. We will hear such greats as Frederick Buechner, Fred Craddock, and Barbara Brown Taylor, listening for how they approach scripture, how they use words, and the theology they communicate. We will look at a brief biography for each "preacher of the day" so that we can also be aware of how their story intersects with the sermon they construct. Come and join us for this series to hear great preaching and interesting discussions. The class will be led by The Reverend Martha Porter.

Faith & Values

Beginning in Lent, The Reverend Brian Sullivan will lead an informal "Faith & Values" coffee and discussion class in Jones Hall during the Sunday School hour. The discussion will look at the theological aspects of current events. If something catches your eye during the weekly news cycle, bring it or email it to The Reverend Brian Sullivan at rector@incarnationwnc.org. Fill your cup and join in!

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

Episcopal Church of the Incarnation Vestry Minutes Highlights

~ The Reverend Brian Sullivan called the February Vestry meeting to order with prayer at 4:00 pm.

~ Bible Study: Isaiah 40:21 – 31

~The minutes of the January meeting were presented for approval. Bill Conway needs to be added to those "Present". Motion was made to approve minutes with the addition: Ann Maxwell, 2nd: John Underwood. Approved.

~ The January financial statement was presented for approval. Motion: John Underwood, 2nd: Betty Chesna. Approved.

~Bill Conway also reported that it is time for the church to renew its insurance. Bill accompanied an inspector through the building today. Bill also reported that the Workers' Compensation insurance will increase due to a large claim.

~The Reverend Brian Sullivan reported that at this time everything is calm. The Vestry meeting in May will be the "Safeguarding God's Children" training by Andrea Chalker.

~ VOD training will be soon.

~John Underwood reported that he had talked with a company about putting in insulation over the kitchen/ hall/ bathroom area. The cost would be \$940 for insulation, delivery, and labor. Motion was made to have the insulation put in by Deborah Berlin, 2nd: Peggy Woodruff. Approved.

~ Adult classes going strong. Rev. Sullivan will be leading a class during Lent in Jones Hall. Wednesday Evening program will start in Lent. During Lent there will be noon prayers in the Chapel each weekday. Thursday Eucharist service will remain the same.

~ Stephen Ministry up and running. Ten are currently being trained and two others are ready to begin in the summer.

~ The Outreach Committee is exploring a "Clearinghouse" with other groups in town who are raising money for the same ministries. David Moore is also exploring the idea of bringing a Haitian college student to Highlands for job and language experience.

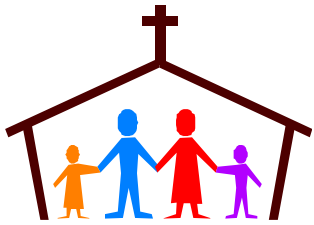
~Mike Murphy is in Gatlinburg today and tomorrow (2/11 & 2/12) attending a Stewardship Conference. Mardi Gras celebration is coming up on the 24th.

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

~Parish Retreat: March 27 – 29 at Lake Logan

~Rev. Brian Sullivan adjourned the meeting with thanksgiving at 4:40 pm.

Respectfully Submitted;
Christine Murphy, Vestry Clerk



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.

Do you have your golden ticket yet? Beginning Wednesday, March 4 the children and youth will explore Willy Wonka's Candy Factory and Characters in comparison to the story of the Prodigal Son as a guide to finding happiness like the "Oompa Loopas do".



Kids for Peace Update

Certainly, we have all heard about our friends in Palestine and Israel. Recent events have been a catalyst for adding the region to our Sunday prayer list, along with our Kids4Peace friends. People have been asking how the program is doing in the midst of so much turmoil. To answer these questions, I just received this email statement from the Jerusalem director. He says, "I think that we can see a miracle. Just a month after the war ended, a week after Israel chose an extreme right government, and in a situation that the Hamas still bombed Israel every day; we, in Kids4Peace, have three new groups of **peace**. This is our way to give hope and show people, that yes, we can do it different. I want to bless each of you and thank you for what you are doing. In-shallah, with God's help, Be-ezrat Hashem, we do it. Peace, Yakir."

I am meeting with the founder of Kids4Peace to plan for 2009 group. Continue praying for peace!

Family Feast

Parish Weekend March 27-29

See more details on back page!

Family Fun Night

Wednesday, March 18

5:30 dinner

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

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



March 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
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

Lenten Offerings

Wednesday, February 25

Ash Wednesday

Services at 8:00am, 12noon & 5:30

Lenten Services M-F 12:00 noon

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

Wednesday Evening Lenten Programs

Beginning Wednesday, March 4
5:00 Stations of the Cross
5:30 Soup & Sandwich
6:00 Program

March 27-29 Lake Logan

Joyful Obedience Parish Weekend

- Please contact Andrea Chalker for more information!

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

MARCH SUNDAY MINISTRIES

Date	Lectors	Chalice	Ushers	Greeters	Camera	Altar	Acolytes
Mar 1 10:30	E.NeSmith	J. Chalker S. Chalker	Team#1	A. Maxwell	C.Alley	C. Harrington M. Matthews	Ivy , Maddie, and Grace
Mar 8 10:30	G. Harris	B. Chesna B. Conway	Team #2	J. Harris G. Harris	T. Craig	S. Wallin G. Harris	Samuel, Alexandria & Tiffany
Mar 15 10:30	C. Norman	L. Dogget G.Harris	Team #3	D. Rosazza H. Hamilton	M. Murphy	P.Parker S. Mosley	Philip, John & Kalob
Mar 22 5:30	L. Doggett	D. McPhail D. Moore	Team #4	L. Doggett	S. Chalker	B. Cusachs R. Doe	Emily, Oliva & Maggie
Mar 29 10:30	N. Tarbox	H. Moore N. Mosley	Team# 2	A. Maxwell	C. Sossomon	C.Edmondson	

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.

March Birthdays

3/1 David LaCagnina
Lane Reeves
3/2 Charlotte Wood
3/3 Marie Harris
3/4 Helen Anderson
Anne Curtis
Cole Garrett
3/5 Virginia Kennedy
3/8 Harriet Hamilton
3/11 Emmett Kelley
3/12 Harriet Boger
3/13 Elsie Ann Maxwell
3/15 Diane Biggers
Mary Fitzgerald
3/16 Ralph Baker
John Underwood
3/17 Kelly Garrett
Patce Thorton
3/18 Beverly Ellars
James Taylor
3/25 Mandy Underwood
3/27 Martha Ann
Ferguson
3/28 Mary Cann
3/30 J Jay Joannides
3/31 Sally Caffery
John Kruse
Ashley Walker

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

3/16 Edward & Nancy Waits
3/19 Jerry & Ginny Harris
3/21 Jack & Susan Calloway
3/24 Charles & Edna Foster
3/35 Mark & Kathy Whitehead
3/28 Edwin & Kathleen Michaels
3/30 Armand & Catherine Mow

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



Lake Logan Episcopal Center

“Joyful Obedience” Stewardship of our Life

Friday, March 27– Sunday, March 29
Lake Logan
Episcopal Center

The Church of the Incarnation
520 Main Street P. O. Box 729
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Stewardship Commission Report

In last months Parish Post, we reported the formation of the Stewardship Commission, whose goal is to increase our awareness and understanding of stewardship and what it means to be a steward of God’s creation.

Since its formation, the Stewardship Commission has met several times and has begun to examine our own stewardship and where each of us is in our own journey as God’s stewards. Using scripture passages, we determined God’s demands of us, His promise to us, and the barriers we each have to overcome in order to meet His demands and live into His promises.

We invite each of you to engage in your own study and self-examination. Here are several Bible passages you may wish to use:

Proverbs 3: 9-10 Malachi 3:7-12 Matthew 6:19-24

Luke 6:36-38 II Corinthians 9:6-15

I Timothy 6: 11-19 Deuteronomy 8: 17-18

We’ve also put together a brief training guide on the basic’s of stewardship. If you’d like a copy, please contact Mike Murphy at (828)787-1094 or epjmc@hotmail.com.

Please pray for God’s guidance on how our Time, Talent, and Treasurer, which are all gifts from God, can be put to good use!

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