

CHORAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT at INCARNATION

The Athens Master Chorale is a non-profit select 50+ member volunteer concert choir. Founded in January of 1989 by Joseph Napoli, the group performed its first concert on April 16th of that year. The inaugural concert included the Haydn Lord Nelson Mass, the Dello Joio To Saint Cecilia and several smaller works.

The concert is free, and donations will be accepted.

Joseph Napoli, founder and conductor of The Athens Master Chorale, holds music degrees from Florida State University and The University of South Florida. Mr. Napoli performed throughout North America with the Metropolitan Opera National Company during its inaugural 1965 season. He later taught public school for fourteen years in Tampa, Florida. Mr. Napoli has given workshops in conducting and has presented vocal recitals in both Florida and Virginia.

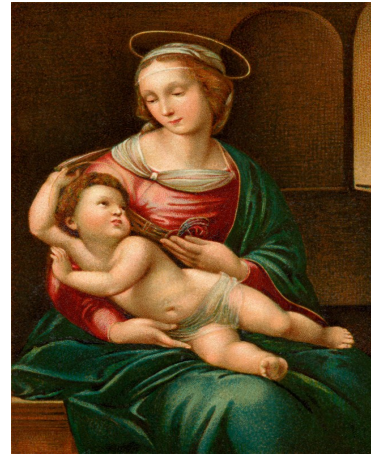
For more information, visit: www.athensmasterchorale.org.

The Athens Master Chorale

Joseph Napoli, Conductor

Presents....

I Saw a Fair Maiden



Sunday, December 11, 2011

4:30pm at the

Church of the Incarnation

Admission Free

The Church of the Incarnation

520 Main Street; P. O. Box 729

Highlands, North Carolina 28741-0729

Phone (828) 526-2968

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www.incarnationwnc.org

THE PARISH POST

The Church of the Incarnation

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Highlands, North Carolina 28741

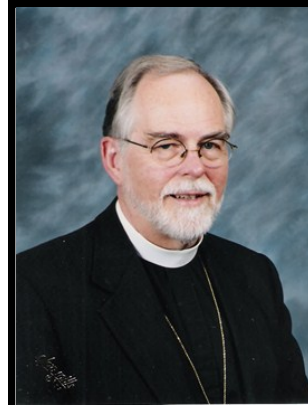
Phone: 828-526-2968 Fax: 828-526-9290

Incarnation Web Page Address: incarnationwnc.org

E-mail address: incarnation@incarnationwnc.org



Our Mission Statement: *The Church of the Incarnation exists to proclaim the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ through worship, love and service. As individuals and as a congregation, we*



Dear Friends and Family of Incarnation,

Advent is the season of waiting and preparing for the coming of Christ as the Living God invading human history and experience. Sacred and secular are no longer meaningful categories. All is sacred. The daily has been touched with the divine.

Ester de Waal is a scholar and writer in Celtic spirituality, a unique response to God that I connect to powerfully. Like many of you who share my Scots-Irish gene pool, it's in our blood. In her book de Waal says, "The Celtic approach to God opens up a world in which nothing is too common to be exalted and nothing is so exalted that it can not be made common."

That is the essence of Christ's coming to us at a specific time in Judea, born of a human mother just like all of us, and in a barn with all of the things you would experience there.

Talk about the exalted becoming common! The Lord of the Universe - a baby, and lying in a feedbox. That is the mystery of love, the exalted made common like us. I just never have been able to get over it. I never will. And you?

Peace!

Denson+

P.S. And after noon on December 24th: "Merry Christmas to you all!"

Redecorated Offices

For several months Robin Carter with assistance from several people has been renovating the offices of the Rector and Associate. This project was funded by gifts to the memorial fund. Among the changes was a chair rail and crown molding, pictures, rugs and recovering of two pieces of furniture. A desk and credenza that belonged to Robin Carter's late husband was given to the Rector's office. Some other pieces of furniture were rearranged between the two offices. An original short pew from the Chapel was moved into the Rector's office. A beveled full length mirror was added to assist in vesting.

I have enjoyed the warmth and professional look of the redecorated space. Our associate, Howard L'Enfant, looks forward to his return to his office in April. Our new Rector will also find his office to be an appealing space in which to work and meet visitors.

Many thanks to Robin Carter for her labor of love. When you are at the church after service or just in town running errands stop by and see our new offices. We will even give you a cup of coffee or tea.

Denson+

The Reverend Denson N Franklin, Interim Rector - The Reverend Howard W. L'Enfant, Priest Associate

The Rt. Reverend G. Porter Taylor, Bishop - The Most Reverend Katharine Jefferts Schori, Presiding Bishop

Vestry Minutes for October

Call to Order/Opening Prayer - 4:00pm, by Fr. Franklin

Present: Joe Parrott, Dan Adcock, Bill Temple, Bill Conway, Beverly Cone, Fr. Denson Franklin, Ann Maxwell, Sam Edgens, Kirk Domingos, Peggy Woodruff, Tom Tracy
Absent: Ginger Slaughter, Mike Hunter, Mike Murphy, Jim Shearon, Fr. Howard L'Enfant

Motion was made by Bill Temple, and 2nd by Peggy Woodruff that minutes for the September meeting be accepted as corrected. Motion passed.

Financial Report - Bill Conway gave Treasurer's report

Motion made by Joe Parrott, 2nd by Ann Maxwell to accept report. Motion passed. Joe made a recommendation from the financial committee regarding a proposal from Robert Henry, to add a violinist to the paid staff of the choir. The committee recommended that we accept the proposal since it is funded by contributions from now through the end of the year. When we get into 2012 this money needs to be budgeted. Motion made by Peggy Woodruff to accept the proposal, 2nd by Joe Parrott. Motion passed and Fr. Denson will relay this information to Dr. Henry.

Reports

Rector - Fr. Franklin is nearing the end of his tenure and feels the church has given good support, and is positive about where we are. He also reported that in January when Ann Maxwell goes off the Vestry she has agreed to become the Clerk of the Vestry.

Senior Warden - Bill Temple told Fr. Franklin the Vestry is blessed to have him with us.

Bill Kirkpatrick has sent a letter to extend the lease of his house as long as is needed.

Junior Warden - reported on several repairs

Minutes continued.....

recently made. Bill Conway asked permission to have Oscar correct the street numbers on the front of the church.

Ministry Reports

Stewardship Commission - Joe Parrott reported things are good with the church's current financial condition. Budget process starts at the end of the year, and hopefully the new rector will be here to participate in this process.

Christian Formation - Dr. Marty's visit went pretty well, although his voice was not always easily understood; PBS programs that he was on were wonderful.

Children & Youth - Andrea and several young people are on their way home from a trip to Haiti where they have had interesting times.

Outreach - Ginger Slaughter's report. Monies have been distributed; 'Tis the Season' plans are underway. It was noted how well this committee is organized with Ginger as our director!

Bell Tower Endowment - Tom Tracy reported that contributions have slowed down, but things are doing well.

Discernment Committee - has called for a meeting Thursday at 5pm with the Vestry

Stephen Ministry - Dan Adcock reported we may start another class, and may offer an opportunity for new leadership training. If so, that would need to be budgeted.

Adjournment/Closing Prayer - at 5:15.

DECEMBER SUNDAY MINISTRIES

Date	Lectors	Chalice	Ushers	Camera	Altar	Acolytes	Vestry of the Day
Dec. 4 8:00am	Jean Whitby	Lewis Doggett			Craig Edmondson		
Dec. 4 10:30am	Nancy Tarbox	Christine Murphy & Luther Turner	Team 1	Chris Alley	Ann Turner & Ginny Harris		Bev Cone
Dec. 11 8:00am	Hilda Blitch	Ginny Harris			Barbara Cusachs & Pat Parker		
Dec. 11 10:30am	Jean Whitby	Jane & Selwyn Chalker	Team 2	Thomas Craig	Sarah Wallin & Ann Maxwell	Alley & Tiffany Preda	
Dec. 18 8:00am	Peg Brannen	Diane McPhail			Barbara Cusachs		
Dec. 18 10:30am	Peg Brannen	Robin Carter & Lewis Doggett	Team 3	Mike Murphy	Suzy Mosely & Harriet Hamilton		
Dec. 24 5:30pm	Emily Murphy	Christine Murphy & Ed Whitby			Sarah Wallin & Martha Hunter		
Dec. 24 10:30pm	Selwyn Chalker	Jane Chalker			Claire Harrington		
Dec. 25 10:30am	Agnes De Hart	Ginny Harris & Carl Norman	Team 4		Claire Harrington		

December Birthdays

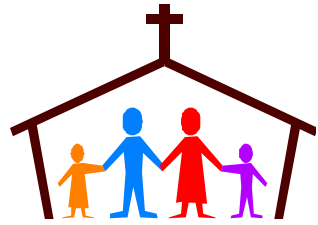
12/2 Martha Andrews
 12/2 Elinor Metzger
 12/3 Norman Mosely
 12/6 Samuel Hollis
 12/6 Sara Hoyt
 12/6 Peggy Smith
 12/6 Mildred Toussaint
 12/7 Clair Simpson
 12/8 Robbie Harrison
 12/9 Tom Tracy
 12/9 Frank Turner Jr.
 12/9 Laney Capron
 12/10 Curtis Mathews

12/10 Martha Porter
 12/10 Ginger Slaughter
 12/12 Tom Cox
 12/12 Preston Cusachs
 12/14 Jeanne Clark
 12/14 Kathleen Michaels
 12/15 Dotty Berry
 12/15 Adair Garrett
 12/17 Nancy Temple
 12/17 Dwight Underhill
 12/18 Samuel Frock
 12/20 Avery Andrews
 12/21 William Temple
 12/22 Louise Frock

12/23 Allen Murray
 12/24 T. Wood Lovell
 12/26 Nancy Parks
 12/28 Tred Shurling

December Anniversaries

12/2 Barbara & Kirk Domingos
 12/15 Beverly & Butch Ellars
 12/18 Amanda & Henry Gregory
 12/21 Nancy & Geoff Parker
 12/28 Julia & Larry Hilliard
 12/29 Barbara & Herbert Benson
 12/29 Susan & Michael Kaiser
 12/31 Martha Ann & Ken Ferguson



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

9:30 Sunday School in Jones Hall

10:30 Children's Chapel

Lectionary based curriculum that follows the worship service for ages 2nd grade and under...children are brought upstairs during the passing of the Peace.



Youth Events

(6th grade & up... held in HUMC youth room)

Wednesday Evenings 6-7:15

" Share the warmth"

Kids Night Out

Friday, Dec 16th

5:30 - 8:00 pm

We will be packing boxes

of "warmth" (hats, gloves, mittens, etc)

Please bring items

to help pack!

Please respond by Wed, Dec 14th

526-2968 x 206

Family Sunday School in Advent

9:30am in Jones Hall

Dec 11th—The Legend of the Christmas Spider

Dec 18th—The Legend of the Candy Cane

Dec 24th—Family Service at 5:30pm

Stephen Ministers "The After People"...

Stephen Ministers are there:

....after you've washed and returned the last casserole dish.

....after the divorce papers have been served and the bottom falls out of your life.

....after you realize the hands on the gold watch you received at your retirement party move more slowly than you ever imagined.

....after the baby has arrived, putting more demands on you than you ever dreamed possible.

....after your family and friends have heard your story one too many times, but you still need to talk it out.

Stephen Ministers are ready to come alongside people and provide comfort and support for as long "after" as they are needed.

Stephen Ministers are professionally trained individuals who minister one-on-one to those in need. Contact Dan Adcock or Bobby O'Dell if you wish to receive CONFIDENTIAL caring from one of Incarnation's Stephen Ministers.

Our Stephen Ministers are busy with their car receivers. We are seriously evaluating the need for another training class if you are interested please contact Dan Adcock or Bobby O'Dell. Also if anyone feels the need for a Stephen Minister notify the rector and he will refer you to our group.

Flower Guild

Poinsettias are being ordered for thanksgivings and memorials. Please send your donations and the names of those you wish to honor to the church office by December 15th or place your donation in one of the envelopes in the church pews.



Clip & Return to the Church Office

Bell Tower Endowment

As you walk into Incarnation this winter think about our beautiful church and how important Incarnation is to your life. We hope you will consider her perpetual care in your financial planning. We encourage you ,if you have not considered it, to sign a codicil to your will and leave a lasting legacy to the Church. For a more complicated codicil, it is not necessary to make a new will, just have your lawyer draw up a codicil and add it to your existing will. Steve Lucas is also available to do this for you too (free of charge). Like the energizer bunny, this is a gift that keeps on going!! You are leaving a legacy for perpetuity. Please attach all codicils to a Legacy or Anchor Society form (located in the narthex). Your gift amount is kept confidential.

Looking for the perfect Christmas gift ? Why not make a contribution in honor of a loved one to the BTE!!Your gift will continue to grow and grace others.

Many thanks for the following contributions:

- ♦ Judith Thomas in honor of Tommy Chambers
- ♦ Alwyn Staley in honor of Peachy Staley's birthday
- ♦ Elizabeth and Ted Muller in honor of the BTE

The BTE wishes you and most blessed Christmas and thank you for your continued support!!

Merry Christmas

For more information or if you have you have any questions, please contact a BTE Board Member: Tom Tracy 526-2816, Alwyn Staley 526-3219, Paula Jones 526-0307, or Tom Cox 526-9889.

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 _____

Stewardship

Stewardship - What's it All About?

It's about **TIME**. Time was created by God, along with the rest of creation. How we spend our time tells who we are and whose we are. Most of us live over-scheduled lives. How we live in time reflects our relationship to God. It's about **RELATIONSHIPS**. One of God's greatest gifts to us is relationships. The Bible teaches us to love people and use possessions rather than to use people and love possessions. Four of the 10 Commandments deal with our relationship with God. The other six deal with our relationship to each other.

It's about the **ENVIRONMENT**. The creation stories in Genesis clearly identify our responsibility for the care and concern for "this fragile earth our island home". In Genesis 2:15 when Adam is put in the garden to work it and care for it the Hebrew word suggests the exercising of dominion as a caring benevolent ruler.

It's about **TALENT**. Each of us is unique, given gifts for ministry by God in a way no one else has. When we apply our talents to meet the needs of the world and our neighbor, we are being good stewards of our unique gifts.

It's about **WORSHIP** and **GOD'S WORD**. Evangelism, which is sharing the Gospel, and stewardship go hand in hand. Our very attendance at church services is an act of stewardship for when we gather to worship, we are exercising stewardship of the faith that God has given us.

It's about **MONEY**. 15% of everything Jesus said related to money and possessions. He made more references to money and possessions than either prayer or faith. He spoke more about money and possessions than heaven or hell. Why? Because scripture makes clear that there is a fundamental connection between a person's spiritual life and their attitudes about money and possessions. "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" (found in both Matthew and Luke). The Bible gives a very effective method for lessening our attachment to possessions: give a tithe, 10% to God and keep 90% for yourself. This is a very practical step in lessening our attachment to money.

It's about **LIFE**. Stewardship encompasses all that we are, and all that we hope to become. Stewardship is not a program. Stewardship is not about raising money. Stewardship is not here today and gone tomorrow. Stewardship is a journey. It's about life. In fact, stewardship is a way of life.

- Excerpt from the Episcopal Diocese of Western Louisiana website.

Announcements

Taize services will be held on the first and third Thursdays of the month at 5:30pm. The next services will be held December 1st at Incarnation and December 15th location is TBD.

"Tis the Season" The Alternative Gift Market Times are tough for many and all of us are watching our pennies. We clip coupons and we look for discounts. Here in America we are truly blessed and our Creator looks to us to share those blessings. There is no better way to share than to give through the "Tis the Season" - Holiday Gift Market.

The Market is always held immediately following the Highlands Christmas parade. This year it will be on Saturday, December 3rd beginning at 11:30am running through 2:00pm at the First Presbyterian Church's Coleman Hall on Main Street, Highlands. By participating in the Market you are able to help people from 14 charitable agencies. The Alternative Gift Market offers gift-giving without the hassle. Not having to get to the mall or to worry about mailing and shipping. You simply make a gift to a favorite charity. Help others who are less fortunate than you and share your blessings with others. Hope to see you at the Gift Market after the Christmas Parade.

Haiti Mission Update: Sunday, December 4th at 9:00am in the library. Please plan on attending to learn more about the progress occurring among the churches and schools with which we partner in Cange and Tierra Muscoudy, Haiti. Led by Jane Chalker and others.

Saturday, December 24 Christmas Eve

5:30pm Family Service (Paper Bag Pageant) held in the Nave

10:45pm Carol Sing preceding Holy Eucharist in the Chapel.

11:00pm Festival Holy Eucharist with hymns and carols held in the Chapel

Sunday, December 25 Christmas Day

10:30am Holy Eucharist Rite II in the Nave

Sunday, January 1: Festival of the Holy Name of Jesus

10:30am Holy Eucharist, Rite II in the Nave

Continued.....



December 2011

Announcements continued.....

Cursillo Community Christmas Ultreya: Wednesday, December 7 at 6:00pm. Everyone is asked to bring a dish for pot luck dinner to the home of Beverly Cone.

Lessons and Carols at Incarnation: Our very own choir will present its annual Lessons and Carols program during the 10:30 church service on December 18th. Soloists for the service include Molly Mckim, Mary Lou Worley, and Jeff Akana. Also, we have invited three instrumentalists to join us for the service: Candace Keach (flute), Christina Volz (violin), and Steve Watson (trumpet).

Come and be a part of the exciting music program at Incarnation!

Come One Come All!! Sunday, December 18th following the 10:30am service. A reception will be held in honor of Denson and Carolyn for their wonderful commitment to our church as Interim Rector and Rector "Ette". Please contact Dollie Swanson if you would like to help with food, set-up or clean-up 526-2609.

The Food Pantry is experiencing a critical shortage. Please help by picking up a grocery bag downstairs and filling the bag with your donation. As winter approaches jobs become scarce - The Food Pantry needs more food to meet increased demand. Your assistance here would be greatly appreciated. (For more information about The Food Pantry, call Claire Harrington at 526-9407.)

Welcome New Members: Cindy and Charles Coley from Scaly Mtn.

Sundays

8:00am Holy Eucharist Rite I

8:30am Breakfast \$5/per person

9:00am Sunday School for children & adults

10:30am Holy Eucharist Rite II

Mondays

10:45am Yoga in Jones Hall

4:00pm Women's cursillo in Library

5:30pm AA Meeting in Jones Hall

Tuesdays

8:30am Men's cursillo in Jones Hall

9:00am Staff meeting in Vestry Room

3:00pm EFM in Vestry Room

5:30pm Women's AA Meeting in Jones Hall

Wednesdays

7:30am Yoga in Jones Hall

12:00pm AA meeting in Jones Hall

*Vestry Meeting on second Wednesdays @ 4

3:30-5:30 Stephen's Ministry in Library (1st & 3rd)

Thursdays

10:00am Holy Eucharist Prayers for and Healing in the Chapel

10:45am Yoga in Jones Hall

12:00pm Al-Anon in Library

Fridays

12:00pm AA meeting in Jones Hall

Church Office Closings

Friday, December 23 - Closing at noon

Monday, December 26th - Closed

Friday, December 30th - Closing at noon

Monday, January 2nd - Closed