

The Messenger



A Note from our Rector

Dear Friends,

There are a number of important updates that I wanted to share with you.

The first is that at its July 31 meeting your Vestry formally adopted a budget for Church of the Incarnation; the first such budget to have been adopted here in a long time. Many thanks are due to our hard-working Treasurer, Gretchen Swift, and our Parish Administrator, Donna Gleaves, for all their preparatory work enabling us to take this important step. Full copies of this budget are available upon request to the Parish Office. We’ve also including in this issue of our Newsletter an “executive summary” of it. Being better planners and better communicators about matters financial is a critical element in our stewardship development. (In normal Episcopal practice, the Vestry adopts the Annual Budget in either December or January, which is then presented to the Parish at the Annual Meeting.)

Secondly, more poignantly, I need to share with you that Richard Pate is no longer able to serve either as our Parish’s Security Officer or as a Vestry member. The Vestry, grateful to Richard and all his service to our church, likewise acknowledged these vacancies at its July meeting.

However, with the approval of Bishop Marty, we have appointed Richard Ecke to serve on Vestry for the balance of this Vestry year. We profoundly appreciate his willingness to step in, and look for

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Vestry

- Sara Quay, Senior Warden
- Peter Jennings, Jr. Warden
- Gretchen Swift, Treasurer
- Patti Liston, Clerk
- Mary Ann Cosgrove
- Richard Ecke



A Note from our Rector (cont. from p. 1)

ward to the gifts that he will bring to our congregational leadership.

Speaking of parish security (a genuine need for us), we will be exploring some new approaches and updates to carrying out this responsibility. Details forthcoming!

I also need to let you know that for practical reasons I will need to be dropping back, somewhat, on my in-person times of residence in Great Falls. Rather than twice a month, this will be once a month. But please know that I am still fully your Priest, and will continue remote work and availability, by phone, email, text, and Zoom. I will continue to lead our Tuesday morning Bible study (10 a.m., Guild Room), either in person or by Zoom. And when I'm here in Great Falls, continuing in-person pastoral care will remain a top priority for me. Father Glen will preach and preside at Sunday Eucharist once a month, as well, and also is assisting in meeting our pastoral care needs. Many thanks to him! Twice a month we will have lay officiated Morning Prayer, with a virtual sermon of mine "patched in."

Your Vestry and I have already engaged with our diocesan Congregational Development Committee, and have engaged the Rev. Canon Bradley Wirth to come to us in the fall to work with us as we continue efforts to develop our financial stewardship.

I'm often asked what we can do to move beyond our official "Impaired Congregation" status. The first thing I need to stress is that this status is NOT some sort of punishment; it's a formal recognition of reality. It will take long time, and will involve many efforts, in the process of moving out of this status. But what can we do NOW, to help? I'll stress five very basic items:

Attend and participate in our Sunday worship services as often and as regularly as possible. EVERY worshipping presence strengthens our life and witness.

Make sure that you reach out to visitors and newcomers. Share the Peace with them during the service, and reach out to them at coffee hour.

Invite friends and family to come to church. Reach out to church members that you haven't seen in a while. Think about giving a ride to church to folks who can't get here on their own.

As you are able, increase your financial support of Incarnation Church.

Even with limited expenditures, at present, we are just getting by. This fall, we are going to stress not only financial giving, in general, but also PLEDGING, in particular. Please be as open to this as you can.

And pitch in! There are so much to be done in so many areas. Ask me or our Wardens about the many, many possibilities.

Coming out of Impaired status requires the decision of both our Bishop and our Diocesan Council. They will look at the big picture—in detail—when the time comes for them to consider this. Remember, this status is not some sort of penalty box, but a way to get us the help we need and give us the encouragement to do the work we need to do.

Meanwhile, I want to stress that we have made tremendous progress in 2022. Many thanks to all who have helped make this so.

All God's Blessings to you, dear ones, now and always.

Yours in Christ,
Adam+

FISH Activities

Volunteers are needed!

The FISH program is in need of volunteers. The task of a FISH volunteer is to help distribute emergency food to the needy people of our community.

FISH volunteers work one (1) week every three (3) months. During the week that we support FISH, each volunteer is asked to work for about two hours on the day(s) of their choice.

Working as a FISH volunteer is said to be a spiritually and rewarding experience, because you will be helping some of your brothers and sisters in Christ. Additionally, you will likely be openly rewarded by the Lord. It is also a stimulating and enjoyable experience. Just ask any of the current volunteers.

For more information on volunteering and the FISH program please don't hesitate to call me at 454-9063 anytime.

Your FISH program representative,

Bob Shanks

During the week of 5 – 8 July 2022 those from The Church of the Incarnation who helped serve 12 families with this heartfelt effort were: Bob Shanks, Corrie Dorrington, Jack Corcino, Nona Munroe, Lynne Mahan, and Cassie Wilson (from another church). A big thank you from FISH for a job well done!

FISH Data for June 2022

The chart below is a comparison of those serviced by FISH between June 2021 and June 2022. As you can see there have been some changes between the 2021 and 2022 figures. There was an increase in the number of families (non singles), singles, adults, children, total meals served, and total pounds delivered; we were up 15.9%, 89.3%, 32.4%, 13.9%, 25.4%, and 34.1% respectively. There were no decreases in any of categories. The YTD numbers also showed increases for families (non singles), singles, adults, children, total meals served, and total pounds delivered; we were up 8.1%, 26.7%, 3.3 %, 11.3%, 5.6%, and 4.9% respectively. For the YTD numbers there were no decreases in any of the categories. However, FISH still provided about 3.4 tons of emergency food to our community during the month of June 2022 and 14.3 tons (or 2.4 tons per month) YTD for the period of January through June 2022.

Clearly, there is still a demand (in our community) for the emergency food we distribute through FISH. Amen!

	June 2021	2021 YTD	June 2022	2022 YTD
Families (non singles)	44	221	51	239
Singles	28	176	53	223
Adults	108	632	143	653
Children	65	247	74	275
Meals	2,595	13,185	3,255	13,920
Pounds of Food	4,996	27,213	6,698	28,550



Mass on the Grass

On July 24 Incarnation celebrated Eucharist on the lawn. We feasted on the word, the body and blood of Christ, then a wonderful pot luck, and music provided by the Big Sky Brothers.,

Many thanks to all who made this a delightful day!



Schedules for August and September

Date	Musicians	Lector	Lector	MP Leader—8 am	MP Leader—10 am
August 21	Shad Bailey	Jeff Brainard	Peter Jennings	Sara Quay	Barb Eliason
August 28	Lana Furdell	Pat Holt	Lana Furdell	n/a	n/a
September 4	Melissa Smith	Chuck Jennings	Gerry Jennings	Tbd	tbd
September 11	Holly Neibauer	Camee Dohrman	Mary Ann Cosgrove	n/a	n/a
September 18	Cheryl Quintero	Patti Liston	Richard Ecke	Tbd	tbd
September 25	Shad Bailey	Peter Jennings	Jeff Brainard	n/a	n/a

2022 Budget

Typically, church budgets are developed in the fall, adopted by the Vestry in December, and presented to the church at the Annual Meeting in January. This has not been the case recently here at Incarnation.

A budget has been developed for this calendar year, and it was presented to the Vestry at the meeting on July 31. This budget has been adopted. A full copy is available through the church office should you wish to have one. However, for purposes of this newsletter, we have summarized both the budget and the six month period of actual income and expenses ending June 30, 2022.

	Budget 2022	Actual YTD 6/30/22
Income		
Plate	\$ 0.00	\$ 2,173.25
Pledges	\$ 57,818.00	\$ 35,841.00
Unpledged Support	\$ 32,769.12	\$ 33,815.61
Other income	\$ 0.00	\$ 4,158.47
Other Operating Income	\$ 5,250.00	\$ 2,616.16
Other Income Non-Oper.	\$ 0.00	\$ 15,459.28
Specific Gifts-Restr.	\$ 15,200.00	\$ 9,600.00
Total Income	\$116,287.12	\$103,663.77
Expenses		
Facility	\$ 34,762.00	\$ 19,987.33
Assessment	\$ 18,207.00	\$ 9,103.50
Columbarium	\$ 560.00	\$ 140.00
Pastor Insurance*	\$ 26,988.00	\$ 15,743.00
Travel	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 3,290.37
Administrative	\$ 10,393.04	\$ 4,390.85
Payroll	\$ 43,460.20	\$ 17,126.33
Program	\$ 7,730.00	\$ 2,889.59
Total Expense	\$ 149,100.24	\$ 38,333.56
Net Income	\$ (32,813.12)	\$ 65,330.21

As you can see, we are budgeted for a deficit year. As of the end of June, we are actually in the black. One of the factors in determining a budget is pledged income. That is the most reliable piece of income budgeting. Some of our income is unplanned, and generally restricted – such as the insurance check we received to repair the roof. Some income is restricted for other purposes, such as our music fund, or the support we are receiving from the Memorial Foundation for salaries for a sexton and an administrator. On the expense side, facilities includes utilities, building repairs and maintenance, insurance, grounds maintenance. Pastor Insurance is the amount budgeted for Fr. Tim’s insurance as part of his retirement package. Administrative includes office supplies, postage, telephone/internet, software and technology, and background checks. Payroll covers our interim rector, our sexton, our administrator and supply clergy. Program includes worship (altar guild, etc.) and our accompanists.

From the Senior Warden

Dear Parish Family,

I hope everyone has had a great summer! We've got some fun things coming up here this late summer and early fall! So, I wanted to begin with a beautifying of our church grounds, hall and church. On Friday, Sept. 2 and Saturday, Sept. 3 we are having our parish clean-up days. Lunch and drinks will be available. Work will be conducted from 10—6 each day.



Projects in need include: (Outside) entrance to church, sweeping walkways, washing windows, weeding of rock beds and gardens, sweeping/hosing down parking lot. (Inside) entrance to church, cleaning, organizing, cleaning of light switches, hand rails, and lift. The kitchen needs to be organized (with extras set aside for church rummage sale in the fall).

Please come and do what you can to help us get ready for fall. If you're planning to work outside, bring tools and gloves.

Mark your calendars:

- ◆ 9/2, 9/3 Clean-up days
- ◆ 9/8, 9 & 10 Fr. Bradley Wirth—program on stewardship (see p. 7)
- ◆ 9/11 Ribbon cutting between services on historic register sign
- ◆ 9/30-10/1 Diocesan Convention (Patti Liston & Sara Quay, delegates)
- ◆ 10/8 Church Rummage sale

On a personal note, I have some "away" time coming up. Sunday, 9/18 (for a wedding) and 10/15, 22, & 29 (in Dallas for a photo shoot, teaching and doing hair & makeup for a Halloween event).

If anyone can help the vestry on these Sundays with tech and a few other tasks I usually cover, please contact Peter Jennings or the church office.

Many thanks to be shared as usual: Cliff & Tiff for lawn care; Neil Swift for lawn watering and many miscellaneous repairs; Stacey Corcino for organizing paperwork from our past; and Gayle Archey for jumping with both feet to help with the paperwork as well.



Yours in Christ,

Sara

Local Community Support

Town Pump has again selected FISH to be part of the “Be a Friend in Deed, Help Those in Need” campaign. This will mark 21 years since the Town Pump Foundation began their annual campaign to raise funds for Montana Food Banks.

Town Pump will match every donation to FISH up to \$25,000 from 9/1/22—11/30/22.

Please send your donation to FISH, PO Box 662, Great Falls, MT 59403.

Thank you for your support of FISH.

Family Promise needs: Blankets, macaroni & cheese microwave cups, bottled water, bath towels, laundry detergent pods, soup (pull top cans), socks (new in all sizes), toilet paper, pillows (new), 8-1/2 x 11 manilla envelopes, coffee pods, deodorant (men/women), saltine crackers, sanitizing wipes, cleaning supplies.

We need supply van drivers, office volunteers and mentors willing to follow-up on the families we serve. In just a few hours a week, you can make a big difference to the families we service. Call Gregg at 406-564-5267.

Church of the Incarnation

600 3rd Avenue South
Great Falls, MT 59401
Mailing: PO Box 3046, Great Falls, MT
59403

Phone: 406-453-4167
E-mail: incarnationgreatfalls@gmail.com
www.churchoftheincarnationmontana.org

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