

# The Incarnation Word

December 2012

Each Thanksgiving, Miles and I have a crowd for dinner: his sister and her family, his brother and his family, my sister and her family. It's usually about fifteen people gathered around our big dining table. So part of preparing for the meal is gathering chairs from all over the house.

so we could use them. There are two pairs of ladder-back chairs that used to belong to Miles' Grandmother Solomon. They'd been in his sister Libby's garage, but she brought them to us after last Thanksgiving, when she saw that we needed more. There's the set of delicate little dark wood chairs that used to belong to my dad's wife Anne. When she and my dad consolidated their homes, there wasn't room for them and so they came to us. They remind me of old schoolhouse chairs. And there's the beautiful oak spindle chair I bought in Hendersonville when I was attending a conference at Kanuga. I got it to use at my desk in Jacksonville, Florida.



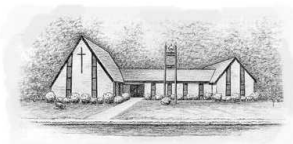
The chairs don't match, but each has a story. There's a set of four art-deco wooden chairs that my mother gave me when I bought my first house in Summer-ville and finally had a dining room. I never really liked the chairs all that much - they were always meant to make do until I found some I really liked. But fifteen years later I'm still using them. Then there's the set of four ladder-back chairs that used to belong to Jack and Betty Scruggs, the parents of Miles' first wife. The cane seats had rotted out of them, but we found the chairs in his attic and re-caned the seats

Our chairs, in an odd way, tell a bit of our story, twisting and turning and ever-changing. As I gather them around the table, I remember the various places I've called home, and the various places I've left. And I remember the people I've loved who aren't here any more - and the members of Miles' family I never got to know. Life changes so quickly. People are here one minute and gone from our sight the next. I look at a solid wooden chair, and I think of how permanent it seems. But nothing in this life is truly permanent. The one con-



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## The Church of the Incarnation



The Rt. Rev. W. Andrew Waldo Bishop of Upper S. C.  
The Rev. Jenny Gettys Rector  
The Rev. Pat Gotautas Deacon  
Mrs. Ann Batchler Parish Sec. / Bookkeeper  
Mr. Hal Tyson Choir Director and Organist

### 2012 Vestry

Ree Batten	Christian Education	864-489-1397
Michael Darnell	Junior Warden, Hospitality	704-460-0301
Scott Glidden	Worship	704-739-9327
Jamie Greene	Evangelism and Outreach	864-488-3000
Kimmy Guthrie	Youth Representative	864-489-6711
Sara Harding	Pastoral Care	864-463-7922
Bobby Love	Senior Warden, Stewardship	864-487-7256
Danny Stacy	Buildings and Grounds	864-490-9743

<i>ex officio</i> , Bob Friedman	Treasurer	864-489-2044
<i>ex officio</i> , Kim Guthrie	Vestry Clerk	864-489-6711

# Annual Meeting

✦ December 2012 ✦

stant is the love that brings us all together around the table year after year.

God's love for us never changes, never wavers. Through the good times and the bad, the joyous births and the traumatic deaths, God's love is always there. I sometimes lose sight of his love, distracted by the roller coaster ride of life. Advent is a time to slow down and re-focus on God's love in Christ. It's a time to empty our hearts of worries and distractions in order to make more space for God's great love. It's a time to prepare ourselves to be the manger ready to receive the Christ child when he's born again at Christmas.



So this Advent, take a break from the shopping and planning and doing. Find a cozy chair, maybe one that reminds you of someone special, and just "set a spell." Close your eyes and listen for that still, small voice that says, "I love you so very much. I want to make your heart my home." Re-connect with the only truly permanent thing in life, God's enduring love.

God's Peace,  
*Jenny+*

## Sunday, December 2 9:30 am

The men of Incarnation will prepare their world-famous breakfast for us. And while we're eating, we'll conduct the business of the parish at our Annual Parish Meeting.

We'll approve our church budget for 2013. A copy of it is on the next page for your perusal before the meeting.

We'll thank Danny Stacy for his loyal service on vestry, and we'll elect his successor. The nominees from which we'll choose are Randy Pirkey and Lori Thompson.



We'll also thank Kim Guthrie for her service as vestry clerk and Bob Friedman for his service as treasurer. And we'll welcome the folks your vestry have selected to fill their positions: Renee McFalls as clerk and David Taylor as treasurer.

We'll thank our delegates to diocesan convention for the past two years: Bobby Love and LaDonna White. And we'll elect two folks to serve for the next two years. The nominees are Michael Darnell and Ginny Kidd.

It should be quick and easy and a great celebration of the work God's doing in this remarkable church. We'll see you there!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 9:30 DOK
2 8:30 HE I 9:30 Breakfast & Annual Meeting 10:30 HE II 11:45 Worship Committee	3	4	5 5:30 Supper and Advent Service 7:00 Choir	6	7 Rector's Sabbath	8 7:00 Parish Christmas Party
9 8:30 HE I 9:30 Godly Play & Adult Ed. 10:30 HE II 4:00 Advent Lessons & Carols	10	11	12 5:30 Supper and Advent Service 7:00 Choir	13	14 Rector's Sabbath	15 8:00 Men's Breakfast
16 8:30 HE I 9:30 Godly Play & Adult Ed. 10:30 HE II	17	18	19 5:30 Supper and Advent Service 7:00 Choir	20	21 Rector's Sabbath	22
23 8:30 HE I 9:30 Godly Play & Adult Ed. 10:30 HE II Deck the Halls!!!	24 5:00 HE 11:00 Festive HE	25	26 No Service	27	28 Rector's Sabbath	29
30 8:30 HE I 9:30 Fellowship 10:30 HE II	31					

Date	Dec. 2 10:30	Dec. 9 10:30	Dec. 16 10:30	Dec. 23 10:30	Christmas Eve, 5:00	Christmas Eve, 11:00	Dec. 30 10:30
Acolytes	Alaina H	Ellis G	Arnold T	Tim B	Ellis G	Alexis T, Tim B, Leslie B Michael D	Michael D
OT Lector	Tonja B	Frank B	John G	Bobbi A	None	Tonja B	Cynthia G
NT Lector	Renée M	Leslie B	Michael D	Danny S	None	Savannah	Pam B
Intercessor	None	None	None	None	John G	Pam B	John G
Euch Min	Michael D	Lori T	Leslie B	Cynthia G	Cynthia G	Renée M	Leslie B
Altar Guild	Jackie H, LaDonna W, Carla W	May Ella B, Charlotte H, Pam B, Hope G	Dawn B, Betty W	Sudie G, Cindy L, Lois B	All Altar Guild	All Altar Guild	Jackie H, LaDonna W, Carla W
Greeters	Bobby & Cindy Love	Leslie & Ron Brown	Mike & Pam	Danny & Martha	The Greene Family	Jim & Lois Beam	John & Sudie Gelok
Advent Family	Greene Family	Torres Family	Mabry and Taylor Families	Batten Family	Harding Family	The Acolytes	None
Nursery	Marty M	Lois B	Sara H	April M	None	None	Renée M
Kids' Chapel	Ree B	Volunteer?	Luke H	Julie T	None	None	Volunteer?
Godly Play	None	Lois B, Marty M	Cindy L, Jessica F	Michael D, Renée M	None	None	None
Coffee Hour	Breakfast	Leslie B	Dawn B	Sudie G			Pam B
Counters	Bob F, John G	David T, Renée M	Bobby L, Cynthia G	John G, Michael D			Scott G, David T

## Proposed Budget

	2012 Est. Actual	2013 Budget
<b>INCOME</b>	<b>\$150,828</b>	<b>\$109,331</b>
Pledge	83,516	85,379
Unpledged	67,312	23,952
<b>EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$153,165</b>	<b>\$151,502</b>
<b>Administration</b>	<b>\$143,002</b>	<b>\$139,395</b>
Diocesan Assessment	15,120	15,120
Salaries	75,174	78,698
Insurance	4,589	5,830
FICA	980	980
Medicare	229	229
Mortgage Interest	7,824	7824
Mortgage Principal	10,176	10,176
Transfer to Permanent Fund	8,000	0
Utilities	12,493	12,980
Office Expenses	7,502	7,558
<b>Buildings and Grounds</b>	<b>\$6,749</b>	<b>\$6,744</b>
Maintenance	834	834
Lawn Care	0	0
Security	180	180
Cleaning	5,400	5,670
Cleaning Supplies	60	60
Landscaping	275	0
<b>Christian Education</b>	<b>\$1,988</b>	<b>\$1,988</b>
Christian Ed.	400	400
Children's Ed.	621	621
Men / Youth	154	154
Vacation Bible School	812	812
<b>Evangelism &amp; Outreach</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Hospitality</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Pastoral Care</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Stewardship</b>	<b>\$1,200</b>	<b>\$1,200</b>
Mission Donations	1200	1,200
<b>Worship</b>	<b>\$2,263</b>	<b>\$2,175</b>
Altar Supplies	211	211
Music / Choir Supplies	209	209
Worship Expenses	190	190
Organ Repair	533	445
Altar Flowers	1120	1120

# Worship

Advent is about waiting, expecting, and preparing. And our worship services during this season are designed to help us prepare our hearts to receive Christ's love at Christmas.



## Sundays in Advent

The church will look different this season. Our hangings are a lovely blue, the color of the sky at first light, a color of waiting and expectation and something wonderful just dawning. Our gleaming silver and brass vessels will be replaced with simple pottery and wood. Each week we'll begin the service by singing "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel." A family will come forward to light the candles on the Advent wreath, which help us count down to Christ's birth. And they'll bring forward figures to place in our creche, so that by Christmas Eve it's ready for the Christ child.

As we seek to make room in our hearts for Christ, we may need to unburden our-

selves in prayer: to lay our concerns onto God, to ask God's help, or even to confess. As you leave Communion each week in Advent, there will be a couple ways for you to do that. Around the creche there will be votive candles. You may light a candle as a prayer. The candles will remain lit long after the service ends; as long as their warmth continues to rise to the heavens, your prayer will continue to ascend to God. You might light a candle as a prayer for a sick friend, for your own need, or for a need of the world.



If you'd like someone to pray with or for you, our deacon Pat+ will be available to assist you. She'll have a private area set up in front of the pulpit; feel free to join her there before or after you receive Communion. She'll help you put your prayers into words.

## Advent Taizé Services Wednesdays 5:30 - 7:00 pm

Join us on Wednesday evenings in Advent for a little dose of true holiday cheer. We'll share a simple supper of soup and salad and then move into the church for a Taizé service. Musicians from Limestone College will lead us in singing the simple, re-



# Readings

	First Reading	Psalm	Second Reading	Gospel
Dec. 2 1 Advent	Jeremiah 33:14-16	Psalm 25:1-9	1 Thessalonians 3:9-13	Luke 21:25-36
Dec. 5 Wednesday	Luke 1:26-38	Magnificat	Luke 1:39-45	
Dec. 9 2 Advent	Malachi 3:1-4	Canticle 16	Philippians 1:3-11	Luke 3:1-6
Dec. 12 Wednesday	Luke 2:8-14	Venite	Luke 2:15-20	
Dec. 16 3 Advent	Zephaniah 3:14-20	Canticle 9	Philippians 4:4-7	Luke 3:7-18
Dec. 19 Wednesday	Matthew 2:1-8	Third Song of Isaiah	Matthew 2:9-12	
Dec. 23 4 Advent	Micah 5:2-5a	Canticle 15	Hebrews 10:5-10	Luke 1:39-55
Dec. 24 Christmas	Isaiah 9:2-7	Psalm 96	Titus 2:11-14	Luke 2:1-20
Dec. 30 1 Christmas	Isaiah 61:10-62:3	Psalm 147:13-21	Galatians 3:23-25, 4:4-7	John 1:1-18

## Advent Lessons and Carols Sunday, December 9 4:00 pm St. Christopher's, Spartanburg



Our convocation will gather to celebrate Advent together in this lovely service, featuring a combined choir from all the area Episcopal churches.

## Confirmation Sunday, January 20



Adults from other denominations become Episcopalians (and so official members of Incarnation) through the sacrament of Confirmation. Bishop Waldo will be with us on Sunday, January 20 to confirm. Have you been thinking about taking this step? Talk to Jenny+ today. She'll make sure you're ready!



## — Prayer List —

Those participating in the Bible Challenge

The Sick:

Ellen Cubberley  
Isaac Gelok  
Sandra Tweed

Those on the confidential DOK prayer list

Those Expecting Children:

Shelly and Michael Brown  
Angharad and Ben Torres

The Homebound and

Those with Long-Term Illnesses:

May Ella Blanton  
Mary Bolinger  
Linda Caggiano  
Lori Crook  
David Fort  
Peggy Fort  
Beth Gettys  
Barbara Gupton  
Matthew Hall  
Rae Hammett  
Dave Hewey  
Francis Higgins  
Billie Kajma  
Jim Kennedy  
Bobby Parris  
J. L. Peake  
Marcia Peake  
Rev. Charles Smith  
Keith Smith  
Jim Spigner  
Mary Threadgill  
Priscilla Throop



## — Birthdays —

Ashley Love	Dec. 2
Dawn Bridges	Dec. 9
Garrison Thompson	Dec. 13
J.L. Peake	Dec. 14
Sudie Gelok	Dec. 16
Taylor Mabry	Dec. 17
Kelly Lewis	Dec. 20

## — Anniversaries —

David and Julie Taylor	Dec. 8
J.L. and Marcia Peake	Dec. 24
Ray and Patricia Walker	Dec. 30

## — Attendance —

Sunday, Nov. 4	78
Wednesday, Nov. 7	11
Sunday, Nov. 11	63
Wednesday, Nov. 14	7
Sunday, Nov. 18	64
Wednesday, Nov. 21	26
Sunday, Nov. 25	62

## — Milestones —

**Ernest Long** was interred in the Columbarium on November 3.

**Faith Marett Pope** transferred to Trinity, Columbia on November 5.

**Jojo Ellison** was baptized on November 11. Welcome to the family!

**Hal Cubberley** was buried November 24 and interred in the Columbarium. We miss you, friend!

petitive songs that are the hallmark of this style of worship. As we repeat the gentle songs, our hearts will still and we'll start to let go of the worries that frazzle us. Periods of silence will let us listen for God speaking to us in the scripture readings. And meditations will help us connect with the hope of Mary, the wonder of the shepherds, and the faith of the wise men. Come be still with us and find the peace of the season. Child care will be provided.



### Deck the Halls!

**Sunday, December 23**  
**After the 10:30 service**

In short order we'll transform our church from the quiet peace of Advent to the joyful glory of Christmas! Come join us as we deck the halls with poinsettias and bring out all our beautiful silver and brass again!

### Poinsettias

Are you missing a loved one at Christmas? Purchase a poinsettia in their memory. It will be used to decorate the church for our Christmas services; afterward it will be yours to take home. The lovely, full plants are just \$20 each. Sign up on the bulletin board in the hallway.



### Christmas Eve Services

**Monday, December 24**  
**5:00 and 11:00 pm**

We'll worship the newborn King together at two services on Christmas Eve. The 5:00 pm service is geared especially for children, with a participatory telling of the Christmas story that they're sure to remember. And we'll share Christ's birth in the Eucharist.

The 11:00 pm service begins in candlelight and moves toward joy, with incense and glorious music. We'll celebrate the Eucharist as the clock strikes midnight and it's Christmas Day.



## Hospitality

**Parish Christmas Party**  
**Saturday, December 8**  
**7:00 pm**  
**356 College Drive**

Come join Jenny and Miles at their home as we celebrate the season together. Bring a heavy hors d'oeuvre to share and the beverage of your choice. The house is just three doors down from the church, so you may want to park in the church lot.



**Advent Suppers**  
**December 5, 12, & 19**  
**5:30 pm**

Step away from the madcap pace of December and re-focus on the real reason for the season. Each week we'll begin with a meal together: soup, salad, and bread. And we need your help! Sign up on the bulletin board in the hallway to bring part of one week's meal. Then bring the kids (child care will be provided) for a great meal followed by a quiet, peaceful worship experience.



## Evangelism / Outreach



Once again this year we'll be adopting a family for Christmas. We've learned of a couple who are raising their six children without any governmental support.

Let's give them Christmas! Soon you'll see a tree in the hallway covered with ornaments. Each ornament lists a gift for one of the family members. Take an ornament (or several), purchase and wrap the gift listed, and tag it with the family member's name. We'll deliver them in time for the children to be amazed by God's great love for them Christmas morning.

## Coming Soon

Mark your calendars with these exciting dates!

**Vestry Work Day**  
 Saturday, January 19  
 8:30 am - noon

**Confirmation and Bishop's Visitation**  
 Sunday, January 20

**Mardi Gras Oyster Roast**  
 Saturday, February 9

**Ash Wednesday**  
 Wednesday, February 13



## Christian Education

**Godly Play**  
**Sundays, 9:30-10:15**

The children will meet a prophet, a visionary, and a man of great faith.



Dec 9 - The Story of The Prophet Ezekiel  
 Ezekiel had a message of hope for the people in exile - and for us, too.

Dec 16 - The Story of Daniel  
 Daniel envisioned a hopeful future for the people of God - and for us, too.

Dec 23 - The Story of Job  
 No matter how much he suffered, Job remained faithful - and we can, too.

**Adult Education -**  
**The Bible Challenge**  
**Sundays, 9:30-10:15**



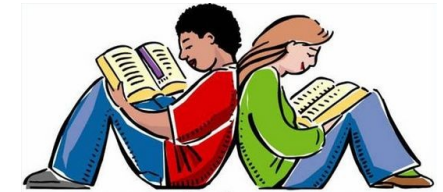
If you don't join us, we're going to wish the vengeance of Psalm 58 on you! Read the Psalm, get scared (and maybe inspired), and come discuss with us!

December's reading are:

S, Dec 1 Joshua 16-18, Psalm 70, John 4  
 S, Dec 2 hear Scriptures read in church

M, Dec 3 Joshua 19-21, Psalm 71, John 5  
 T, Dec 4 Joshua 22-24, Psalm 72, John 6  
 W, Dec 5 Judges 1-3, Psalm 73, John 7  
 T, Dec 6 Judges 4-6, Psalm 74, John 8  
 F, Dec 7 Judges 7-9, Psalm 75, John 9  
 S, Dec 8 Judges 10-12, Ps 76, John 10  
 S, Dec 9 hear Scriptures read in church

M, Dec 10 Judges 13-15, Ps 77, John 11  
 T, Dec 11 Judg 16-18, Ps 78:1-39, Jn 12  
 W, Dec 12 Jud 19-21, Ps 78:40-72, Jn 13  
 T, Dec 13 Ruth 1-4, Psalm 79, John 14  
 F, Dec 14 I Samuel 1-3, Ps 80, John 15  
 S, Dec 15 I Samuel 4-6, Ps 81, John 16  
 S, Dec 16 hear Scriptures read in church



M, Dec 17 I Samuel 7-9, Ps 82, John 17  
 T, Dec 18 I Samuel 10-12, Ps 83, John 18  
 W, Dec 19 I Sam 13-15, Ps 84, John 19  
 T, Dec 20 I Sam 16-18, Ps 85, John 20  
 F, Dec 21 I Sam 19-21, Ps 86, John 21  
 S, Dec 22 I Sam 22-24, Ps 87, Acts 1  
 S, Dec 23 hear Scriptures read in church

M, Dec 24 I Sam 25-27, Psalm 88, Acts 2  
 T, Dec 25 I Sm 28-30, Ps 89:1-18, Acts 3  
 W, Dec 26 I Sam 31, Ps 89:19-52, Acts 4  
 T, Dec 27 II Samuel 1-3, Psalm 90, Acts 5  
 F, Dec 28 II Samuel 4-6, Psalm 91, Acts 6  
 S, Dec 29 II Samuel 7-9, Ps 92, Acts 7  
 S, Dec 30 hear Scriptures read in church

M, Dec 31 II Samuel 10-12, Ps 93, Acts 8