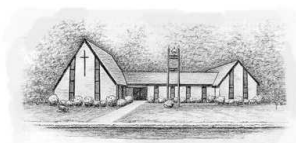


The Incarnation Word

December 2014

The Episcopal Church of the Incarnation
308 College Drive
Gaffney, SC 29340
864-489-6183
www.incarnation-gaffney.org

The Episcopal 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

2014 Vestry

Bobby Love	Senior Warden, Hospitality	864-487-7256
Scott Glidden	Junior Warden, Evangelism/Outreach	704-473-7318
Ree Batten	Christian Education	864-590-2641
Sara Harding	Pastoral Care	864-463-7922
Danny Stacy	Buildings/Grounds	864-489-7401
Lori Thompson	Stewardship	504-982-4576
Carla Winter	Worship	864-489-2636

<i>ex officio</i> , David Taylor	Treasurer	864-838-5602
<i>ex officio</i> , Renée McFalls,	Vestry Clerk	864-487-0049

Blessed Advent to you!

As the stores put their Christmas decorations on final clearance, we're just beginning the season of waiting and watching for Jesus' birth. We anticipate our annual celebration of his coming to a Bethlehem stable many years ago, and we also look for his second coming. Advent is a time to prepare our hearts to receive Jesus in a new, deeper way. So Advent involves a certain stillness and quiet in which we can become aware of our need for Jesus.



It can be very hard to truly keep Advent while all around us there swirls a frantic frenzy of Christmas activities. So that's why things will look very different in the church during this season, and why we'll do some things differently.

First, there are the decorations. The color for Advent is blue, the color associated with Mary, the color of the sky just before

dawn breaks. It's the color of something wonderful about to burst forth, the color of waiting and watching. You'll notice a



Christmas tree beside the altar. It will be decorated with ornaments that are symbols for Jesus. Each one reminds us of a part of Jesus' ministry and so a part of our need for him.

Our services will begin differently during Advent. Our Song of Praise will be "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel."

As we sing it, a family will come forward to place figures in the manger scene and to light the Advent wreath. Each week we'll see the manger fill with those who'll be present for Jesus' birth. And we'll see the light of Christ spread around the Advent wreath, filling it as Jesus' birth draws near.



The tone of our Eucharistic prayer will be more solemn. It will be chanted using an ancient Mozarabic tune, one which invites you to slow down and be still. As you



come forward for Communion, you'll notice two things. Pat+ will be seated in front of the pulpit ready to pray with you. As you examine your need for Jesus this season, there may be things you'd

like someone to help you pray about. Pat+ is there to pray alongside you, helping you lift your concerns to God. There will also be prayer candles next to the manger scene. You may say a prayer as you light one, watching the light continue to send the prayer up to God even after you've returned to your seat. The candles are a visual reminder that God continues to heed



our prayers long after we've finished praying them.

It's the prayer of the Worship Committee that all these elements will help you keep a blessed Advent, because when our hearts are ready to receive Jesus anew, Christmas will be all the more joyous!

God's Peace,
Jenny+

Christian Education

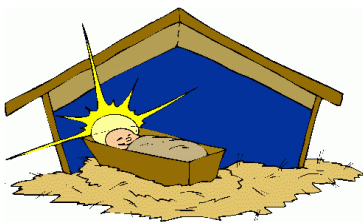
Godly Play Sundays at 9:30

Our children will continue to explore the stories of their faith as they listen for God's voice speaking to them.

Dec 14 - The Promised Land

The children will pass through the river Jordan with the people of God and enter into the promised land.

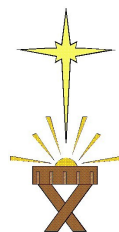
Dec 21 - The Holy Family



The children will tell the story of Christ's birth using the figures in the creche.

Grapple Sundays at 9:30

The pre-teens will gather in their classroom to explore where their faith intersects their lives.



The Bible Challenge Discussion Group Sundays at 9:30



We continue to work our way through the whole New Testament in a year. Come join the discussion - even if you're behind in the reading!

Mon, Dec 1 - Luke 12:13-48

Sunday	Mon.	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Friday	Saturday
30 1st Advent 8:30 Holy Eucharist I 9:30 Christian Ed. 10:30 Holy Eucharist II	1	2	3 5:30 Kids' Choir 6:00 Advent Supper and Service 7:30 Choir	4	5 Rector's Sabbath	6 Jenny at DEC Mtg 6:00 Luminaries & Caroling
7 2nd Advent 8:30 Holy Eucharist I 9:30 Breakfast and Annual Parish Meeting 10:30 Holy Eucharist II	8	9 6:30 EfM	10 5:30 Kids' Choir 6:00 Advent Supper and Service 7:30 Choir	11	12 Rector's Sabbath	13 9:30 DOK
14 3rd Advent 8:30 Holy Eucharist I 9:30 Christian Ed 10:30 Holy Eucharist II 11:45 Worship Committee Meeting 2:00-6:00 Holiday Tour	15	16 6:30 EfM	17 5:30 Kids' Choir 6:00 Advent Supper and Service 7:30 Choir	18	19 Rector's Sabbath	20 Reverse Farm Stand 7:00 Church Christmas Party
21 4th Advent 8:30 Holy Eucharist I 9:30 Christian Ed. 10:30 Holy Eucharist II	22	23	24 Christmas Eve 5:00 Holy Eucharist 11:00 Holy Eucharist	25 Christmas Day 	26	27 BREAD FROM HEAVEN 8:00-noon
28 1st Christmas 8:30 Holy Eucharist I 9:30 Fellowship 10:30 Holy Eucharist II	29	30	31 New Years Eve	1 New Years Day	2	3
.....Jenny on vacation.....						

Date	Dec. 7 10:30	Dec. 14 10:30	Dec. 21 10:30	Dec. 24 5:00 pm	Dec. 24 11:00 pm	Dec. 28 10:30
Acolyte	Leslie B.	Ellis G.	Arnold T.	Ellis G.	Leslie B.	Michael D.
OT Lector	Bobbi A.	Scott G.	Martha S.	None	Scott G.	Ben T.
NT Lector	Michael D.	Warren G.	John G.	None	Cynthia G.	Cynthia G.
Intercessor	None	None	None	None	Bobbi A.	Danny S.
Euch Min	Renée M.	Lori T.	Betty T.	Pat G.	Lori T.	Leslie B.
Advent Family	Greenes	Torreses	Hardings	Batten	Stacies	None
Torch	None	None	None	Miriam H. Ruben H.	None	None
Thurifer	None	None	None	None	Michael D.	None
Altar Guild	Jackie H. LaDonna W. Carla W.	May Ella B. Charlotte H. Hope G. Marty M.	Dawn B. Jennie H.	All Altar Guild	All Altar Guild	Sudie G. Cindy L.
Greeters	Loves	Greenes	Hoffmans	Greenes	Loves	Pirkey
Nursery	Julie T.	Marty M.	Sara H.	None	None	Volunteer
Kids' Chapel	David T.	Ree B.	Luke H.	None	None	Lori T.
Godly Play	None	Marty M. Hope G.	Cynthia G. Carol P.	None	None	None
Coffee Hour	Breakfast	Marty M.	Dawn B. Jennie H.	None	None	Sudie G.
Counters	David T. Scott G.	David T. Cynthia G.	John G. Ann T.	Ben T. David T.	Scott G. Bobby L.	Ben T. David T.

Tues, Dec 2- Luke 12:49-13:9
 Wed, Dec 3 - Luke 13:10-35
 Thurs, Dec 4 - Luke 14:1-15:10
 Fri, Dec 5 - Luke 15:11-32
 Sat, Dec 6 - Luke 16:1-17:10

Sun. Dec 7 - Luke 17:11-18:14
 Mon, Dec 8 - Luke 18:15-19:27
 Tues, Dec 9- Luke 19:28-20:19
 Wed, Dec 10 - Luke 20:20-47
 Thurs, Dec 11 - Luke 21:1-38
 Fri, Dec 12 - Luke 22:1-34
 Sat, Dec 13 - Luke 22:35-71



Sun, Dec 14 - Luke 23:1-25
 Mon, Dec 15 - Luke 23:26-56
 Tues, Dec 16 - Luke 24:1-35
 Wed, Dec 17 - Luke 24:36-53
 Thurs, Dec 18 - John 1:1-28
 Fri, Dec 19 - John 1:29-51
 Sat, Dec 20 - John 2

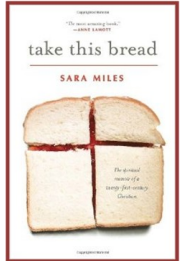
Sun, Dec 21 - John 3:1-36
 Mon, Dec 22 - John 4:1-42
 Tues, Dec 23 - John 4:43-5:18
 Wed, Dec 24 - John 5:19-47
 Thurs, Dec 25 - John 6:1-25
 Fri, Dec 26 - John 6:26-59
 Sat, Dec 27 - John 6:60-7:9

Sun, Dec 28 - John 7:10-30

Mon, Dec 29 - John 7:31-52
 Tues, Dec 30 -John 7:53-8:20
 Wed, Dec 31 -John 8:21-36

Coming in January...

Epiphany Book Study Sundays at 9:30 am



Early one morning, for no earthly reason, Sara Miles, raised an atheist, wandered into an Episcopal church, received communion, and found herself transformed - embracing a faith she'd once scorned. Miles didn't discover a religion that was about angels or good behavior or piety; her faith centered on real hunger, real food, and real bodies. Before long, she turned the bread she ate at communion into tons of groceries piled on the church's altar to be given away. Within a few years, she and the people she served had started nearly a dozen food pantries in the poorest parts of their city.

Sarah Miles tells her story in this remarkable book. Be warned: she's a little rough around the edges, and her language isn't always rated PG. But her story will make you see the power of the Eucharist and the value of feeding the hungry in new ways.

Copies of the book are \$13 each. Sign up on the bulletin board in the hallway so Jenny will know how many books to order. Classes start January 11.

Worship

Kids' Choir

**Wednesdays December 3, 10, and 17
5:30-6:00 pm**

The Incarnation kids will be making a joyful noise to the Lord together this Advent. We'll spend 30 minutes each Wednesday singing and clapping and playing. We'll learn songs which the children will then sing as the anthems at the 10:30 service all season.

Parents, a practice CD is available for you to take with you so you and your little ones can start singing the songs at home. And if you have any simple rhythm instruments we could borrow, please let Jenny+ know.



Advent Wednesdays December 3, 10, and 17 6:00-7:30 pm

We'll gather at 6:00 for a simple meal of soup and sandwiches. Then we'll worship together in a casual, kid-friendly way. We'll light candles and sing songs. And we'll hear some wonderful stories as we think about what we each have to give to the Christ child.



Poinsettias

Our Christmas altar will be surrounded by beautiful poinsettias. You may purchase one (or more!)

in memory of a loved one no longer with us or in honor of someone special. Plants are \$25 each, and they'll be yours to take home after the services. Sign up on the bulletin board in the hallway.

Early Christmas Eve Service Wednesday, December 24, at 5:00



Bring the kids and join us for this fun, interactive service. The children will help tell the Christmas story and then we'll all share the Eucharist together.

Candlelight Christmas Eve Service Wednesday, December 24, at 11:00

We'll begin in the quiet of candlelight and then crescendo with joy as we celebrate the birth of Christ. We'll celebrate the Eucharist as Christmas Day dawns. Join us on this most holy of nights.



Prayer List

The Sick:

Nancy Glidden
Arnold Tucker

Those on the Confidential Daughters of the King Prayer List

The Homebound and Those with Long-Term Needs:

May Ella Blanton
Mike Bradburn
Bill Bradley
Ronnie Brown
Renee Carnes
Lori Crook
Miller David
Peggy Fort
Isaac Gelok
Barbara Gupton
Billy Hatcher
Frances Higgins
Nancy Jude
Jim Kennedy
Catherine Long
Bobby Parris
J. L. Peake
Marcia Peake
Bruce Risher
Suzanne Searson
Keith Smith
Jim Spigner
Mary Threadgill
Bruce Tyson
Betty Griffin Weaver

The Deceased:

Birthdays

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

Anniversaries

David & Julie Taylor	Dec. 8
John & Marcia Peake	Dec. 24
Ray & Pat Walker	Dec. 30

Attendance

Wednesday, Oct. 29	6
Sunday, Nov. 2	49
Sunday, Nov. 9	49
Sunday, Nov. 16	49
Sunday, Nov. 23	55

Milestones

Steve and Paula Boggs transferred back to Incarnation from their church in New York on October 29. Thank you both for the vote of confidence in our parish - we're so glad you're part of our family!

Hospitality

Breakfast Sunday, December 7 at 9:30



Our crack team of chefs will be at it again. This month they'll serve a big ole' Southern breakfast of eggs, grits, bacon, sausage, and homemade biscuits with sausage gravy.

Advent Wednesday Suppers Wednesday December 3, 10, and 17 6:00 pm

We'll begin each Wednesday night in Advent with a simple supper together of soup and sandwiches -



something the whole family will enjoy. Sign up on the bulletin board in the hallway to provide all or part of one week's meal as we celebrate Advent together.

Incarnation Christmas Party Saturday, December 20 at 7:00pm

Everyone's invited (kids, too) to celebrate the season at Jenny and Miles' home (356 College Drive, three doors down from the church). Bring a heavy hors d'oeuvre to share and whatever you'd like to drink and come relax with your church family.



Readings

	First Reading	Psalm	Second Reading	Gospel
Dec. 7 Advent 2	Isaiah 40:1-11	Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13	2 Peter 3:8-15a	Mark 1:1-8
Dec. 14 Advent 3	Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11	Psalm 126	1 Thessalonians 5:16-24	John 1:6-8, 19-28
Dec. 21 Advent 4	2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16	Canticle 3 - S-185	Romans 16:25-27	Luke 1:26-38
Dec. 24 Christmas Eve	Isaiah 9:2-7	Psalm 96	Titus 2:11-14	Luke 2:1-20
Dec. 28 1st Christmas	Isaiah 61:10-62:3	Psalm 147	Galatians 3:23-25;4:4-7	John 1:1-18

Evangelism / Outreach

Luminaries and Caroling Saturday, December 6 6:00-7:30

This year we'll treat drivers-by to a live nativity scene along with our festive carols. Sign up on the bulletin board in the hallway to be part of the fun!



Holiday Tour Sunday, December 14 2:00-6:00 pm

Incarnation will be on the CHAPS holiday tour! Sign up on the bulletin board in the hallway to take a shift welcoming folks and sharing what you love about Incarnation. It's a great way for us to meet some folks who may be looking for a church home!

Bread from Heaven Saturday, December 27 8:00-12:00

Come help us share the Christmas spirit with our hungry friends. Sign up on the bulletin board in the hallway so we'll be sure we have enough folks to help. Also, if you have coats to donate, please continue to bring them. We'll give them away this day.

Christmas Kids

There are still a few ornaments on our tree in the hallway. Feel free to take one, purchase and wrap the gift on it, attach the gift tag to it, and return it to the tree by Sunday, December 7. It will brighten the season for a child who's spending Christmas in foster care.



Vestry News

Annual Meeting Sunday, December 7 at 9:30

As we begin the season of Advent and the new church year, we'll celebrate all God has done at Incarnation over the past year. We'll have our regular breakfast together and discuss over our meal. We'll also elect four new vestry members, select two people to serve as delegates to Diocesan Convention for the next two years, and approve a budget for 2015 (see pages 6-

7). Join us and let your voice be heard!

Vestry Retreat Saturday, January 17 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Current vestry and those to be elected, please make a note of this very important retreat at which we'll set goals for 2015.



Stewardship

2015 Budget

Item	2014 Est.	Actual	2015 Budget
INCOME	\$115,100		\$129,764
Pledged	82,000		94,664
Unpledged	33,100		35,100
Plate	13,500		15,500
Men's Breakfast	150		150
Oyster Roast	1,400		1,400
Campbell Trust Interest	18,050		18,050
EXPENSES	\$150,599		\$138,599
Administration	\$140,054		\$128,054
Diocesan Assessment	18,000		6,000
Salaries	78,626		78,626
Supply Clergy Stipends/Travel	173		173
Rector Stipend	27,552		27,552
Rector Housing	21,934		21,934
Rector Travel Reimb.	2,175		2,175
Rector Continuing Ed.	419		419
Rector Pension	8,907		8,907
Deacon Travel Reimb.	2,280		2,280
Organist / Choir Director	9,559		9,559
Parish Sec / Bookkeeper	5,800		5,800
Insurance	5,886		5,886
Church Insurance	5,500		5,500
Workers' Comp	386		386
FICA	950		950
Medicare	222		222
Mortgage Interest and Principal	17,900		17,900
Convention fees	90		90
Utilities	11,160		11,160
Phone / Internet	1,700		1,700
Gas	2,600		2,600
Water / Electric	6,860		6,860

Office Expenses	7,220	7,220
Postage	650	650
Office Expenses	4,200	4,200
Copier Rental	2,370	2,370
Buildings and Grounds	\$6,905	\$6,905
Maintenance	825	825
Lawn Care	0	0
Security	250	250
Cleaning	5,780	5,780
Cleaning Supplies	50	50
Christian Education	\$990	\$990
Christian Ed.	500	500
Children's Ed.	150	150
Vacation Bible School	340	340
Evangelism & Outreach	0	0
Hospitality	0	0
Pastoral Care	0	0
Stewardship	\$1,200	\$1,200
Mission Donations	1200	1,200
Worship	\$1,450	\$1,450
Altar Supplies	300	300
Music / Choir Supplies	200	200
Worship Expenses	300	300
Organ Repair	0	0
Altar Flowers	650	650
Total Expenses	\$150,599	\$138,599