

Episcopal Church of the Incarnation

Senior Warden's Interim Report

September 14, 2007



Dear Friends,

It has now been 4 months since the beginning of my term as Senior Warden, and I believe that I am a bit overdue in providing an update on the current state of the church. It has been a busy, productive and blessed summer and fall. The week-long youth music camp was a rousing success. We are now preparing for this week's Visitor's Sunday with Joe's sermon drawing from the Harry Potter books and with some very special music from Brian Buckner and the talented visiting musicians and singers that he has graced our worship with from time to time.

It has also been a very challenging four months for me personally and for the entire Bishop's Committee. As many of you already know, the single largest challenge facing our church has been stabilizing our financial situation. As I mentioned in a brief oral update to the parish in June, our church has received an insurance payment covering most of our losses from the funds embezzled by our former bookkeeper last year. I would like to thank Linda Kalikin for her diligent work in both documenting the embezzlement for our insurance claim and for going back and correcting the chaos left within our bookkeeping system by our former bookkeeper.

I am very fortunate to have the opportunity to work on these and other issues facing our Church with a group of very talented and motivated individuals who are serving on our Bishop's Committee, Finance Committee and Fund Raising Committee. The members of our Finance Committee, Ed Hagopian, Linda Kalikin, and Gloria Llamas have been working diligently to correct our books, update and improve our accounting system and improve our system of financial checks and balances. The Bishop's Committee has approved and implemented these fiscal policies and we are continuing to work on further updates to improve accountability and transparency of the church's finances to our parish and to the Diocese.

Michael Beasley is setting up a filing system for personnel records and helping to establish standard operating procedures for Incarnation's paid and volunteer staff. Lisa Zuber has re-established our Fundraising Committee together with Amy Higgins, Mary King, Michael Beasley and Lorrie Douglas. They will be kicking off fundraising this fall with a car wash and bake sale on Sunday, September 23 from 9 am to 3 pm. Once again, Hagopian Cleaning Services will be helping us out by offering vehicle interior cleaning.

We will also soon be receiving a pastoral letter from Joe Summers outlining some initial plans for reducing the church's debt burden through additional fundraising along with matching grants that have been generously offered to the church.

Considering the importance of the church's financial issues, the Bishop's Committee will be establishing quarterly after-church meetings to discuss church finances at least through the end of the next fiscal year (FY2008). The hope is to keep the lines of communication open, update the parish on where we are and give parishioners a chance to air their concerns. We are planning is to do together with pot-luck lunches after church 4 times per year. We will be fixing the date for the first meeting over the next two weeks.

So overall I am seeing some challenges and hard work ahead for us this year as a parish, but I also see very positive signs of us pulling together as a faith community community that is working towards common goals.

Yours in Christ,

Joe McDonald