



THE CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION PARISH POST

JUNE 2021

A NOTE FROM THE RECTOR



As you have probably already noticed, it's been a busy month of construction here at Incarnation. A lot is going on behind the scenes but we have also made a good deal of progress on some of the more visible parts of our project. In particular, the base of our new bell tower has been installed and four

new cast bronze bells have arrived (the largest of which is 1,000 lbs.)!

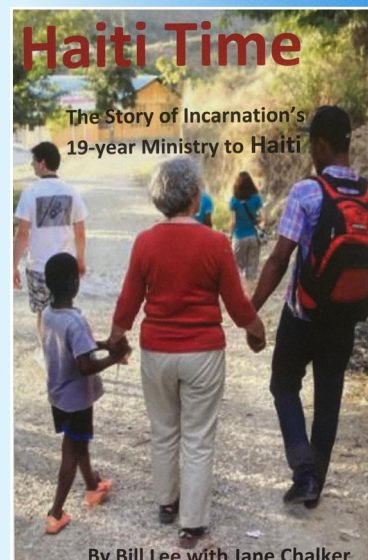
For centuries, church bells have served the very basic function of calling people to prayer. Additionally, bells are used to mark solemn occasions like weddings and funerals. It has been said that bells are a sort of "singing icon," as they create beautiful harmonic space around the church, just as art and architecture define it visually. In the mind of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow "bells are the voice of the church."


As we anticipate the warm and rich tones that will soon ring out from our new bell tower, I can't help but think about our own voices and the words we offer to the world around us. In the Epistle of James we hear that with our tongues "we bless the Lord and Father, and with [them] we curse those who are made in the likeness of God. From the same mouth come blessing and cursing." James believes our tongues are powerful - capable of building up as well as tearing down.

I'm certain our bell tower will be a powerful witness - a singing icon - to the community of Highlands. What a joy it will be to hear them ring! In the end however, the most powerful messenger of God's grace are human lives like yours and mine. Pray then, sisters and brother, that we would join the chorus of bells such that our lives might ring the Good News we have received in Christ Jesus.

HAITI TIME: THE STORY OF INCARNATION'S 19-YEAR MINISTRY TO HAITI

It is well-known among Incarnation's parishioners that our church has a Haiti mission and that Jane Chalker is involved. But the story goes much deeper. A new publication details the history of that Haiti mission, the involvement of Jane Chalker over nearly two decades, and the work of many in the church to improve the lives of Haitians. Entitled *Haiti Time: The Story of Incarnation's Nineteen Year Mission to Haiti*, the book is an eighteen-month collaborative effort by Jane and Bill Lee. Over 137 pages, many with full-color photographs taken by Jane, Bill, and others who have traveled with the mission. The book opens with a narrative of the mission. Other chapters contain profiles and lists of the young people we've helped, how to prepare for a trip to Haiti, what you might experience, and typical foods you might be served. Donations for *Haiti Time* will go for the care of the abandoned children by Bon Sauveur Episcopal church in Cange, Haiti. **The book is available from Jane Chalker (828-421-1107) and in the church office.**





VACATION BIBLE CAMP: ABUNDANT LIFE

August 2-6, 2021

9 AM - Noon

Church of the Incarnation &
First Presbyterian Church of Highlands
[Held at First Presbyterian Church -
571 Main Street, Highlands]

Register at incarnationwnc.org or
www.fpchighlands.com

Rising K - Rising 5th graders welcome!



FIRST QUARTER 2021 FINANCIAL REPORT

We are very grateful for the wonderful generosity of our parish in giving of your time, talent, and financial support during the trying times we have experienced during the Covid pandemic. While the 1st Quarter Financial Report below looks sunny, it important to note that our financials probably appear a bit brighter than they actually are for a couple of reasons. To offset personnel expenses, we received \$77,800 from the government's Payroll Protection Program (PPP) Loans that are expected to be forgiven as they were in 2020. We also allocated to 2021, \$29,163 received from the Bell Tower Endowment in 2020 and not used due to the Glorious Vision construction. In preparing a conservative Balanced Budget for 2021, these funds were taken into account. As the year progresses and the Covid restrictions are

eased, our expenses for parish life, worship, and outreach will increase while our fixed expenses will continue. As a result the excess funds we show on our report today are spoken for in the quarters ahead.

In order to meet our Balanced Budget, we must meet our \$747,000 annual budget for Pledge and Plate. As a result, it is imperative that we all continue to honor our pledges and make plate offerings as we can even though we are not yet fully worshipping together. With your help, we will continue to follow our mission of proclaiming the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ through worship, love and service.

Faithfully,
 Nick Scielzo, Treasurer
 Lana Jordan, Finance Committee Chair

ACCOUNT BALANCES AS OF MARCH 31, 2021			
General Operating Cash Funds:		\$152,218	
General Operating Investment Funds:			
DFMS Trust Investment Account		\$506,653	
Fidelity Government Money Market Account		<u>\$101,795</u>	
TOTAL		\$608,448	
TOTAL LIQUID ASSETS		\$760,666	
1ST QUARTER CASH FLOW			
Receipts:			
Pledge and Plate Receipts		\$188,824	
Interest and Dividends Earned		\$ 3,078	
Undesignated Contributions		\$ 12,348	
PPP Loan Proceeds		\$ 77,800	
Bell Tower Endowment Receipt		\$ 29,163	
Music Program Pledged Gift		<u>\$ 3,100</u>	
TOTAL		\$314,313	
Disbursements:			
TOTAL for Personnel, Outreach, Parish Expenses, and Music		\$186,349	
TOTAL RECEIPTS IN EXCESS OF DISBURSEMENTS:		\$127,964	

A LETTER FROM YOUR THE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE

Dear Friend of Incarnation,

Imagine it is Christmas Eve, this year, in Highlands. A light snow is falling, and Christians of all denominations are making their way to evening services. In the air, we hear the crisp, exhilarating sound of church bells ringing out with joyous cheer. ***It is the sound of the new bells in the steeple at the Church of the Incarnation!*** — illuminated and visible against the night sky, welcoming all to rejoice in God's gift of the Incarnation in Christ Jesus!

As we write to you, the first stage of the steeple structure has been erected, ***the bells have arrived*** and construction on our **Glorious Vision** renovation is nearing completion. We are truly thankful for the many things God has done and is doing in our parish. It is wonderful to see the Holy Spirit at work! Friends and members have contributed and pledged more than \$5.7 million toward our \$6 million Glorious Vision campaign goal, and ***we extend our deepest thanks to everyone for their generous support.***

Special Announcement. Last summer we shared exciting news of a Glorious Vision Matching Gift

of up to \$500,000 for every new or additional gift or pledge received. Since then, we have received over \$350,000 in new and additional gifts that have been matched, and we are eager to secure the remaining \$150,000 in gifts to fulfill the matching gift promise!

Now, as we reach toward our goal, **every new gift or pledge to Glorious Vision will be matched — dollar for dollar** — until the full \$500,000 match is secured! If you have not yet contributed, or if you have already contributed or made a pledge and would like to add to your support, now is the time!

Thank you again for your wonderful support! Remember, every gift is important, no matter the amount—**and now every new gift or new pledge will be matched dollar for dollar** until we meet our goal! We want everyone in the parish to participate in this Glorious Vision!

Yours in Christ,

The Glorious Vision Campaign Committee
www.gloriousvision.org





NEW BELLS FOR INCARNATION

Many have asked when the new bells are going to be installed. The good news is that we now have a firm date! On June 7 we will begin work on putting the bells in place. This process, however, will take a total of three full days to complete. Please consider walking by the church from June 7- 9 to see this exciting (and historic) moment for the life of our parish family.

NOTES FROM THE VESTRY

May 2021

MINUTES: Father Bentley presented the minutes for the April 20, 2021 meeting for approval. Ruth Claiborne made a motion to accept the minutes as stated. Janis Erikson seconded. Passed unanimously.

FINANCIALS: Father Bentley turned the meeting over to Nick Scielzo, treasurer. Nick gave an overview of the April 2021 financials:

Capital Campaign is going well. We collected \$28,960.63 in revenues for April. To date we have a combined amount of \$2,006,703.09 in the checking and Vanguard accounts. Our expenses were \$413,650.29 in April. We have not had to use any of the bridge loan to date. Brief discussion regarding the project progress.

Operating financials remain sound during April. Small fluctuation in the Operating Reserve. We are down approximately \$10,000. Page 11 showed some activity in the Temp Restricted Holding accounts. Other memorials had expenses for altar replacement items. Haiti received the 2nd quarter funds from the budget to cover the next wire transfer for teacher's salaries. Page 12 overview shows revenues exceeded disbursements. Nick reminded the Vestry that a portion of the surplus is a result of the PPP loan proceeds of \$77,800, BTE receipt of \$21,162 and Music Pledge gifts of \$4,200. Pledge and plate revenues combined show approximately \$29,000 over budget. Expenses continue to hold in check. Nick pointed out the following as points of interest within the budget:

Florence Holmes made a motion to accept the financials as stated. Melanie Couch seconded. Passed unanimously.

GLORIOUS VISION UPDATE: Father Bentley gave updates on the progress, timeline, and budget for the project. Steel is currently being erected for the new steeple/bell tower. HVAC systems are being replaced. Drywall in the 5th Street entrance and the ceiling in the sanctuary. We are continuing to stay within budget under the supervision of the Building Committee.

BTE UPDATE: Jean Head gave an update on the Bell Tower letter and response. The BTE board will be giving a total of \$59,000 for 2021.

HAITI: Mother Kellan shared with the Vestry the new book authored by Bill Lee & Jane Chalker, "Haiti Time." Wonderful little book capturing the 19-year trek with our relationships in Haiti through Jane Chalker and others. They are available for any donation amount and the proceeds will go towards the support of the Orphanage/Children's Home in Haiti. There will be books in the church office or through Jane Chalker.

VBS: Mother Kellan announced to the Vestry that the parish and First Presbyterian Church of Highlands will have a joint Vacation Bible Camp. We will be using 1st Pres facility since ours is under construction. It will take place August 2-6. Work is underway preparing for this. Anyone wanting to volunteer to help should contact her.



JUNE BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

Bradley (Brad) Spaulding – 6/1	Judy Urban – 6/20
James (Jim) Rothermel – 6/5	John Waters – 6/23
Joseph Parker – 6/6	Grat Rosazza – 6/24
Carl Romberg – 6/7	Kathryn Harwood – 6/25
James (Jim) Mitchell – 6/8	Emerson Swift – 6/25
William Greehey – 6/9	Nicholas (Nick) Scielzo – 6/27
David Heller – 6/10	Diane McPhail – 6/28
Susan Messner – 6/10	John (Jack) Ralston – 6/28
Janet Beck – 6/10	Marjean Preda – 6/28
Jodi Bennet-Cabler – 6/11	Pauline (Paula) Kreiner – 6/29
Thomas (Tom) Claiborne – 6/12	Martha Dupuis – 6/30
Stanley (Stan) Sheldon – 6/19	

JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

Hoyt & Susan Andres – 6/4	Stephen & Carol Lucas – 6/19
Wayne & Judy Urban – 6/5	Elliott & Ginny Dunwody – 6/20
Sam & Barbara Gassaway – 6/7	Norman & Suzy Mosely – 6/21
John & Luba Barnhardt – 6/10	Joe & Pat Parker – 6/22
David & Sarabeth Rountree – 6/13	Morris & Ann Williams – 6/25
Stan & Jessie Sheldon – 6/14	Codie & Melanie Couch – 6/29
Bill & Muffi Chanfrau – 6/16	Bill & Laura Walker – 6/29
Alwyn & Peachy Staley – 6/16	Neil & Hays Howard – 6/30

THE CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION
520 Main Street; P. O. Box 729
Highlands, North Carolina 28741-0729
Phone (828) 526-2968
Fax (828) 526-9290
www.incarnationwnc.org

THE PARISH POST



The Rev. Bentley Manning

Rector
828-526-2968, ext. 204
bentley@incarnationwnc.org



The Rev. Kellan Day

Assistant Rector
828-526-2968, ext. 206
kellan@incarnationwnc.org



Charles M. Banks

Organist and Choirmaster
charlesmbanks@gmail.com



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 dedicate ourselves to this purpose.