

On the mind of the Rev. J. Gregory Morgan...

My fellow parishioners,

If we have not yet met, it is only that I am quite new to Incarnation. I've been worshipping here since I retired from my position as Priest-in-Charge at St. Alban's parish on Staten Island at the end of April. Since this meant that I was "unmoored" on Sunday mornings, I have been attending services at Incarnation where my husband, Thomas M. Reefer, is your parish administrator and organist/choirmaster. I have also taught a Bible study unit on the Book of Exodus before the 11:00 service and have officiated at one of the midweek Eucharists recently, so I am gradually getting to know the congregation.

I am writing to you this week to invite you to join me in a more concentrated form of Christian adult formation than you may have encountered before, a course developed for the laity at the Episcopal seminary in Sewanee TN at the University of the South. The course is called Education for Ministry, and we sent out an introductory article about it in a previous edition of the weekly electronic newsletter. I wanted to remind you of what EfM is, what an opportunity it represents, and also invite you to one of two available information sessions to learn more. This is a four-year course (you sign up for one year at a time) in scripture (both the Old and New Testaments, church history, theology, ethics and interfaith experiences). I have agreed to mentor the group at Incarnation which is already in existence; since participants graduate after four years, we always need to recruit new members for the class (each group includes from 6 to 12 students). This means that an individual EfM class can include students in any of the four years covered in the course and in some cases all four so that there is a lot of cross-fertilization each week (the course is offered over a 36-week period each year from fall through early summer). Thus, this update of our original announcement about EfM.

Let me explain that EfM played a very significant role in my formation as an adult Christian. In 2000-2001 I took Year One in Maine where we spent summers when I was working in Washington, and I finished the other three years at Grace & Holy Trinity Cathedral in Kansas City, MO in 2001-2004, after which I became an official mentor. Even though I grew up in the home of a Protestant minister and was immersed in church throughout my childhood and young adulthood, EfM was a real eye-opener for me because we sometimes need a lot of exposure before ideas can really take shape in our intellects. That's what happened with me as I explored the topics covered in this course. Ultimately, it actually led me to enter Holy Orders and become a priest. That is not the purpose of EfM, but it is sometimes the outcome for some participants because the course opens up vistas that even those with a long-standing relationship with the church can benefit from on many levels.

Since there is much more you would want to know before enrolling, Deacon Denise LaVetty and I are offering two formal information sessions for parishioners who would like to explore the opportunity in greater depth. See the announcement below for details. I hope you will join us to learn more about how you can deepen your own faith and begin to see scripture and the tradition of the church in a whole new light.

TODAY AFTER CHURCH

Visitors are invited to pick up a welcome bag at the back of the church.

All are welcome to Coffee Hour in the Parish House following the 11:00 a.m. service.

For those interested in a brief tour of the church's art and architecture, please meet one of our volunteer tour guides at the Chapel of the Resurrection near the back of the church.

EDUCATION FOR MINISTRY

Are you looking to deepen your faith? To learn more about the Bible, Christian tradition, church history, and theology? If so, Incarnation offers a high-quality course to interested parishioners — Education for Ministry (EfM).

To learn about EfM at Incarnation, please join us for an online introduction on **Wednesday, July 31, at 7:00 p.m.** or in the Parish Dining Room on **Sunday, August 11, at 12:30 p.m.** Your hosts for the introductory sessions will be

the Rev. J. Gregory Morgan, new group mentor in 2024, and the Rev. Canon Deacon Denise LaVetty of the church staff, our diocesan contact for the program. Each session will last one hour.

Contact Deacon Denise at dlavetty@churchoftheincarnation.org for Zoom access information if you are interested in the online introductory session.

For more information about EfM generally, go to theology.sewanee.edu/education-for-ministry.

FUNERAL FOR TED HARRISON

Saturday, August 3, 11:00 a.m. Please join us for the funeral of long-time parishioner Edmund (Ted) Harrison, followed by a catered reception in the Parish House. **If you would like to help with set-up or clean-up for the reception, please email the Rev. Dr. Nate Lee at nlee@churchoftheincarnation.org.**

MOVIE NIGHT

Tuesday, August 13, 6:30 to 9:00 p.m. Join us for a combined fellowship and learning opportunity! The subject of our gathering will be *Freud's Last Session*, a 2023 film starring Anthony Hopkins and based on a play by the same name. It imagines a fictional debate between Freud and prominent Christian author C.S. Lewis, as Lewis defends his reasons for rejecting atheism and becoming a Christian. We'll gather in the Parish House Living Room for some refreshments and a viewing of the film. Afterwards, we'll stick around for a discussion of its key themes and message. Please contact the Rev. Dr. Nate Lee at nlee@churchoftheincarnation.org to RSVP.

20s/30s ROOFTOP GATHERING

Thursday, August 22, 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. Young adults in their twenties and thirties are invited to gather on the rooftop of the Parish House. We'll have some drinks and other refreshments, and a chill time of fellowship and catching up. So, come take a break from the heat of the dog days and enjoy a beverage and some snacks on us! RSVP to the Rev. Dr. Nate Lee at nlee@churchoftheincarnation.org.

MORAVIAN OPEN DOOR BBQ

Saturday, August 31, at 1:00 p.m. Moravian Open Door (MOD) has invited us to join them for their annual Barbecue Blowout. This is a resident promoted event that they celebrate each year, and this year they want to share it with their friends at Incarnation. There will be great food, great music, a lot of fun and maybe some fancy dance moves. Bring a big smile and a happy heart to 347 East 18th Street to celebrate the end of summer and the joy of fellowship. Speak to parishioner Lenore Ritter for more information about this event or our ministry with MOD.

LIFT EVERY VOICE AND SING – HYMNAL DEDICATION

As our organ is being restored, we've expanded our singing repertoire with hymns from the African American and gospel traditions, which the Episcopal Church has gathered together in "Lift Every Voice and Sing II" (LEVAS). Soon we'll be purchasing copies of LEVAS for the pews, and you're invited to dedicate a LEVAS hymnal to honor someone special or a special occasion.

The dedication cost is \$25 per hymnal, and there will be a book plate placed on the inside cover to note the dedication as well as the donor. To donate \$25 and dedicate a hymnal, scan the QR code below or go to churchoftheincarnation.org/donate and select "Lift Every Voice and Sing" from the dropdown menu. Be sure to type your dedication in the memo line.

