

### *On the mind of Vestry Member Lenore Ritter...*

Gratitude seems to me a very kind and positive word, a caring and joy-filled word that embraces appreciation and sometimes even a little relief. It can be displayed quietly with a simple “thanks” and a handshake or with joyous song and praise.

At this time of year, we celebrate a social holiday, a federal holiday, and a religious holiday (Yes, Thanksgiving Day is our liturgical calendar!) that is all about thanks and giving. Whether it is thanks for the year we have survived or for the blessings we have received, it reminds us that life itself is a gift.

We, traditionally, gather with family and friends to share food and the comfort of fellowship on Thanksgiving Day and remember how fortunate we are. We also look forward to Advent and the coming of the time when we celebrate the birth of our Lord with joy.

Every Sunday at the 8:30 a.m. service of Holy Eucharist, we say, “All things come of thee Oh Lord, and of thine own have we given thee” as the priest raises the collection plate to God at the altar. This is our chance to proclaim our gratitude for these and many more gifts and to acknowledge our understanding of the One who has made them possible.

The Psalms are filled with admonitions to show praise and gratitude to the Lord, which results in loving and positive feelings in us. We are invited to enjoy our thankfulness and celebrate with gratitude, to lift up our hearts and rejoice. What a wonderful way to express our faith.

Lenore

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### **BE A PART OF OPERATION SANTA**

Operation Santa is our annual Christmas service project. Parishioners are invited to select a letter written to “Santa” by a child in need and purchase gifts for that child. This year we are providing presents for 50 children living in a nearby domestic violence shelter. Select a letter from the Operation Santa binder at the back of the church after the service. The binder will also be at Coffee Hour.

### **ADVENT WREATH MAKING FOR CHILDREN**

**Saturday, December 7, 10:00 to 11:00 a.m.** We invite children and families to the Assembly Hall to make Advent wreaths and talk about how the season of Advent helps us prepare for the coming of Jesus at Christmas. After making a wreath, head over to the Parish House to enjoy our Annual Christmas Fair! Email the Rev. Adrian Dannhauser to RSVP.

### **VOLUNTEER FOR THE CHRISTMAS FAIR!**

**Saturday, December 7, 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.** Incarnation’s Christmas Fair dates back to 1942 and is one of Murray Hill’s most anticipated events. The Fair includes a Silent Auction, a Christmas Boutique, and a Café and Bake Sale. Parishioners are essential to the Fair’s success. Here are ways you can help:

- Donate homemade baked goods. Store bought goodies are welcome too!
- Donate an item for the Silent Auction. Examples include gift certificates to local restaurants, theater tickets, and items for gift baskets (nice wines, fancy mustards, gourmet coffee, etc.).
- Donate gently used housewares and other saleable items. (Please note we cannot accept clothing.)
- **Give an hour or two of your time for set-up. We’ll be setting up in the Parish House every day THIS WEEK.**
- Serve customers and help with logistics during the Fair, any time from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
- Help with clean-up immediately after the Fair and the following week.

Speak to Laurie Mygatt or Monica Culoso if you can volunteer, donate baked goods, and/or solicit items for the Silent Auction.

### **YOUNG ADULT ST. NICK'S CELEBRATION**

**Saturday, December 7, 7:00 to 10:00 p.m.** The biggest party of the year for 20s/30s in the Episcopal Diocese of New York is the annual St. Nick's Party. This year, the celebration will take place at St. Mark's Church in-the-Bowery. It's sure to be a festive night, full of all that the season holds. Contact the Rev. Adrian Dannhauser to RSVP.

### **ONE LITTLE CANDLE**

**Saturday, December 14, 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.** All are invited to Moravian Open Door (347 E. 18th St.) for a service project. We'll begin by assembling 150 "One Little Candle Packs" with MOD residents. Each pack consists of a warm hat, gloves, socks, thermal blanket, lip balm and a laminated blessing. After assembly of the packs, we'll enjoy a pizza lunch and then divvy up the packs for distribution on the street either that afternoon or at a time convenient for volunteers. Speak to Lenore Ritter to RSVP.

### **CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT**

**Sunday, December 15.** Children of all ages are invited to participate in a short and simple pageant, held in place of the sermon, during the 11:00 a.m. service. There will be one rehearsal from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m. on **Saturday, December 14.** Contact the Rev. Adrian Dannhauser if your child would like to participate so we can plan for parts and costumes.

### **VOLUNTEER CHOIR**

In October, we had our first go at a volunteer pick-up choir. Several parishioners joined our professional singers to make a joyful noise unto the Lord and lead the congregation in song. It was a great success, so we're doing it again on **Sunday, December 15**, at the 11:00 a.m. service. There will be one rehearsal that morning right before the service.

If you'd like to participate, please contact Dr. Thomas Reefer ([treefer@churchoftheincarnation.org](mailto:treefer@churchoftheincarnation.org)). Be sure to let him know the part you sing and your past choral experience.

### **LESSONS AND CAROLS**

**Sunday, December 15, at 6:00 p.m.** An Incarnation tradition, Lessons and Carols is one of the most beloved services we present each year. Based on the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols at King's College, Cambridge, it consists of readings from Scripture interspersed with music for piano, strings and the Incarnation Choir.

Followed by Incarnation's Christmas Party from **7:30 to 9:00 p.m.** The party will be in the church, and volunteers are needed. **Contact the Rev. Adrian Dannhauser if you can help!**

### **YOUR GENEROSITY MATTERS**

Thank you for your generosity this year! We recently mailed and emailed statements of giving reflecting financial gifts made to Incarnation through November 25. This is a way to let parishioners know where they stand in fulfilling their 2024 pledges and prayerfully consider year-end gifts. Please review your statement closely and contact Thomas Reefer if you have any questions.