

On the mind of Vestry Member Lenore Ritter...

Cakes, Vanilla Ice Cream, and Bullfrogs

I've always loved this time of year. As a kid growing up in a small country town upstate, it meant the last day of school and the beginning of what felt like endless summer. When I was too young for a summer job, but too old for a babysitter, this was a time of magical freedom. There were plenty of places for me and my friends to explore. Wonderful spots for picnics and under a bridge near my home there was a place to find bullfrogs. There was never a really compelling reason to want to find them, but it seemed important to know they were there.

The best part was the annual church bake sale held on the lawn next to the Episcopal Church. All the ladies of Greenville, no matter what their faith, brought their best masterpieces. Cakes and pies to make your mouth water and there was Ella Powell's incomparable baked beans that have never been equaled and those frosted chocolate cookies that sold in an instant. These were farm women whose lives were hard but shared their treasured dishes and guarded those recipes like gold. Best of all was Mr. Ingalls' homemade vanilla ice cream. He had an old-fashioned ice cream churn that took forever to make, and we only got a tiny taste when he finished, but it seemed like a mighty prize. This was such a simple time and in the post war American country we thought we were rich. After all, it was summer, we had some mighty fine cooks and bakers in our county and on that day we all came together in a fellowship of sharing and joy. I loved watching the women gathered with their wares sharing laughter and camaraderie and maybe a little gossip.

I often wonder if these innocent times exist anymore or have my memories been shaded by rose colored glasses. I'm trying to hold on to the sweetness of it even though the times have become more brittle and less innocent. I feel like I can get through the tough times as long as I can remember those good times. We should never let the joy of fellowship and the gift of innocence leave us. I want to hold on to that joy of the first day of summer and homemade vanilla ice cream. These memories are the things that helped me be the person I became. Through the really hard times, these are the gifts that He has given us, gifts of love and memories to sustain us, bullfrogs and all.

Lenore is organizing a bake sale for Incarnation on Saturday, September 12! Stay tuned for details and information about how you can get involved.

TODAY AFTER CHURCH

12:30 to 1:30 p.m. The Sunday Book Group meets in the Parish Dining Room for session two of our summer study of *How We Learn to Be Brave* by Bishop Maryann Budde.

SIT IN ON AN EfM CLASS!

Wednesday, June 17, 7:00 to 7:45 p.m. Incarnation is offering another opportunity to learn about Education for Ministry (EfM), a four-year Christian formation program emphasizing small-group study, theological reflection, and active Christian ministry in daily life. Anyone with an interest in joining the Incarnation EfM group is invited to attend an online class with this year's students before summer break! See the pink insert for more information.

SANDWICH SUNDAY

Sunday, June 21, 12:30 to 1:15 p.m. Every third Sunday of the month, parishioners and visitors are invited to the Parish Dining Room to help make sandwiches for delivery to a nearby homeless drop-in center.

NEWCOMERS RECEPTION

Thursday, June 25, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Those who have recently begun worshiping at Incarnation are invited to a reception in the Rev. Adrian Dannhauser's apartment, located on the upper floors of the Parish House. RSVP to Adrian (adannhauser@churchoftheincarnation.org). Please note that we use the term "recent" loosely! If you started coming to Incarnation at any time over the last year, you are most welcome.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED – HELP MAKE WORSHIP MEANINGFUL

Liturgy is the "work of the people" and requires a village of volunteers – ushers, lay readers, chalice bearers, altar guild, hospitality committee, and church tour guides. Volunteers get thin on the ground during summer months, and we welcome your help! If you would like to serve in leadership at either of our Sunday services, or simply learn what these ministries entail, please contact the Rev. Adrian Dannhauser.

IMPORTANT SUMMER ANNOUNCEMENTS!

Air Conditioning: We now have industrial fans in the church to keep it cool. Our air conditioning system (from the 1950s!) has served us well but is finally beyond repair. We are currently working with mechanical engineers to craft a plan for a newer, more eco-friendly system, which will be installed at the start of 2027. The fans should keep the church at a comfortable temperature for worship, and we encourage you to wear lightweight clothing once temperatures rise.

Summer Hiatus: We just wrapped the program year. This means our Sunday morning Bible Study and certain other ministries go on hiatus for the summer. The Incarnation Choir also takes a break, and we enjoy individual soloists at the principal Sunday service. This summer we are also suspending Candlelight Communion on Thursday evenings starting in June. Candlelight Communion will return on September 10, the first Thursday after Labor Day. *Please note that Sunday School for children will continue through June.*

Open Church Hours: The slower rhythms of summer coincide with a lighter church calendar, but we there is one thing we're adding for the benefit of our surrounding community. We will have open church hours on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., as we already have on Wednesdays. We have seen an uptick in visitors during open church hours on Wednesdays and trust that making our sacred space more available will be well received. We might even designate an "organ hour" when our organ can play a prerecorded concert for anyone coming in off the street!