

On the mind of Parishioner Colin Sanderson...

Many years ago on a rainy Sunday after attending a Communion service at the Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine, I asked the celebrant, the Rev. William Johnson, Canon Theologian of the Cathedral, what the connection is between what God gives to us and what God asks of us.

His response was to direct me to a prayer in the “Green Book” then in use, so nicknamed for the green cover of the paperback Services for Trial Use authorized by the 1970 General Convention. At that time the Collect for the 19th Sunday after Pentecost, the prayer now appears in our Book of Common Prayer as Proper 15, the Collect for the Sunday closest to August 17. It reads as follows:

Almighty God, who hast given thy only Son to be unto us both a sacrifice for sin and also an example of godly life: Give us grace that we may always most thankfully receive that his inestimable benefit, and also daily endeavor ourselves to follow the blessed steps of his most holy life; through the same thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

For me the key element in that Collect, and the answer to my question to Canon Johnson, was the phrase “both a sacrifice for sin and also an example of godly life.”

Artificial intelligence tells me “A sacrifice involves relinquishing a personal desire, comfort, or advantage to achieve a longer-term goal or to help others.” If we love someone, we forgive them many small impositions and tolerate many discomforts on their behalf. But if even God our heavenly parent loves us, even any wrong we may have committed is forgiven, and forgiven indeed. The body and blood we receive at Communion both remind us of that love and set for us a worthy if unattainable example.

Though the Green Book was not to be removed from the cathedral, as I departed Canon Johnson handed me a copy of the book and instructed me to put it under my raincoat. He may have added “Don’t let anybody see you.”

Colin

TODAY AFTER CHURCH

12:30 to 1:15 p.m. All are invited to the Parish Dining Room during Coffee Hour to help make sandwiches for delivery to a nearby homeless drop-in center.

DISCO BINGO AT MORAVIAN OPEN DOOR

Saturday, August 22, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Disco Bingo at Moravian Open Door (MOD) is back! Join us at MOD (347 E. 18th St.) for some fun, fellowship and nifty dance moves, along with several rounds of bingo. MOD is a transitional housing facility and community partner of Incarnation. We hope you can join us there.

We are seeking \$10-15 gift cards that we can use as bingo prizes. Speak to Vestry member Lenore Ritter or email the Rev. Adrian Dannhauser (adannhauser@churchoftheincarnation.org) to RSVP, contribute a gift card, or for more information about our ministry with MOD. You can also leave a gift card donation at the Parish House.

Suggested gift cards: *CVS, Starbucks, Chipotle, Subway, Trader Joe’s and Whole Foods.*

JOURNEY BAGS ASSEMBLY

Sunday, August 23, 12:30 to 1:15 p.m. Help assemble "journey bags" for families taking long bus rides to visit their incarcerated loved ones in prison.

Journey bags are filled with items such as toys, games, and snacks that help children and their caregivers pass the time on the bus and feel supported as they embark on a trip that can sometimes be difficult.



Our goal is to create 100 journey bags at a cost of \$12 each. Donate toward the cost of the bags by scanning the QR code or selecting "Journey Bags" from the drop-down menu at to churchoftheincarnation.org/donate.

Thanks to those who have given to the cause. We've received over \$600 in donations!

AGAPE FUND BAKE SALE

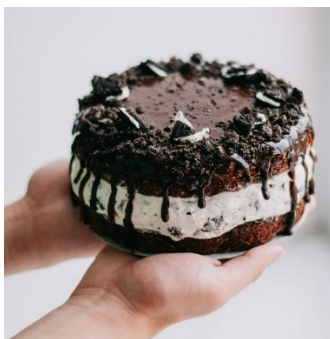
Saturday, September 12, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Please mark your calendars to pop by a bake sale happening on Madison Avenue outside of Incarnation! All proceeds will benefit the Agape Fund – a new initiative designed to provide direct financial support to Incarnation's outreach partners, including Moravian Open Door, Hour Children, the Osborne Association, and others.

In addition to purchasing home-baked goodies, you can participate by volunteering:

- **Sign up to bake cupcakes, cookies, brownies, cakes, pies... whatever's in your repertoire**
- **Sign up to set up or clean up**
- **Sign up to greet customers and sell goodies**
- **Post about the sale on social media**

For more information or to volunteer, speak with Lenore Ritter at Coffee Hour or email the Rev. Adrian Dannhauser.

*Hey, young adults! The 20s/30s Group is responsible for making lemonade for the bake sale! Seminarian Romy John Abraham will be leading this effort on **Thursday evening, September 10**. More info to come.*



CHRITMAS FAIR DONATIONS

The slow days of summer are a perfect time for cleaning out closets and decluttering your home. Remember that we accept donations for the Christmas Fair year-round! Bring your gently used housewares and other saleable items to the Parish House. **(Please note we cannot accept clothing.)**