On the mind of Parishioner Timothy Boos…

I transferred my membership to Incarnation earlier this year after some meditation, deliberation and procrastination. My first course of action was to make a pledge of financial support for the parish. The timing was right because shortly thereafter, a mid-year pledge drive was happening. I was quite impressed with both the number of pledges parishioners made as well as the average pledge per household. (Being a long time Vestry member at my previous parish, old habits are hard to break.) As the weeks passed, I was even more impressed that there were several other new pledges besides mine.

Stewardship time brings back memories. At my previous parish I served on the Stewardship Committee, and one year, the Rector had invited parishioners on three different evenings to the Committee's presentation while serving Chicken Marsala dinners to the invitees on the two floors of the Rectory. Somehow, the second and third evenings were not as well attended as the first. In subsequent years, Stewardship was limited to one Sunday, with a guest preacher and a special coffee hour. I was delighted to see that Incarnation has continued its tradition of an evening devoted to stewardship. Thursday's Walk in Love Stewardship Reception, which was so beautifully and lovingly crafted by parishioners, was a testament to our church's commitment to engage beyond the pews.

It is refreshing to find a church home where one can invest their time, money and energy. There are the expenses to be paid, salaries, maintenance, utilities, administration, etc. as well as things like ushering, greeting, lay reading, altar service, and committee membership in addition to assisting at special parish functions. What I find to be less noticeable about Stewardship is the prudent decision-making needed concerning financial investments, property upkeep, and Christian formation.

Ultimately, good stewardship means more than attending worship services; it means taking an interest in parish life, caring about the decisions that shape its future, and helping to make sure there is a future to look forward to.

Tim

TODAY AFTER CHURCH

1:00 to 2:00 p.m. Altar Guild Luncheon hosted by the Rev. Adrian Dannhauser. We give thanks for the Guild and their sacred work in caring for the altar, vessels, and linens for the Eucharist.

SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY

Sunday, November 15, 10:00 to 10:40 a.m. The Rev. Adrian Dannhauser leads the sixth session in a seven-part series on the biblical meaning of redemption: "Jesus-Style Redemption in the Gospels."

COMMITMENT SUNDAY

Sunday, November 15, marks the culmination of our stewardship season. It's Commitment Sunday and the day that all individuals, couples, and families are asked to make a financial pledge for 2027. Parishioners will be invited to place their 2027 Commitment Cards in the offering plate to be blessed. By doing so, we acknowledge before God and each other our intentions to set apart a percentage of our income to help build God's kingdom through the work of Incarnation.

SANDWICH SUNDAY

Sunday, November 15, 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 shelter. Please join us!

FAMILY FRIDAY – ADVENT WREATHS & PAGEANT REHEARSAL

Friday, December 4, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Children and families are invited to the Assembly Hall for Advent Wreath crafts AND to rehearse for the Christmas Pageant! Alongside a pizza dinner, we'll also talk with Rev. Adrian about how the four weeks of Advent help us prepare for the coming of Jesus at Christmas.

BLOOD DRIVE

Saturday, December 5, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Roll up your sleeves and live out our mission of love by joining us in the church for our upcoming community blood drive. Every single donation has the power to save up to three lives and provide vital support to patients in need. Please note that donating blood takes 45 minutes to 1 hour. The minimum age is 17, and donors aged 76 or above must provide a one-time doctor's note confirming they are in good health and eligible to donate. Scan the QR code or go to bit.ly/3W8M4JT to schedule your appointment.

VOLUNTEER FOR THE CHRISTMAS FAIR!

Saturday, December 5, **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 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 the week prior to the Fair.
- **Serve customers** and help with logistics during the Fair, 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

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

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Sunday, December 6. Meet at 10:30 a.m. / Service at 11:00 a.m. 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 on Friday, December 4. (See above). Contact Amanda Bell (abell@churchoftheincarnation.org) if your child would like to participate so we can plan for parts and costumes.

DID YOU KNOW?

Upstate, worship in church buildings has become risky as countless farm workers have been picked up by ICE & Border Patrol. Fr. Richard Witt of Rural Migrant Ministry (a ministry of our Diocese) holds worship services in private homes, changing the location weekly, and communicating the change to the people with much difficulty as it can't be publicized or posted anywhere. This climate of fear and very real danger reminds me of the early church, gathering in secret in catacombs to avoid persecution. This is a real thing that's happening right here in New York. I've asked for a prayer for these fellow Christians to be added to our weekly Prayers of the People, so we can always be reminded of what we take for granted, and the needs and concerns of others.

– Archdeacon Denise LaVetty