

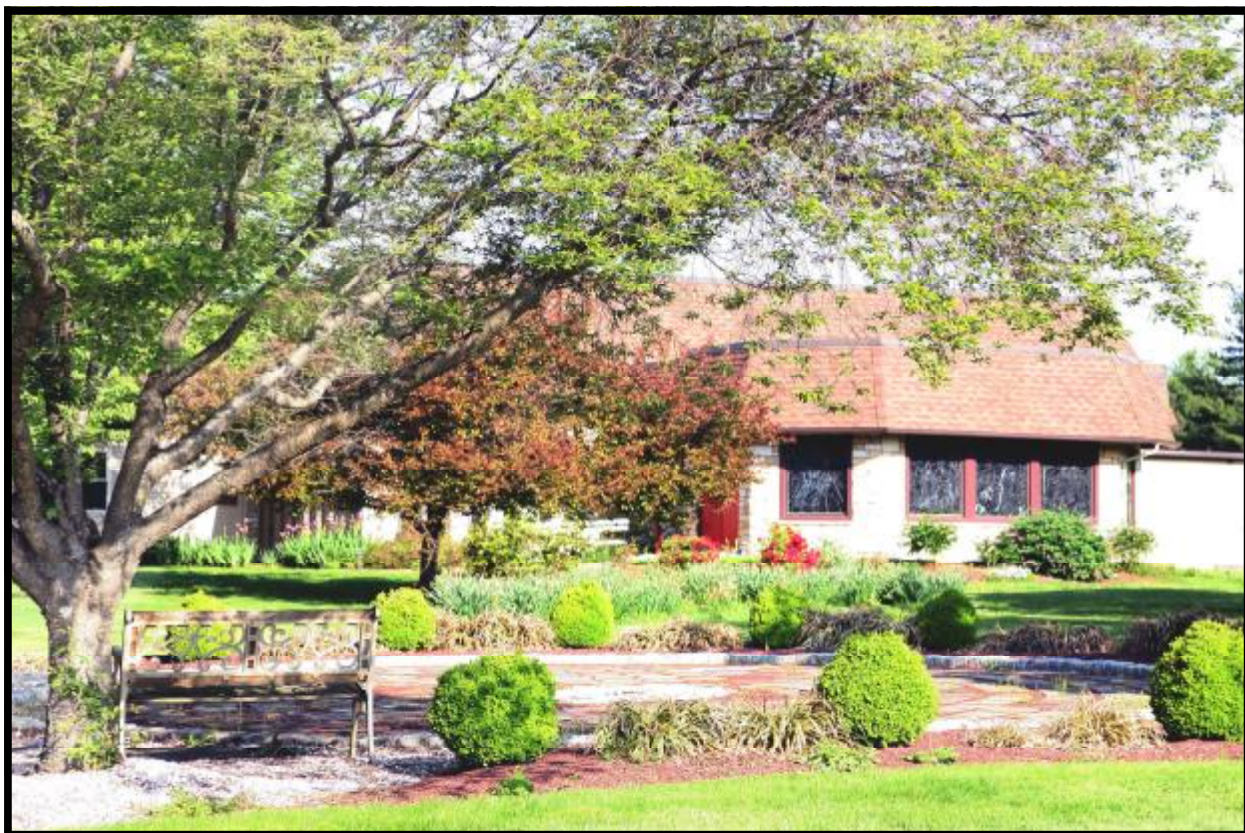
Church of the Incarnation

1505 Makefield road

Morrisville, pa 19067

215-295-2259

www.incarnationepiscopal.org



Parish Profile

July 2010

Mission Statement

To be a caring Christian community, in the Episcopal tradition, welcoming everyone into fellowship and offering members of all ages opportunities to grow in faith and commitment to Jesus Christ, and serving those in need.



We Seek a Rector Who:

- § Has experience as a parish rector who has attracted new people while nurturing a congregation to become an influence in its community.
- § Thoughtfully prepares sermons that inspire, teach and relate the gospel to our lives.
- § Is an authentic and approachable listener with a sense of humor who values our individuality.
- § Will be a priest and parish administrator who will lead us.
- § Will be a pastor for all ages and circumstances.
- § Is a person who wants to know us and will participate in the life and work of the parish.
- § Values importance of Christian formation for all ages.
- § Will work collaboratively with the vestry and parish ministries.
- § Is a secure person who knows his/her own skills and gifts.
- § Balances work and personal life with outside interests.



The Children/Youth Want a Rector Who:

- § Visits us in our Sunday school class.
- § Uses bread sometimes instead of wafers.
- § Sits on the floor by the altar and has a special talk just for us.
- § Likes animals so maybe we can have a parish pet.
- § Likes music so we could hear different kinds sometimes.
- § Doesn't talk too much when we are ready for coffee hour.

What Our Next Rector Can Expect

- § We will welcome you to our parish family and help you settle into our community.
- § Support you in prayer, love and companionship.
- § Keep our sense of humor.
- § Take our parish ministry responsibilities seriously with energy and commitment.
- § Appreciate your leadership and give serious consideration to your suggestions.
- § Respect your personal time and privacy.



History

The Church of the Incarnation held its first services in the Chambers Street Community Building in Morrisville in April 1911. The first building was completed in 1913 and we moved to Lower Makefield Township in 1966 as the population moved to the suburbs.

A narthex was added in 1987, and stained glass was installed there in 2006-7 depicting scenes of the Nativity Story. The nave seats about 120, with cathedral style chairs to make a multipurpose room when desired. An open floor plan combines with traditional appointments to express our liturgical preferences. We treasure our Victorian Baptismal font, which was a gift from St. Mary's Redcliffe in Bristol England, the home of the father of William Penn. A columbarium and labyrinth became a part of our outdoor space in 2003.

We became a full parish in 1952 under the leadership of our first "Fr. Bill", William Warren. In 1959, Mr. Warren left and was replaced by Robert Lenhard. He was called to another parish and our second "Fr. Bill", William E. Mills, Jr, joined us in 1961 and we began a period of steady growth. Programs began, flourished and faded as the needs of the congregation changed. The building and the community remained pretty much the same until Fr. Mills' retirement in 1992.

After a successful interim period, Incarnation called our third "Fr. Bill", William E. Dornemann, in Advent of 1993. Our membership went through some turnover and we began to grow again, approaching our ministries with new ideas and enthusiasm. Fr. Dornemann's leadership brought many new initiatives, including Education for Ministry (EfM), Kerygma, book discussion groups and adult forums. We started using the Journey to Adulthood (J2A) program during this time and are planning our sixth pilgrimage in the summer of 2010. He also began a concerted effort to create a building plan to improve and expand our space.

To our great sorrow Bill was diagnosed with leukemia in 1996. Although he had a good remission and was able to continue the projects he began, especially the Capital Campaign for a new sanctuary, he relapsed in the summer of 2000 and died in January, 2001. The Rev. Maxine Maddox Dornemann served as our interim until June of 2003.

The Rev. Joshua C. Aalan joined us in December, 2003, and found a group in disarray. He made rebuilding the lay leadership and infrastructure of the parish a priority, and then addressed the deteriorating building. During the interim time and afterwards, repairs postponed had created a real problem. With the consent of vestry and congregation, the monies collected for the original Capital Campaign were used for an extensive renovation of the whole facility: exterior siding, air-conditioning, a new kitchen and classrooms, handicapped accessible bathrooms, windows, carpeting, and lighting. We made our space “safe, clean, and welcoming”. The work was finally completed in the spring of 2007, and Fr. Aalan turned his attention to developing our ministries and outreach to the community.

Unfortunately, Fr. Aalan had arrived with some personal and health issues that began to be obstacles to his ability to be our rector. These manifested themselves in the form of missed appointments, inadequate or undone pastoral care and visits, and the resulting dissatisfaction led to some parishioners transferring to other parishes. Various methods of treatments proved to be ineffective and he resigned in February of 2009.

Today, our interim, the Rev. Kyle St. Claire, who began in April 2009, has been keeping things going as we recover from the disruption of a difficult period and a somewhat sudden resignation. The parishioners who have stayed are bound and determined to set Incarnation on a positive path. We have many life-long members who remind us with the perspective of 50 years that troubles happen. The path God sets for us when troubles happen is to deal with them with love and prayer, and that’s what we plan to do.

On a happier note, in July of 2009, we were notified of a substantial bequest. The vestry voted to tithe a portion of this gift and so contributions have been made to organizations locally, nationally and around the world. As we continue to plan how to use the balance of this unexpected money, we are excited and secure in our financial future.

Today we have 55 pledging units and another 15 or so informal contributors. Attracting new members is a top priority. While the lack of numbers is a concern, lack of involvement is not: just about everyone in the parish contributes time and energy to at least one activity. We are, for the most part, college-educated employed as managers and professionals. The rest of us are a blend of retirees and self-employed. We support special causes generously, but from a distance because of time constraints. Most of our families have both parents working, so we tend to collect money and things rather than giving time.



We worship informally, with reverence and joy, including all at the rail, even the babies. We like our renovated pipe organ and piano as music is an important part of our worship. We are not extreme theologically, we are not outspoken about our spiritual lives, and we tend to want to let our actions speak for us.

There are things we want to do more of, and for more people. We would like to spread the message that Incarnation is a great place to call your spiritual home, a place from which we “go out to do the work we are called upon to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.” Fr. Bill Dornemann made this prayer part of our worship:

“We do not have much time to gladden the hearts of those who make this journey with us, so be swift to love and make haste to be kind.”

That’s who- and how- we strive to be.

Worship

Our worship schedule is as follows:

- § Saturday, Rite II 5:00 pm
- § Sunday, Rite I 8:00 am and Rite II 10:30am
- § Second Sunday of the month is Intergenerational Sunday – children attend the service with their families
- § Morning Prayer Tuesday-Friday 9:00 am led by laity of the parish
- § Summer Sundays have one service Rite II 9:00 am
- § Mass on the Grass is a Rite II outdoor service held once in the summer





Ministries

§ Vestry: members are elected for 3 year terms.

§ Choir

- Adult choir sings at the 10:30 am service
- Children's choir sings on special occasions
- Pick-up choir sings at the 9:00 am service in the summer

§ Christian Formation

- Adult Forum meets on Sunday mornings between the services at 9:15 am. Assigned books or video programs provide discussion topics.
- EfM seminar currently has 7 members.
- Sunday school meets during the 10:30 am service with the children joining the congregation at the Peace.
- J2A program is planning a pilgrimage to Ireland in August, 2010.
- In-home Bible study.
- Lenten Program: Wednesday evening Simple Supper & Program.

§ Liturgy & Sacraments

Lectors	Intercessors	Acolytes
Chalice Bearers	Ushers	Greeters
Altar Guild	Flower and Candle Ministry	

§ Buildings & Grounds ensures the church facility and surroundings are maintained and secure.

§ Merrie Mailers: fold bulletins and newsletter

§ New Member Ministry greets and welcomes visitors

Service Outreach

§ AFF (Aid For Friends): prepare, pack and deliver meals to local distribution center

§ Back Pack Program: donate school supplies

§ Christmas: Salvation Army Adopt-A-Family; Red Cross Angel Tree

§ Code Blue (Winter): provide clothing, hygiene donations for local shelters

§ GAiN: food and clothing packing for international distribution

§ St John's Food Cupboard: food support for urban Philadelphia parish



Pastoral Care

- § Pastoral Care: Communion, meal delivery and support for ill parishioners
- § Prayer Shawls: knitted shawls blessed by congregation



Fellowship and Fun

- § Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper
- § Coffee Hour Sunday Morning
- § Ladies and Men's Breakfasts
- § Easter Eve Vigil Party
- § Easter Egg Hunt
- § Parish Picnic in June
- § Family Game Nights throughout the year
- § Summer Ice Cream Social and Hymn Sing
- § Christmas Caroling to Shut-Ins



Fundraising

- § Flea Market and craft shows
- § Spring High Tea
- § Fall Gourmet Dinner and Wine Tasting
- § Christmas Cookie Sale
- § Grocery Script Cards all year long
- § Building Rental: Music lessons, support meetings



Financial Data

	2007	2008	2009
Pledged Income for next year	\$163,263	\$134,076	\$129,033
Revenues			
Total for Year	\$258,235	\$242,764	\$186,573
Pledge Payments	\$168,927	\$168,239	\$141,637
Plate Offerings	\$ 5,300	\$ 3,523	\$ 3,697
Expenditures			
Total for Year	\$249,846	\$243,873	\$208,903
Diocese Assessment Paid	\$ 11,378	\$ 2,570	\$ 6,574



Statistical Data

	2007	2008	2009
Individuals	217	228	210
Pledging Units	84	82	64
Baptisms Adult & Child	7	1	3
Church Sch Students	27	15	14
Saturday/Sunday Eucharists Svcs.	147	142	144
Marriages	2	1	0
Burials	7	1	3
Attendance:			
Average Weekend	95	84	77
Christmas Eve	209	154	137
Christmas Day	23	25	19
Easter	250	190	178

Staff

John Bailey is our organist and choirmaster. Mr. Bailey holds a BMus in organ and a MMus in harpsichord from the Eastman School of Music, Rochester, NY. He teaches writing at Bryn Mawr College and tutors writers at the University of Pennsylvania. He is currently completing his PhD dissertation in music history at the University of Pennsylvania.

Michelle Stawicki is our capable full time Parish Administrative Assistant. She handles her duties with careful attention while maintaining her sense of humor. Office responsibilities include publishing the monthly newsletter (Tydings) and maintaining the parish web page.

Tim Miller is our part time sexton. He makes sure the building is cleaned for weekend services, sets the thermostat and orders building supplies.

Diocese of Pennsylvania

The Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania (www.diopa.org) has 144 worshipping congregations in the Southeast part of the state. It is the second oldest diocese in the Episcopal Church. It is well known that the Diocese of Pennsylvania has experienced some turmoil in recent years. Bishop Rodney Michel is acting as Assistant Bishop and programs are being reactivated. Incarnation actively supports the life and ministry of the Diocese. In the Bucks Deanery there are 17 parishes. There are four other Episcopal churches nearby our parish location.

Community Profile

The Church of the Incarnation is situated in Lower Makefield Township in southern Bucks County, Pennsylvania, about 30 miles north of Philadelphia and across the Delaware River from Trenton, NJ. The mailing address location is Morrisville, PA. Lower Makefield is a suburban residential area with a population of 32,288. It is an area that has seen much housing and population growth over 30 years but has strived to maintain open space parks and farmland. Located near the church are two historical boroughs of Morrisville and Yardley. Within a mile of Incarnation are two Lutheran churches, one Roman Catholic, one Latter Day Saints and a building that has housed both Jewish and Muslim groups-at different times, of course.

While there is much local employment, many residents commute to both Philadelphia and New York. We are an area rich in history, beautiful countryside but close enough to Philadelphia, New York and Atlantic City for the arts, entertainment and shopping.

To learn more about our community we suggest that you view these websites: www.buckscounty.org and www.visitbuckscounty.org

To view information about two of the surrounding school districts, consult:
For Pennsbury: www.pennsbury.k12.pa.us
For Morrisville: www.mv.org

This prayer was written by a parishioner during the 2003 Search

For those in search of our new Rector, may they, with the help of the Holy Spirit and the prayers of the congregation, work with healing hands and open hearts so that we as a congregation can continue our journey forward. God, grant us the grace to do what you would have us do, save us from all false choices, and give light so that we do not stumble. Almighty God, we entrust all who are dear to us to your never-failing care and love, for this life and the life to come, knowing that you are doing for them better things than we can desire or pray for, through Jesus Christ our Lord, AMEN



The Search Committee Members

*Dan Gribbon, John LaBar, Andrena Wishnie, Joe Gantz
Judy Lott, Susan LaRosa, Gail Johnson, Micki Wisdom
Melodee Fox, Christine Hughes, Noelle Stawicki, Marcie Venella*