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Thanks to Keisha Jenkins (See Matthew 2:1-12) 12-22-2006

I SURE HOPE MY WIFE LIKES MYRRH

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Is Your Pledge Recorded?

If you have not already submitted your pledge of financial support of your parish church for 2010, please do so immediately; our annual pledge in-gathering was held November 1. Your parish leadership need this information to make our diocesan pledge and prepare our annual budget in a timely fashion. Please help! ✕

Parishioners' Milestones

Birthdays: Patt Seits 1/4, Ralph Thurlow 1/8, Kathy Bellito 1/12, Diane May 1/13, Agnes Dockendorf 1/18, Elaine Gusethoven 1/18.

Baptisms: Kayla Garcia, Lynn Gehringer, and Ava Bramson 1/1, Amanda Youakim 1/3, Kathryn Gwynne 1/13, Sarah Corrado and Brian Demay 1/15.

Confirmations: Brian Demay 1/15, Kathryn Gwynne 1/31.

Weddings: Sue & Gary Hoag 1/7, Jan & John Simpson 1/13.

The Envelope, Please

Starting this year, we will no longer be purchasing numbered offering envelopes. You may simply place your check in the offering plate or use one of the envelopes found in the pew racks. Those little envelopes date back to the days when the federal income tax codes first allowed a deduction for charitable giving—and most people gave cash. Today, most of us donate using a check. If you are still giving cash, please be sure to use one of the pew envelopes so we can properly credit you for your gift. ✕



Nursery Care and Children's Place

Last month, we reinstated regular nursery care—a small but significant expense. And we have begun to make a suitable space at the back of the church for parents and young children. We want to become an even more family-friendly church, welcoming children of all ages into our worship, but providing alternatives for parents who find this bothersome. If you have a spare rocking chair, carpet, quiet toys, books, or other materials suitable for our new children's area, or gently used durable toys for our nursery downstairs, please consider donating them. ✕



Annunciation:
*A Family-Friendly
Church*

A Year to Remember

In the year just ended, we have

- Hired someone to clean the church buildings each week.
- Repaired the leaky flat roof, installed new drains, and configured these drains to take rainwater away from the building.
- Launched an amazing new web site (www.annunciationoradell.org—bless you, Doug Craig!).
- Raised over \$15,000 to close our budget gap (we ended the year in the black!).
- Brought the electrical service in the rectory up to code.
- Held informal eucharists in parishioners' homes during Lent.
- Welcomed quite a few new members.
- Hosted the concerned citizens of Oradell group, who managed to block the Walgreen's development (so far).
- Re-established weekday worship on Wednesday mornings.
- Installed new heat and air conditioning in the parish hall.
- Received a handicapped curb cut outside our Center Street entrance (bless you, Borough of Oradell!).
- Heard several excellent guest preachers, including one aspirant for holy orders, which allowed our parish Discernment Group to help with the formation of future clergy.
- Raised over \$5,000 from various fundraising activities, including an antiques appraisal, an Avon fundraiser, and a flower-bulb sale.



- Revived the hand-bell ringers (bless you, Sue Keitell!).

- Held a joint worship service and lunch with two neighboring congregations.
- Welcomed the Friends for Life ministry to persons with AIDS to our buildings.
- Inaugurated an online newsletter.
- Made permanent handicapped-accessible places among the pews in our church.
- Received over \$12,000 in diocesan grants to help with capital projects.
- Built new storage space in the belfry and sacristy.
- Replaced rotting windows in the rectory basement with energy-efficient double-pane glazing.
- Begun the lengthy process of reconfiguring our church offices in the old “courtyard” storage room.
- Held a parish work day to spruce up, clean up, and organize. What a difference a day makes!
- Converted to 100% recycled paper products.
- Reinstated nursery care on Sunday mornings and started updating the nursery.
- Baptized a young man whose parents are clients of Friends for Life.
- Replaced the leaky coal-chute door with waterproof concrete, re-pointed the brick in the rectory foundation, sealed leaks in the parish hall's masonry, and re-pointed the boiler chimney—at no cost to the parish (bless you, Brian & Lynna Demay!).
- Received an electronic organ and spinet piano as donations for use in our parish hall.
- Reclaimed the pantry off the parish hall for Annunciation's use.



The list goes on...

- Continued with our normal round of fund-and fun-raisers, including a rummage sale, a fall breakfast, the international food fair, a spaghetti supper, and Shrove Tuesday



pancakes (bless you, Grace Oliff).

- Celebrated the great sacrament of the altar

more than eighty times, not including private celebrations in homes and hospitals.

- Had the kitchen and two pantries repainted by volunteers from Tibotec Therapeutics.
- Held a healing service on St. Luke's Day in October.
- Discovered we need building permits for a *lot* more than we thought, a "sin of omission" we are resolved to correct in 2010.
- Created an infant-friendly space at the back of the church, with rocking chairs for nursing mothers.
- Were the focus of an appeal by the Bishop's Church Extension Fund to provide some funds for our office renovation.
- Welcomed about a hundred guests into our church and parish hall for a World AIDS Day service and reception.
- Also began the lengthy process of renovating our parish hall into a more beautiful and useable space.

Chuck May, for helping our electrician, installing bulletin boards, and doing an amazing array of little tasks last month.

Terry, Glen, Brian, Frank, Dren, Althea, Brad, Dennis, Donna, and Nancy from Tibotec Therapeutics, a division of Johnson & Johnson, for painting the kitchen and two pantries last month—wow! Thanks also to *Friends for Life* for organizing this.

All those who helped decorate the church for Advent and Christmas: *Bill Murray* (chair of Friends for Life), *Diane May, David and Daniel Oliff, Grace Oliff, Ava Bramson, Jamie MacKenzie, Chuck May, Webb MacKenzie, and Marie Mitchell.*



Adela Wekselblatt, for donating the first rocking chair for our new children's area at the back of the church, and to *Elaine Gustenhoven*, for donating a basket of stuffed animals. ✕

Please Don't Assume!

There is an old adage that says when you assume something you make an *ass* of *u* and *me*. One way to avoid this is to ask, rather than assume anything—and one particular example comes to mind. Apparently, more than a few of you realized that the minor construction in our parish office requires a building permit. Your rector, who is accustomed to the more lax codes of New York City, was ignorant of Oradell's strict building-code requirements. When the building inspector found out, our project was delayed, feelings were hurt, and logistics became complicated—all because we did not comply with simple procedures in advance. This is not the intent of your parish leadership. We are endeavoring to do things right—the first time, and for the long term. Therefore, if you see something that you think may not be totally "on the up and up," please say something. Don't assume, please! ✕



Special Thanks to...

Vincent and Michael Silano, Jamie MacKenzie, and Barrie Bates, for painting the first coat of paint on the walls and ceiling of the new office.



Brian Demay and Eric Olsen for moving a donated organ to the church, and to *Patt Seitz* for donating that organ. (If ever we suffer a Sunday with no heat in the church again, we can use the parish hall instead!)

St. Alban's Church in Oakland, N.J., for donating a spinet piano for the parish hall. (The Rev. Kathryn King, formerly Vicar of All Saints' Church in Bergenfield, is their new Rector.)

What Do You Say, Men?

Is it time to give up our room? The church, as you probably know, has no handicapped-accessible restroom facilities. In order to accomplish this while holding back the costs, the Buildings and Grounds Committee plans to convert the men's lavatory. The current men's room will become a fully ADA-compliant single-occupant restroom. Men will still be able to use it, of course—but so will anyone needing

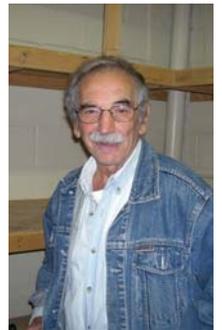


special access. The first steps in this direction were the installation of new paper-towel dispensers and a privacy lock last year. Part of the conversion also includes a baby-changing station, which will seem less out of place in a

private "family/handicapped" bathroom than in the men's room. Over time, our plan is to remove the toilet stall, replace the fixtures with handicapped-accessible ones, install grab bars on the walls, and widen the door to better accommodate wheelchairs. This is a multi-stage process, and it may take us several years to raise the funds and organize the necessary permits. But we have taken the first tentative steps toward our voluntary compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. ✕



Some photographs from 2009



Diocesan Council

Our Rector has been elected as clergy representative from District 9 to a two-year term on the Diocesan Council (akin to the Vestry for the Diocese of Newark). He has also been appointed to the Human Resources Committee of the diocese by the Bishop. So it promises to be another busy year for him! ✕



The Church of the Annunciation

A Parish of the Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Newark
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