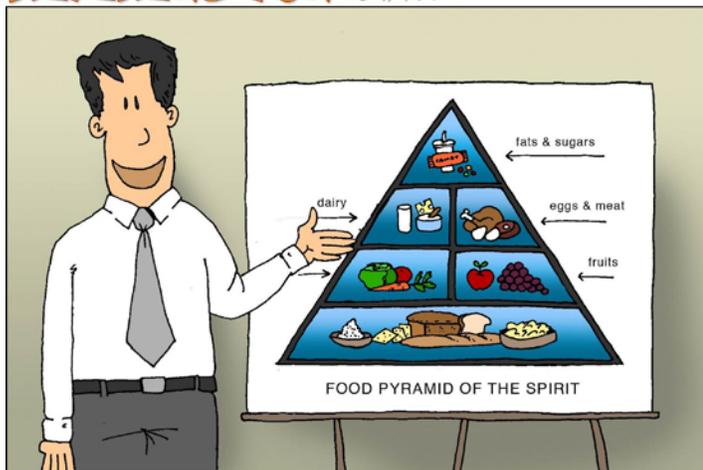


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WE'VE ALWAYS ADVOCATED THE BENEFITS OF THE FRUITS OF THE SPIRIT, BUT THERE IS SO MUCH MORE

...

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May 23 Is Pentecost

Each year, the Church concludes the great fifty days of Easter by celebrating Whitsunday, or the feast of Pentecost. After Jesus' resurrection and ascension, the disciples experienced the Holy Spirit, who came from heaven like the rush of a violent wind—as described in the Acts of the Apostles. The Bible tells us that "divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them." It sounds like quite the experience!



In a way, Pentecost is the birthday of the church. To celebrate, plan to wear something red on May 23. Red is not only the proper liturgical color of the day, and the color for the Spirit, but it also will help us imagine what it would be like to be in the midst of such fire, and yet not consumed by it. ✠

Parishioners' Milestones

Birthdays: Ann Graf 6th, Jan Simpson 11, Teagan Bellito 12, Ben Corrado 28, Alison Oliff 29, Robert Dziemian 31.

Baptisms: Grace Oliff 4th, Katelyn Leppert 11, Marie Mitchell 14.

Confirmations: Ava Bramson 13th. Also, Nicholas Palladino was confirmed May 2 this year at Trinity & St. Philip's Cathedral in Newark.

Wedding Anniversaries: Jim & Chris Gwynne 3rd.

We have received word that long-term parishioner Pieter Fontein died February 22. Condolences may be sent to Elfrieda Fontein, 1 Huntington Common Drive, #125, Kennebunk, Maine 04043. ✠

Special Thanks to...

Elaine Gustenboven, Nancy Olsen, and Conner Olsen for cleaning out the refrigerators.

Sue Keitel, for a wonderful season of hand-bell ringing, and to her and *Geoff Keitel*, for the encouragement of our children's choir.

Ginny Baird, Elizabeth Craig, and Sue Keitel, for agreeing to serve in an advisory capacity to the Rector on matters relating to music.

Conversations

On April 18, we held our first "conversation Sunday," in which everyone was invited to share thoughts about various ministry areas. The results were very heartening, with much new enthusiasm. Vestry members are not in charge of these areas, but will help and support new ventures and ideas. Let's keep the energy going! The ministry areas are: Fellowship and Formation (Eric Olsen), Finance and Personnel (Grace Oliff), Fundraising and Stewardship (Greg Kouletsis), Buildings and Grounds (Brian Demay), Worship and Common Life (Ted Guestenhoven), Outreach and Community Involvement (Bob Sarnicki), Communications (Jan Simpson), and Congregational Growth and Vitality (George Keitel).

Absent Guests

Each week, we take a second collection at the altar steps on that little chair with a basket on it; you pass by on your way to the communion rail. This is the Absent Guest Plate, and in it we collect money to give away to charitable purposes. Last year, we donated nearly four thousand dollars to such causes, which include organizations and causes we regularly support and emergency funding for natural disasters. Each month in *e-News*, we plan to highlight one of the recipients of this collection.

The Rector's Discretionary Fund regularly receives the proceeds from the Absent Guest Plate on the first Sunday of the month. Some months, the rector chooses to forgo such contributions, so that the Absent Guest Plate may be directed to a more urgent need. This happened in March, when the first-Sunday offering was designated for earthquake and tsunami relief in Chile.

The canons of the Episcopal Church first mentioned such a fund in 1814, when a special offering for the poor was designed to be administered by the clergy. The collection of "alms for the poor," of course, has a much longer history. Many parishes fund their clergy discretionary accounts from the budget, or from the loose plate offering one Sunday a month. Our practice, however, is to include this among our outreach offerings through the Absent Guest Plate.

The R.D.F. is a fund of the parish, not the priest's personal money. It is used for many exigent circumstances, including to help when mendicant persons come to our doors seeking assistance. In the past three years, the R.D.F. has also purchased recycling bins and supported guest preachers—things such a fund may do on a one-time basis when the budget cannot support these expenses. Your contributions to the Rector's Discretionary Fund are tax deductible, of course. Like all Absent Guest Plate donations, we consider these as gifts *in addition to* your pledge. ✕



Finance Report

Thanks to the hard work of our Treasurer in improving our bookkeeping and accounting, this feature appears regularly in e-News.

As of March 31:	Since Jan.	Annual Budget
Offerings Received	\$22,730	—
Offerings Promised	20,890	91,500
Difference	+1,840	
Total Income	43,387	139,860
Total Expense	70,142	164,627
Difference	-26,755	-24,767
Unrestricted cash on hand:	\$16,658	
Total pledges for 2010:	\$82,000	

Rector Info

To contact me, please first try either electronic mail (rector@annunciationoradell.org) or my cell phone (201-390-8270—if no answer, kindly leave a message). For less urgent matters, you can also call the church office (201-262-7222)—the voice mail is working again! Please do not call the Rectory or ring the doorbell, except in the case of a serious emergency. While it is true that I am “on call” 24/7, this is not for those who forgot their key, or just dropped by and want to chat. If you have a serious, life-threatening situation, *do not hesitate to call on me*. Otherwise, please use e-mail or the cell number. The challenge is simply that meetings, pastoral visits, and other activities prevent me from keeping regular office hours (and no one much came in when I did). My schedule varies quite a bit; if I have an evening meeting one day, I may take another morning off to compensate. Gayle is usually in the office on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays, from 1:15 to 3:15 p.m.—and she may be able to help you with some requests. You will also find a good deal of helpful information online, both on the parishioners' Google group and on our wonderful parish web site (annunciationoradell.org). To join the Google group, go to our web site, and scroll down until you see the Google logo on the right side of the home page. Click on that and follow the simple directions. My usual days off are Fridays and Saturdays, although this is hardly set in stone: parish and diocesan events take precedence from time to time, not to mention liturgical celebrations. Won't you please help me maintain my rare but much-needed Sabbath by observing this simple courtesy? ✕

Flower Memorials

You are invited to make a donation for memorial flowers, in any amount you wish. Such donations are acknowledged in the printed Sunday announcements each week. You can give flowers in thanksgiving for some event or person, or in memory of a loved one. Flower memorials are an excellent way to honor the memory of loved ones on the anniversary of their



death. However you designate your gift, your intention will be included in the Prayers of the People that week.

Designated donations for flower memorials are considered *above and beyond* your annual pledge, but they help support your parish church nonetheless. At Annunciation, we use these funds to purchase flowers for holiday times, as the weekly flowers are kindly donated to us. ✕

Strategic Planning

The Vestry has embarked on a three-part strategic-planning mission this year. The first group is creating a plan for parish downsizing, in the unlikely case that the recent turnaround in membership support does not continue. The other two are more hopeful (and more probable) outcomes: the possibility of sharing ministry or joining with another congregation of the Episcopal Church or the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, with whom we are in full communion; and planning for the Rector's sabbatical leave, due sometime in 2012. Grace Oliff chairs the downsizing group, Brian Demay the ministry sharing group, and Jan Simpson the sabbatical group. If you have input, please let them know. In the coming months, you will hear reports from all three planning groups. ✕



Spaghetti, Anyone?

Saturday, June 5

5:30 to 8 p.m.

Anti-Recession 1960s-Era Pricing!

Join us for this annual fun fellowship event! Grace Oliff is once again organizing things, but can use assistance. Plan to bring your family, share a bottle of wine, and enjoy the evening. ✕



Calling All Amateurs

Volunteer: from the Latin *voluntarius* meaning “voluntary”—someone who makes a choice to do something (or not).

Amateur: from the Latin *amator*, or lover.

In this sense, the disciples of Jesus were amateurs. They did what they did not because it made them feel important or good inside, not because it relieved their guilt or got them any reward, not even because they knew there was a tremendous need—but because they were in love. In love with God, in love with life, in love with love itself.

Volunteers seek rewards, amateurs engage in ministry. Volunteers insist on control, amateurs seek the guidance of the Spirit. Volunteers may someday choose not to give, lovers rarely stop loving.

So the question for all of us is simply this: are you a volunteer or an amateur? The church already has more than enough volunteers; what we need are more amateurs! ✕



The Church of the Annunciation

A Parish of the Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Newark
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201-262-7222 ✕ www.annunciationoradell.org

Jobs, Jobs, Jobs

Volunteers Needed for Little Jobs

Everyone's help is needed! We have a number of simple volunteer tasks that need doing at the church. Many of these are things that could easily accompany you to church on Sundays. Won't you please help?

Laundry—each week you are here, take rags and kitchen towels home to wash, then bring them back a subsequent week.

Dishwasher—on Mondays, empty the dishwasher of Sunday's dishes.

Seasonal Changes—re-set clocks, timers for heat and outdoor lights, smoke-detector batteries, and such things when the time changes each fall and spring.

Lavatory Check—each week (preferably *before* Sunday), check the lavatory for paper and supplies and refill.

Calendar—maintain our online Google calendar, adding events and activities to it, and printing out an updated copy weekly for the bulletin board.

Hazardous Waste—collect batteries, spent fluorescent lights, used paint, and other hazardous waste and take them to the Bergen County Utilities Authority or similar group (along with your own household hazardous waste, of course!).

Acolyte Master—help acolytes vest and prepare for worship, train and recruit children periodically.

Light Bulbs—spend a few hours with a friend changing light bulbs. This would need to be done quarterly, more or less, with particular attention before Christmas and Holy Week.

The Flag—the American flag on our flagpole blew down in a big wind storm this winter. The flag seems fine, but it appears that the lanyard needs to be replaced. Anyone want to take this on?

Bigger Jobs

In each of these areas, the objective is to form an active committee this year:

Coordinator of Buildings and Grounds—Matt Kochka: capital projects and contractor services, columbarium, garden and landscaping, rectory maintenance and repairs, regular church maintenance and repairs, set-up for special events (annual meeting, etc.), decorating and set-up for liturgical celebrations (Christmas, Easter), space use by outside groups, vendors

Coordinator of Communications—advertising, newsletter, flyers, and mailings; parish directory; tract rack; web site; Facebook group; Google groups and calendars; suggestion box; mailings to homebound parishioners.

Coordinator of Formation and Fellowship—David Hertel: programs and activities for children, youth, and adults, including retreats, ball games, education, picnics, Safe Church, and nursery care.

We are also forming a *Finance Committee*, with the Senior Warden, Treasurer, Rector, and Chair of the Memorial Fund. If you would like to serve on this committee, which will meet no more than quarterly, please contact Grace Oliff.

Things People Are Now Doing

Weekly Mailings—(Marie Mitchell) send the Sunday bulletin and monthly e-News to parishioners unable to attend church or receive e-mail.

Check the Oil (Jim Gwynne)—each week during the heating season, check the level on the oil tank.

Recycling (Jim Gwynne)—once a week, organize and set out for pick-up.

Offering Envelopes (ushers each week)—replenish the supply of offering envelopes and pencils in the pew racks. (We no longer use individually numbered envelopes, so this is especially important.)

Other Ideas?

We always need help with liturgical ministries, including lay eucharistic ministers, cantors, ushers, lectors, and financial stewards. Training will be provided. Volunteers to host the coffee hour—just once in a blue moon—are also needed.

If you see something that is not on this list, and you'd like to do it, please do volunteer! If you able to help in any way, please contact Barrie. Everyone who is a committed and active member of this congregation could take on just one such task. That way, no one will be overburdened but the work that needs to be done will get accomplished. ✠



At left, our Eastertide peacock feathers, a symbol of the resurrection