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Thanks to Richard Germain

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MADE IN CHINA?!?

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No Cell Tower at Annunciation

At the July meeting, the Vestry voted not to proceed with a cell tower on our property. ✖

From the Rector: Living within Our Means

Having been your Rector for over three years now, I am pleased with much we have accomplished together. At the same time, I cannot help wonder how long this can last. We are spending about \$2,000 more each month than we take in, and this makes it impossible for us to continue like this indefinitely. At some point, my time here will have to come to an end, simply because we cannot afford to pay for a priest at the current level (three-fifths of full time).

None of us is immortal, of course, and every job tenure naturally comes to an end. The average tenure for priests at Annunciation is just under five years. If you factor out the two long-term rectors (that's Herbert Lewis-Jones and George Allen), the average tenure is about 3½ years. Now even five years: that's not much. Historically, the Episcopal Church has had one of the *longest* averages among all denominations. We used to

have people who stayed in parishes almost their entire career, and 25- or 30-years terms were not unusual. Our average is five, at very best.

Average tenure for clergy has been declining in the last decade or two, of course. Like the rest of our society, we clergy move around more, change jobs more, and stay less than we used to. Still, the average tenure at small churches—across denominations—is 7.2 years. Here at Annunciation, the average tenure is five.

There are probably lots of reasons for this, and it would be difficult to prove that any one was entirely *causal*. But the fact remains our average tenure is two-thirds of the national average for all clergy—and even farther below the mark for most Episcopalians. Plus, if you look just since George Allen left in 1999, the average tenure for clergy around her has been about *two* years. In other words, the current trend is even worse.

The reasons for this are many and varied, but one of them certainly is that we are simply not living within our means. We are spending about \$2,000 more each month than we take in. At the same time, I have been over functioning as your Rector. While our agreement calls for an average of thirty hours per week, in my three years here I have actually accounted for an average of forty-four.

The time has come for us to work out how to live within our means. In terms of my effort, I simply need to work no more than thirty hours each week. That is, of course, more easily said than done, but we are already well on the way to this reality. As of July, I am trying to live strictly within our letter of agreement—that means working no more than thirty hours a week. I am monitoring e-mail and messages on days off, but no longer responding or even reading things in detail.

I have also needed to "offload" some responsibilities. I have asked Grace Oliff, as Senior Warden, to prepare our Vestry agenda, to oversee the musician search and other personnel matters, and to work with Dave Dziemian in financial matters; I need to work with them to effect the transition for things like payroll and financial reporting. I have also asked Grace to forge ahead with a position description for me, which will help us all have clarity about reasonable expectations. I have asked Brian Demay, as Junior Warden, to oversee buildings and grounds, coordinating with Chuck May and anyone else who may volunteer. (Jamie MacKenzie is having a very busy year in his business, and is unable to continue to help prop up this area—other than some very occasional pruning and weeding, which he enjoys

doing as time allows.) As of this issue, Lynna Demay has agreed to try our parish newsletter. God bless her.

The second aspect of living within our means is to reign in our expenses. The greatest single cost is clergy compensation, and clearly we cannot afford to continue indefinitely even at this level. While there are always fluctuations and unknown factors, it looks as if we will have spent our savings entirely by the end of 2011. Your next priest will almost certainly need to be even more part-time.

This is our reality, my friends. While it is not entirely a happy prospect, it is not altogether different from that of many other congregations, most denominations, and religion in general. God is calling us to a new kind of existence, and it is our job to discern what that looks like. The church of the twenty-first century may wind up looking more like that of the first century than that of the twentieth: more marginal in our society, but also more intimate and more committed. ✕

—The Rev. Dr. J. Barrington Bates

Welcome, Linda

This month we welcome Linda Lanier-Keosain as our parish musician. Linda, who lives in Hackensack, has recently retired from teaching music in the Park Ridge schools. An accomplished organist, she has an impressive list of experience as a church musician, including service to Presbyterian, Congregational, and Episcopal congregations. She is also near to completion of a Ph.D. in music education at New York University.

Linda's job description will be different from that of her predecessor. For one thing, she will be with us only forty Sundays per year; that's as much as we could afford. For another, she will oversee all music ministries—not simply accompany our service on Sundays. Starting this fall, Linda is charged with reinvigorating our choir, with regular weekday rehearsals, leading the congregation in song each week, and performing an anthem at least once each month.

While the hopes and ideas for this position and Linda's tenure in it may exceed our current capability, the Vestry sees music as a potential growth area for the parish. In the past three years, we have heard our children sing, established a regular cantor's role in our liturgy, and re-established a hand-bell choir. Our hope is that Linda will be able to build on this foundation and form a vibrant, sustainable, and highly participatory music ministry here at Annunciation. ✕

September Dates to Note on Your Calendar:

- September 12: Welcome back Breakfast @ 9:00 am
First day of Sunday School
First day for Linda our new Musician
First day for Bell Practice @ 5:15 pm
- September 27: Oradell Day- Come help serve and Greet people
- October 3: Blessing of the Animals @ 5:00 pm

Equipping Congregations Workshops & Training: Coming this Fall



October 16, 2010 - Vestry University - Strengthening Leaders for the Church of Today AND Tomorrow
St. Elizabeth's,

Ridgewood,
9 am - 3 pm

October 24, 2010 - Taste and See - Eating with Jesus
Sara Miles, author of *Take This Bread* and *Jesus Freak*, will help us to explore how the feast at the altar can connect to the feast of the food pantry...it is vital to invite everyone to the table, without exception.
St. Luke's, Montclair 5 pm - 8 pm

For more information about any of these events, please contact [Kitty Kaweckj](#), Director of Resources & Training, 973-430-9902.

Parishioners' Milestones

Birthdays: Grace Oliff 9/1, Jane Sarnicki 9/2, Dorothy Grefrath 9/3, Viola Willis 9/7, Emly Oliff 9/25, Amanda Lozano 9/26, Daniel Oliff 9/27

Baptisms: Robert Dziemian 9/7, Lily Barnes 9/23, Clare Simpson 9/26

Confirmations: None, That's three months in a row!

Wedding Anniversaries: Harold and Ann Graff 9/10, Bill & Marilyn Youakim 9/23, Edward Cannizzaro-Garcia & Denise Cannizzaro-Garcia 9/28

. ✕

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.

Bishop's Church Extension Fund:

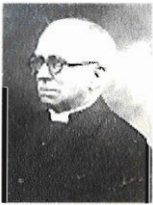
Build for the future

Conserve and improve our sacred spaces

Eliminate debt from emergency expenses

Fund new program start-ups and expansions

In 1910, Bishop Edwin Lines, the third Bishop of Newark, established the Bishop's Church Extension Fund to do as its name implies, extend the work of the bishop, specifically for the increase of mission and the building of new churches. A series of five calls per year go to members of the fund who have pledged in advance to support work the bishop deems important.



The BCEF's original purpose of missionary expansion came to a near halt during the depression when call after call paid mortgages and saved church buildings from being sold. In recent decades a majority of calls have helped congregations in aging buildings to repair and renovate. Our churches, like our bodies, are temples of the holy. They draw us inward to worship and grow spiritually. They propel us outward to work for justice and to offer hospitality where it is needed. They house the nurture of our congregations and their service to their neighborhoods. BCEF calls repair buildings, and they provide seed money for new mission programs. The bishop's desire to extend and enhance our common ministry has never been greater or more urgent.

Taken from : www.dioceseofnewark.org/bcef/

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 July 31:

	Since Jan.	Annual Budget
Offerings Received	\$47,028	—
Offerings Promised	&48,250	91,500
Difference	-\$1,222	
Total Income	\$109,230	139,860
Total Expense	\$136,232	164,627
Difference	-\$27,001	-24,767
Unrestricted cash on hand:	\$19,137	
Total pledges for 2010:	\$82,000	

Handbell Choir begins again: on September 12th at 5:15 pm

Welcome back to September and another year of our growing Handbell Choir Family. If you are interested in learning how to play handbells, please contact me or just come to practice. We will be meeting Sunday's at 5:15pm until 6:30 each week. We will begin practicing on September 12th. For now, we will continue our schedule of playing on the first Sunday of the month. On those Sundays, we meet at 8:45am for final rehearsal. I am so delighted with the opportunity to continue to create beautiful music for our church family, serving God, but most importantly creating joy and beauty through music.

By the way, we need a name.....please think about what you would like your church handbell choir to be called.....

Blessings

Sue Keitel ✕

CHURCH, WITHOUT A CHOIR?

Can you imagine our church, or any church, for that matter, without a choir? Hearing the choir present musical settings of worshipful texts to aid in our worship is one of those attributes that we have come to take for granted in our church. Imagine the service without it. Do you take for granted the thrilling sounds of our choir as it leads you in worship, helping you to experience the glory of our God and God's presence among us?

The volunteer choir, or even a paid choir of lay persons, is a relatively new phenomenon in the large picture of church history. The choir once consisted of monks and clergy only. They were the educated ones

who could read and were trained in music. As music became more complex and more voice parts were demanded, boy choristers were needed for the soprano and alto parts. Churches large and small trained their own choirs of clergy and boys who would go on to become either clergy or church musicians. Many churches even established their own boy choir schools where the students lived and were tutored in the major subjects along with music. Their principal job, however, was that of presenting music in the services of worship, which often occurred on a daily basis. Naturally, girls were not a part of any of this training, nor were they a part of music in the service. The result is that a great many young women who might have gone on to become musicians themselves, particularly church musicians, were never given the proper training, and so the profession in Britain and Europe became a male profession. The situation is changing slowly, as I saw in Britain two summers ago. There are wonderful girls' choirs now at Salisbury and Winchester Cathedrals, and I even saw a woman choir director! She was, at that time, assistant to the assistant, but has gone on to the head position at one of the large churches.

On the continent, the Protestant movement not only gave the Bible to the people to be read for themselves, but it also gave choirs to people so that they might become educated in the great music of the church. At first, of course, only men were involved in the choirs, as it was considered unfit for women to be seen in roles of leadership in the church. The nineteenth century, with its missionary expansion, saw the proliferation of the volunteer church choir. Depending upon where the church was located, the choir might be a humble one of a few singers who were capable of only simpler music, or the choir might be one which grew in numbers and reputation and was fully able to present music of the highest standard. The choice often depended upon the membership of the church as a resource for singers, or upon the area in which the church was located, for its rich cultural influences.

Our area of North Jersey is rich with cultural activities in music, art, and theater. If you are involved with any of these areas, it is easy to say that you do not need to sing in the church choir in order to be fulfilled as a human being. The church choir, however, whether for children or adults, is a special place where we come together not only to sing, but to learn our faith through the music. The local choral society may present the great works of music to appreciative audiences, but that experience cannot be matched by the *fervor* with which the church choir sings "Hallelujah" on Easter Day, or the carols of Christmas, and the *inspiration* derived by the congregation on hearing this.

As you think back on your experience of Christmas, reflect upon how choirs and choir singing were an integral part of it. Our church, with its all-volunteer adult choir, is becoming a rarity. How many churches like ours do you know of who do NOT have a regular core of professional singers? I would be willing

to bet there are not many, if any! Even more common is the church without a choir at all. Yet, our choir sings challenging music every week! Not just once in a while! Please think about the choir opportunities offered to you and your children in our church. No where else can you find the chance to learn about your faith, enjoy the teamwork, experience the glory of the music, and serve your church in such a vital way. And, remember that, without singers (like you?), there will be no choir!

Linda Lanier-Keosaian
Organist & Choirmaster

P.S. We also have great parties!

Special Thanks to...

Annunciation Volunteers go to Habitat Site in Waldwick



Saturday, August 14th dawned bright and with a pleasant cooling breeze. It was also the day that six volunteers from Annunciation came to the Habitat site in Waldwick to do some construction work.

They were an excellent example of a "generational" diverse group. From a 17 year old teenager, Ava Bramson, to an "old geezer" Greg Kouletsis at 84. In between we had a 20's represented by Danny Oliff; the "middle agers" represented by Grace and David Oliff and Lil Kouletsis representing the much younger wife of Greg

Under the direction of Bob Pries, the site supervisor, we worked with members of the family who will eventually occupy one of the units. Ava and Lil painted and refinished the remaining pieces of siding. Grace painted the trim around the windows and doors while David, Danny and Greg built a wall with 2 by 4's.

A good days work was accomplished by the six Annunciation volunteers.

Greg Kouletsis
Greyheads@optonline.net ✉

Habitat for Humanity is sponsoring:

Rock The Roof ON the House

Friday September 24, 2010

at

The Hudson House

134 Main St., Nyack, NY

Doors open at 8:00pm

Purchase in advance

\$20 per Ticket at habitatbergen.org
on line or call the office at 201.457.1020

Spend the night on the town
for a concert benefiting Habitat Bergen's goal
of providing affordable housing to low income families.

THE SCRUBS

**Dr. Garvey's Band of Doctors and
Rockers.**

A band dedicated to rockin' the night away
while raising the roof on the house.

King Memorial Window with Dziemian Memorial Glass

For more than a decade, the Church of the Annunciation has held funds in trust in memory of Bill King and Laura Dziemian. Now that Bill's widow, Edythe, has died, the Rector has consulted with the Vestry and the families involved, and decided to proceed with a memorial window. Barrie feels strongly that our good stewardship requires us to expend funds given for a specific memorial for that purpose, and not diverted to pay for operating expenses.

The proposed stained-glass window will be a "rose window," over the top of the dorsal curtain behind the altar, near the peak of the roof. Although many details are yet to be sorted out, we envision a window of four or five feet in diameter, depicting the Angel Gabriel. A window viewed at a distance must be simpler in design than one that is seen close-up, but we also hope to include figures of children held in the Angel's embrace. The cost of this will be borne entirely by dedicated funds: the William F. King Fund, approximately \$10,000 held in the Outreach Fund in memory of Laura Dziemian, and recent additional donations received in memory of Edythe King. Work may begin as early as this fall, but installation of a completed window will probably take a year or more. We hope in this way to fashion a fitting memorial to this child who died a tragic death and this couple who were stalwarts of this parish, while at the same time beautifying our worship space and honoring our patron Angel.

The monthly newsletter is a joint effort by all members of the congregation. It's a place to get updates and share things that are happening that are important to us.

If you have something you would like shared in a future edition please email me at:

l_demay@yahoo.com

Thank you

Lynna Demay. ✘

Prayer Request

Please add this name to the Prayers of the People:

Name _____

Relationship to
You _____

Concern or
Illness _____

Your Name _____

Date to
Remove _____

Please leave this form in the Administrator's mail box. Instead of using this form, you may send a request containing this information via electronic mail to administrator@annunciationoradell.org.

The Church of the Annunciation

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