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Three Young Men), and a metrical paraphrase of the *Benedictus Dominus Deus* (from the Gospel of Luke). In these three songs, we praise God. First, we sing to God, acknowledging that the world is God's creation and we are the sheep of his hand. Then, we join with all creation to bless God. Sun, moon, and stars, springs and fountains, wild roving beasts, tame flocks and herds all join with us to exalt the God who made us. Third, the gospel canticle, which Zechariah sang when he learned that his wife, Elizabeth, was to bear a son (John the Baptist). He prophesies, "God has raised up a mighty savior for us ... that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us." I hope you agree that these are texts worth repeating! As the *Benedictus* concludes, we give thanks that "By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high shall break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace."

Amen to that! ✕

—The Rev. Dr. J. Barrington Bates

From the Rector:

Thanks to two new volunteer Lay Worship Leaders, we are returning to our accustomed practice of having Morning Prayer on occasional Sundays. In order to maintain the integrity of this service, we will sometimes use the order for Morning Prayer for our Sunday even when I am able to be in attendance—so it does not become a second-class ritual suitable only when clergy are not present.

Morning Prayer (also known as "Mattins") is one of the two daily offices of prayer in the churches throughout the Anglican Communion. Like Evening Prayer (and in contrast to the Eucharist), it may be led by a layperson and is recited by some Anglicans daily in private (clergy in many Anglican jurisdictions are required to do so—although not in the Episcopal Church).

Thomas Cranmer, who was Archbishop of Canterbury from 1533 to 1556, combined elements of the seven monastic offices of prayer into these two classic Anglican rites. In lieu of Communion, the "meat" of both Morning and Evening Prayer is the singing of biblical canticles, which are songs based on texts taken from the Bible.

At present, we are singing three settings of such texts: the *Venite* (Psalm 95), a metrical paraphrase of the *Benedicite, omnia opera Domini* (Song of the

Advent Conspiracy

The story of Christ's birth is a story of promise, hope, and a revolutionary love. So, what happened? What was once a time to celebrate the birth of a savior has somehow turned into a season of stress, traffic jams, and shopping lists. And when it's all over, many of us are left with presents to return, looming debt that will take months to pay off, and this empty feeling of missed purpose. Is this what we really want out of Christmas? What if Christmas became a world-changing event again? Welcome to Advent Conspiracy.

This year, we will become part of that conspiracy by experimenting with a seven-week season of Advent, beginning November 7. That way, we in the church will get a jump on the retail frenzy (except for Macy's in Herald Square, which has been decorated for Christmas since September!). We will have seven Sundays to sing Advent hymns, seven Sundays to hear Advent prophecies, and seven Sundays to prepare ourselves to celebrate the Savior's birth.

You can also participate in Advent Conspiracy in several ways: 1) by visiting their web site (www.adventconspiracy.org), 2) by visiting Episcopal

Relief and Development's web site (er-d.org) and selecting "Gifts for Life." There are also "Gifts for Life" printed catalogues, available at the church. By this alternative gift-giving method, you can demonstrate your love for your loved ones and help change the world for the better. ✂

—The Rev. Dr. J. Barrington Bates

Vestry Formation

For about a year now, your parish Vestry has been operating in a slightly different manner from that of the past. Based on recommendations by author Neal Michell, our meetings are now divided into four major categories: formation, information, discussion, and decision. The idea is to help form Christian community, while simultaneously conducting necessary business.

Formation: Each meeting begins with a brief sharing of prayer concerns. Some members voice these aloud, and everyone present is invited to write down their personal concerns on a card. At the end of the meeting, these cards are exchanged, and each member prays for another member and that person's concerns until the subsequent meeting. This brief process is helping us become more aware of each other and our role together as stewards of the Church of the Annunciation.

After this, we have a focused discussion or specific training of some kind. Lasting about a half-hour, these formation segments have included discussions of world peace on the United Nations' designated International Day of Peace, the Alban Institute's models for parish size, and leadership expectations, as well as modules on conflict, personality style, and acting like a team (more on this later).

Information: This brief segment is where we share news of upcoming events and activities. Unlike the pattern of recent years, the Vestry is no longer serving as a "committee of the whole" to determine the date of such things as the International Food Fair. Instead, the details are delegated to a person or committee and simply reported to the Vestry.

Discussion: This segment forms the substance of our meetings. We consider a topic, discuss and debate it, and then move on to the next topic.

Decision: Ideally, no item reaches this segment until it has been discussed at one prior meeting, *at the very least*. The hope is to form consensus, rather than take divisive votes. Sometimes, we have to go home and pray about that for a month. This is also where we receive the financial report and approve the minutes of the previous meeting.

The agenda for each meeting is prepared in advance by the Executive Committee, consisting of the Rector, Wardens, and Treasurer. We are attempting to confine our meetings to a strict timetable of ninety minutes. This means we cannot ordinarily entertain last-minute requests for time to address the Vestry, or new topics that are not strictly and clearly emergencies. We welcome participation and input by parish members, but please help us by making your request known at least two weeks in advance.

This past month, the Vestry formation segment focused on a chapter of Kevin Martin's *Five Keys for Church Leaders*. This first chapter called us to center our attention on building a team—something we frankly have not been too good at in the recent past. We discussed several principles for healthy team building, including:

- 1) If you want to tell the coach something, speak to the coach, not his spouse, the team captain, another team member, or someone in the stands. This behavior is destructive to the team—and it has to stop if we are to become a more healthy community.
- 2) If you disagree with the coach, go see him in private. Do you understand how group discussion of every play makes it impossible for us to win at this game?
- 3) If you want to make a suggestion, be prepared to follow through with it. If, for instance, you think we should have a sign in three languages explaining not to flush paper towels down the toilet, then be prepared to make this happen—the translation, the printing, and the installation.

By doing these things (and beginning to act as a team, instead of individual leaders) we are better able to attend to our true work as Vestry: not budgets, buildings, and bickering over small things, but vision, values, and goals for the future.

—The Rev. Dr. J. Barrington Bates

Directions for Singing John Wesley

I. Learn these tunes before you learn any others; afterwards learn as many as you please.

II. Sing them exactly as they are printed here, without altering or mending them at all; and if you have learned to sing them otherwise, unlearn it as soon as you can.

III. Sing all. See that you join with the congregation as frequently as you can. Let not a slight degree of weakness or weariness hinder you. If it is a cross to you, take it up, and you will find it a blessing.

IV. Sing lustily and with a good courage. Beware of singing as if you were half dead, or half asleep; but lift up your voice with strength. Be no more afraid of your voice now, nor more ashamed of its being heard, than when you sung the songs of Satan.

V. Sing modestly. Do not bawl, so as to be heard above or distinct from the rest of the congregation, that you may not destroy the harmony; but strive to unite your voices together, so as to make one clear melodious sound.

VI. Sing in time. Whatever time is sung be sure to keep with it. Do not run before nor stay behind it; but attend close to the leading voices, and move therewith as exactly as you can; and take care not to sing too slowly. This drawling way naturally steals on all who are lazy; and it is high time to drive it out from us, and sing all our tunes just as quick as we did at first.

VII. Above all sing spiritually. Have an eye to God in every word you sing. Aim at pleasing him more than yourself, or any other creature. In order to do this attend strictly to the sense of what you sing, and see that your heart is not carried away with the sound, but offered to God continually; so shall your singing be such as the Lord will approve here, and reward you when he cometh in the clouds of heaven.

From John Wesley=s preface to Sacred Melody, 1761

I would add another suggestion to John Wesley=s list: sing because it is joyful and fun. God meant for us to have fun when we sing hymns and spiritual songs, so have a good time!

Linda Lanier-Keosaian
Director of Music Ministries

November Dates to Note on Your Calendar:

October 30:	"Barefoot in Annunciation"
October 31:	Soles 4 Souls –Bring in gently worn shoes
November 7:	All Saints Sunday
November 21:	Thanksgiving Interfaith Service First Congregational Church River Edge 4 P.M.
November 29:	ECW meeting at 1PM in the Parish Hall

Special Thanks to...

Sue Keitel for writing and delivering a beautiful and heartfelt sermon on October 10.

Parishioners' Milestones

Birthdays: Susan Dziemian 11/6, Hannah Cannizzaro-Garcia 11/7, Rahul Dass 11/9, Harold Graf 11/11, Susan Demay 11/14, Christina Gwynne 11/26, Joseph Bellitto 11/30, Lillian Kouletsis 11/30

Baptisms: Anthony Pagliarulo 11/1, Patt Seitz 11/3, Damian Tumulty 11/5, Marilyn Touakim 11/14

Confirmations:

Anniversaries: David and Adela Wekselblatt 11/5.

Thoughts to Share About Stewardship

Stewardship does not only mean a pledge or financial contributions for support of the church.

Webster's definition is: "the management of something entrusted in one's care".

Stewardship has, historically, many definitions. But in the Christian context, stewardship refers to the responsibility that Christians have in maintaining and using the gifts that God has bestowed. Stewardship, obviously, includes sharing of resources, time and talent.

A biblical concept of stewardship is illustrated in Jesus' parable of the Talents. The parable teaches us that we should be accountable and responsible to God for what we use the resources we have been given. We are expected to Steward (manage) these talents(abilities) for the glory of God who has

bestowed them to us. No one can tell you what you may use your talents (abilities) on. No can advise you how to manage your stewardship. It is up to you to determine the gifts, abilities and blessings you have received from God and how and where you will use them.

Consider this: 2 Corinthians 9:6

"The point is this, the one who sows sparingly will reap sparingly and the one who sows bountifully will reap bountifully"

Some Suggestions for Stewardship

There are myriad ways for Christians to be Stewards:

Please be assured that these below, are our suggestions. See what you may come up with.

1. Be faithful in your generous financial support not only through your pledge but also in your support of the fund raising efforts.
2. Make and keep in contact with parishioners who are away; that is students who are away at school, people in hospital, those who are "home bound", those who may need a ride to church or to an evening activity.
3. Notice what needs to be done to improve the appearance of the property and either organize a work group or volunteer and do it yourself. (Anonymously)
4. Bring a friend(s) to church and/or a fund raising event
5. Proudly publicize the Church of the Annunciation
6. What can you add?

Gregory Kouletsis

The Episcobells

Yes, that is our new handbell choir name! Thanks to George Keitel to come up with idea! We hope you like it and think that it resonates who we are.... The Episcobells are still looking for a few good ringers. If you are interested, please contact me at suege092@aol.com, or call me at 201-483-7722.

Remember, we play the first Sunday of every month and on all celebrations. Come and listen to our choir if you have not heard us recently. We enjoy making music to the glory of God!

Sue 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.

The Center for Food Action in New Jersey



Center for Food Action

Taking Action Against Hunger and Homelessness

The Center for Food Action (CFA) provides emergency food, rental and utility assistance, counseling, and advocacy to our neighbors in need in Bergen County and in the Upper Passaic Valley. In 2010, CFA will have distributed nearly \$3 million worth of food—that's nearly 50,000 emergency food packages—and helped 1,270 families stay in their homes and/or kept their heat and electric from being turned off.

CFA also operates the NJ Anti-Hunger Coalition (NJABC). NJABC serves as a clearinghouse for information, training and technical assistance to emergency food providers and works to end hunger in our state.

You can make an online donation at:

<http://cfanj.org/donate.html>

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 September 30:

Annual	Since Jan.	Budget
Offerings Received	\$58,967	—
Offerings Promised	\$61,910	\$91,500
Difference	\$-2,943	
Total Income	\$130,139	\$120,509
Total Expense	\$162,735	\$148,116
Difference	\$-32,596	\$-27,607
Unrestricted cash on hand:	\$14,005	
Total pledges for 2010:	\$82,400	

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Episcopal Congregations

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Invitation

Dear sisters & brothers:

Many unchurched lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender [LGBT] people in your community are spiritually searching. They are looking for a faith community where they will be welcomed and affirmed as beloved children of God. You can encourage them to visit and join your parish by becoming a *Believe Out Loud Episcopal Congregation*.

A *Believe Out Loud Episcopal Congregation* is a mission or parish of our denomination that publicly welcomes and affirms LGBT people and that has completed a simple, three-phase process. If your parish qualifies, I invite you to register as a *Believe Out Loud Episcopal Congregation*

Once your parish registers as a *Believe Out Loud Congregation*, you will be added to a national database of welcoming and affirming faith communities.

Thanks for considering this step toward fuller inclusion and wider evangelism. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Heaven's blessing,

John Clinton Bradley, Administrator
Integrity USA
johnclint@integrityusa.org
585-360-4512

The North Porch Women and Infants' Centers
invite you to attend their annual

Festive Tea

Sunday, November 21, 2:30-4:30 p.m.
Episcopal House
31 Mulberry Street • Newark
Parking directly across the street
Refreshments will be served

Join us as we celebrate new beginnings,
our generous donors and all of our faithful partners in ministry



North Porch

Newark • Paterson • Dover
Serving needy mothers and
their children for more than 25 years

Please continue your support by bringing some
of these baby supplies that we need the most right now.
Similar Advance formula
(dark blue label, 32 oz. liquid or 12.9 oz. powder)
Diapers sizes 4, 5 and 6
Baby toiletries • Newborn size bibs and socks
Infant bath towels • Board books

**YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS ARE
VERY IMPORTANT TO US!**

**We need your generous donations NOW of
the following:**

Formula: Similac Advance (dark blue label),
1-quart liquid or 12-ounce powder (in date)
(Baby formula is always our #1 most
needed item, and this type of Similac
Advance is
currently recommended by the WIC
assistance program)
Disposable diapers sizes 4, 5 and 6
Baby toiletries
NO BABY FOOD, CEREAL OR CLOTHING IS
NEEDED AT THIS TIME

Note Worthy:

The Blue Chip Chorus
of Bergen County
New Jersey

Our very own **Ted Gustenhoven** will be
singing with The Blue Chip Chorus.

There is one show only

November 6, 2010 at 7:30 PM

River Dell High School.

Adults \$18 Seniors and Children \$15

Call Ted at 201-321-4402 for tickets

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:

ldemay@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

A Parish of the Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Newark
343 Kinderkamack Road, Oradell, New Jersey 07649
201-262-7222 ✕ www.annunciationoradell.org