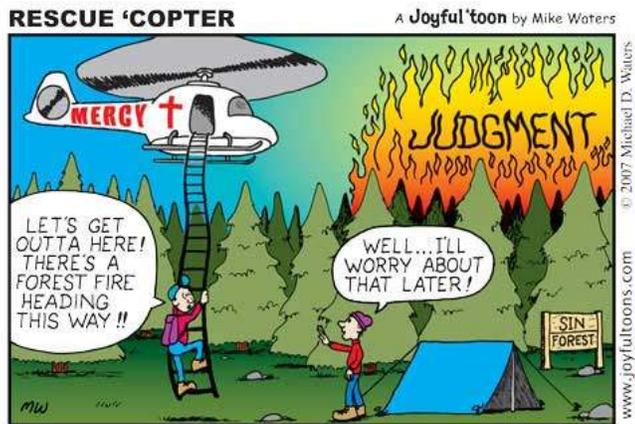


e-News *from the Church of the Annunciation* January 2011

Also available online at www.annunciationoradell.org; click on "Events" then "e-News" to go green and see your paperless copy—in color!



Righteousness and justice are the foundation of your throne; love and faithfulness go before you. — PSALM 89:14 NIV

and conduct such other business as may come before the parish as a whole.

If you are a chair of a group or guild, please submit your contribution to the printed report to Gayle Stoute, our Parish Administrator. If you are submitting electronically (to administrator@annunciationoradell.org), you may do so up to January 31. If you are submitting a paper copy that must be retyped, please do so no later than January 18. ✕

"FRIENDS' IN ORADELL

The old saying goes, "when one door closes, another door opens." Nothing can be closer to the truth describing the Friends for Life move from Fort Lee to Oradell.

Last Year, Friends for Life, an HIV/AIDS support organization founded in 1994 at the Church of the Good Shepherd, needed to move. The thought of leaving our home devastated staffers and clients alike. We felt like a scared youngster forced to leave the family nest. We did not expect the wonderful reception we received from the Church of the Annunciation in Oradell. From the beginning, you welcomed us as part of your warm family.

Church members brought us a myriad of blessings. First, we met Father Barrie and Jamie MacKenzie, who encouraged us in our move. Doug Craig designed and launched our wonderful new website (www.friendsforlife-oradell.org). Jeff Friedman volunteered to help us in our Day Program and serves meals to our clients on Wednesday and Thursdays. Jamie MacKenzie joined our Board of Directors. This fall, Elaine Gustenhoven and Brian Eslinger also joined our Board. Both have brought new life into the organization.

We have just passed our one-year anniversary in Oradell and we believe we've made a favorable mark in the town. We cooked and served a huge Thanksgiving Dinner to over fifty people in your comfortable Parish Hall. Our two World AIDS Day services and receptions have impressed and motivated the HIV support community in Bergen

Diocesan Convention

The annual convention of the Diocese of Newark will take place January 28 and 29 in Parsippany. There is a pre-convention meeting scheduled for Thursday, January 13, at St. Elizabeth's Church in Ridgewood, beginning at 7:30 p.m. Our delegates are expected to attend all three sessions, to learn about the business of our diocese and to help make decisions about directions for our common life in 2011. In addition to the Rector, Annunciation's delegates are Elizabeth Craig, Brian Eslinger, and Grace Oliff, with Jan Simpson serving as alternate. ✕

January Dates to Note on Your Calendar:

- Jan 1:** Happy New Year!
- Jan 2:** Children's Ministry after Church service

Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of the Church of the Annunciation will take place after the 10 a.m. service on Sunday, February 6, for the purpose of electing a warden, vestry members, delegates to Diocesan Convention and District 9 Convocations, and a trustee of the Memorial Fund. In addition, we will hear reports of the parish from our Wardens and Rector,

County. Our name and reputation continue to grow since we arrived here.

Father Barrie is spending a few hours a week helping us rebuild and renew our program, serving as our new Administrative Director. While Friends for Life exists separately from the Church of the Annunciation, we will be forever grateful to the wonderful people of Annunciation for opening your church and hearts to us. Please stop by on Wednesdays and Thursdays—we always need help as we continue to help others. We're especially in need of a volunteer to cook lunch on Wednesdays—usually for about 25 people.

We look forward to another year together, as we extend love, support and friendship to those who need it most—for life.

Bill Murray
Executive Director,
Friends for Life

Liturgical Seasons

At Annunciation over the last three years, we have established a fairly straightforward system of observing liturgical seasons. The church year contains two seasons in which the liturgical color is purple (Advent and Lent), two white seasons (Christmas and Easter), and then the green seasons in between. Our current cycle helps us focus on the character of each season through the use of specific service music and particular options.

In the white celebratory seasons, for instance, we omit the confession. It's not that people don't make mistakes during Christmastide or Eastertide, but simply that the church does not emphasize sin then. Our service music for these two festive seasons is the great *Deutsche Messe* of Franz Schubert (1797-1828). This fairly simple but four-part setting allows our choir to indulge in a bit of polyphony as they continue to lead us in congregational song. We also change the psalm tune for each season, and during Christmas and Easter we sing a more festive Alleluia—one based on a familiar hymn tune. In Christmas, we continue the use of Eucharistic Prayer B, which emphasizes the incarnation, whereas in Easter we are using a prayer from *Enriching Our Worship*, supplemental materials published since the Prayer Book.

In the penitential season of Lent as was as the preparatory season of Advent, we sing the traditional service music of Healey Willan (1880-1968). An Englishman by birth, Willan serviced most of his

career in the Anglican Church of Canada, at the Church of St. Mary Magdalene and as organist to the University of Toronto. This setting was the most commonly heard in the Episcopal Church prior to the 1979 prayer book revision. Lent is the only season in which the confession is found at the "normal" location in the service (after the prayers of the people and before the peace). This helps emphasize the penitential character of the season, as the confession occurs in the middle of our worship.

During the green seasons after the Epiphany and after Pentecost, the setting for our service music is that of composer Robert Powell. Powell studied with Alec Wyton in New York, and has served as organist and choirmaster of Christ Church, Greenville, South Carolina, 1968-2003. We begin with a confession near the beginning of the service, turning after it to an attitude of thanksgiving and praise for the remainder of the rite. We use Eucharistic Prayer A, which is the shortest and simplest of the Prayer Book options.

Some of the other variations and changes are traditional (such as dropping the Alleluia during Lent), and some are simply practical (such as reciting, rather than singing the psalm and the service music in summertime).

Punctuating all of this, we also have an occasional rite of Morning Prayer. This rite can be led by lay persons, and the Rector occasionally celebrates it with us, as well. We are at present in the process of training and licensing four Lay Preachers, which means we will have personalized sermons, even in the absence of clergy. Morning and Evening Prayer are part of the great legacy of Anglicanism to the universal church. They were fashioned out of monastic offices by Thomas Cranmer, Archbishop of Canterbury 1532-1556. The particular joy of Morning Prayer is the opportunity to sing canticles, or songs based on biblical texts. At present, we sing three: the *Venite*, which is a portion of Psalm 95, in a setting by Jack Noble White; a metrical setting of the *Benedicite*, based on the Song of the Three Young Men, set to music by William Bradley Roberts; and a setting of *Benedictus Domineus Deus*, the great song of Zechariah from the gospel of Luke. The metrical setting of this was written by Ruth Duck, and we sing it to the familiar hymn tune *Forest Green*, a traditional English melody with harmony by Ralph Vaughan Williams.

Will all of this stay the same for ever? Certainly not. Now that Linda Lanier-Keosaiian has joined the team as Director of Music Ministries, we are already considering certain alterations and enhancements. Some of the music that we once considered too challenging may now be just the ticket for our congregation! We are also looking at employing more of the supplemental liturgical materials and prayers,

which not only enhance the poetic nature of liturgical texts but also minimize the use of sexist and militaristic symbols and metaphors. In addition, the goal of observing liturgical seasons is to encourage a sense of variation, but to do so within an overall pattern of stability. In this we mirror the divine essence, which is to us ever changing but always the same. ✕

From the Rector:

Singing: Good for the Soul

It has been more than four months since Linda Lanier-Keosain joined our ministry team at Annunciation, and—*wow*—what a difference there has been in our music! For the first time in many years, we once again have a regular Sunday choir to lead our congregational singing and enhance our worship of God through the performance of anthems.

Jamie and I have been part of the choir as volunteers, when we are able to do so. This requires significant dedication, as our choir requires a time commitment of four or more hours each week. That's more than any other parishioner gives on a regular basis—and it is not all. Our choir members serve on the Vestry, teach Sunday school, participate in the Episcopobells (hand-bell ringers), offer hospitality at coffee hour, and a whole host of other ministries—in addition to their commitment to sing. Why is this, do you suppose?

Simply put, singing is good for the soul. To sing in a choir requires discipline, cooperation, and hard work. We each give up our personal agenda and our control needs to work together to create a thing of beauty. We are learning to breathe more deeply, to pronounce words more clearly, and to read musical notation more facily. The end result for choristers, however, is not about exhaustion—but exhilaration. Believe it or not, to sit upright on the edge of your chair, to participate in worship by looking ahead and always being ready for what comes next, to follow the directions of a music director, and to breathe in the diaphragm area: these things actually energize you.

There is room in our choir for more singers, of any ability. The choir regularly rehearses on Tuesdays evenings from 7:30 to 9, and on Sunday morning's beginning promptly at 8:45. If you would like to increase your faith, develop your skills, and take your part in helping to promote the beauty of holiness, please speak with Linda. ✕

Special Thanks to...

- **George Keitel**, for suggesting, designing, organizing, printing, and almost single-handedly accomplishing our recent bulk mailing. If you live in Oradell, River Edge, Emerson, or New Milford, you may have received one of the most beautiful glossy flyers!
- **Nelson Rivera**, the program director of Friends for Life, for continuing to pitch in and perform handyman services, such as replacing the paper towels, on a volunteer basis.
- **Jamie MacKenzie**, for repairing two running toilets in the rectory, which took hours of effort, but saved the parish hundreds of dollars in plumber's fees. The toilet in the church's men's room required professional help—but Jamie did try there, too!
- **Jim Gwynne**, for carting donated clothing to the Red Cross.
- **All Newsletter Contributors**, I appreciate the help.

Parishioners' Milestones

Birthdays: Patricia Seitz 1/4, Ralph Thurlow 1/8, Kathleen Bellitto 1/12, Diane May 1/13, Agnes Dockendorff 1/18, Elaine Gustenhoven, 1/18, Charles May 1/24, Rose Medzadourian 1/27, Nicholas Wekselblatt 1/27, Phyllis Thurlow 1/29,

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

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

Anniversaries: Gary & Susan Hoag 1/7, John & Janice Simpson 1/13

Through Joy and Sorrow

I have been asked to write a review of a new collection of hymns for a scholarly journal. As part of the process, I will be involving our whole congregation in singing some of these texts. A hymn, of course, is first and foremost a text. Its essential character as a work of poetry is enhanced, however, when the text is set to a tune and sung by the assembly gathered to worship and praise God. Hymns are designed to foster in us an attitude of praise and wonder that allows the Holy Spirit to bring about the kingdom of God in each of us, according to the great Orthodox theologian Sebastian Brock. By singing these texts to familiar tunes, we will discern together how much and how well this happens.

In the season after the Epiphany and in some of Lent, we will sing one hymn by Edith Sinclair Downing each week. These come from a new collection entitled *Through Joy and Sorrow*, published in 2009. Born in 1922, Downing continues to serve as a church organist in her retirement in the State of Washington. For many years, she directed children's and youth choirs, served in campus and congregational ministries, and provided pastoral care. She began writing hymns in her late sixties, and this book is her third collection. Calling us to help change the world for good, here is a sample, a stanza of one of her hymns:

Creation now is crying
for us to do our share
in changing selfish lifestyles
to show we truly care.
You call us, God, to witness
your love for humankind,
yet we still fail to follow
with heart and soul and mind.

"I treasure the power of the Spirit in all life, and seek to convey it in my hymns," she writes. Her interests include activism for simple living, care of the earth, feminist theology, peace and justice, classical music, and reading. I hope you will enjoy this brief exposure to new ways to sing the praises of the ancient God of all creation. — JBB✳

Music Corner:

Consider singing in the Annunciation Choir. You may think you "don't have time," but you will amaze yourself at how easily it fits into a busy schedule, and how satisfying it will be to make music with the other committed singers. To become a part of the choir means becoming a member of a new family that nurtures and cares for you. We need

singers for all parts, but we especially need sopranos and altos.

Include the choir in your 2011 life schedule.
Tuesdays at 7:30 PM.

Happy New Year to all!

Linda Lanier-Keosaian
Director of Music Ministries

Church of the Annunciation

Note Worthy:

Goodsearch & Goodshop

Did you know you can help your parish earn extra money—just by searching the internet? Instead of Google or Bing, use a Yahoo search through goodsearch.org, and we will earn 1¢ each time you search. Simply go to goodsearch.org and register "Church of the Annunciation (Oradell, NJ)" as your charity.

Shopping online? If you shop through the goodshop.org portal, the church will receive between .5% and 7% of your purchase price—without any charge to you! Most online retailers subscribe to Goodshop, including Amazon.com (.5-1.5%), 1800Flowers (7%), L.L. Bean (2%), and Macy's (1.5%). This is a stress- and entirely cost-free way to support your church, simply by conducting your ordinary business. ✳

About Our Memorial Fund

The Memorial Fund of the Church of the Annunciation was founded in 1974. Names listed on the original bylaws may still be familiar to some: Walt Edwards, Bill King, Byron Pardee, Janet Conway, Richard Wills, Robert Granville, and George Allen. The purpose of the Fund is simply to "receive bequests and gifts." Generally, these are donations made in memory of a friend or loved one, and the names of the honorees are listed in a memorial book kept in the church by the columbarium.

The Fund is restricted to use for "the religious, charitable, and capital programs" of the church, although in recent years the practice has been to use such monies exclusively for capital improvements and repairs. The bylaws of the fund can be changed only

by a congregational vote at the Annual Parish Meeting, a rare exception to our usual polity.

One particular concern at present is a requirement that the Fund maintain a minimum balance of \$50,000. Since the current value is just about that amount, this means that funds are not available to repair the Church's plumbing waste pipe, replace the Rectory fence, or renovate the Parish Hall—all of which desperately need to be done. Cynthia Palladino, the chair of the Memorial Fund Trustees, reported in July of 2009 that "it is in the interest of the church's life and sustainability to dispense with that minimum." If we hold on to those funds while the church property deteriorates further, we risk facing a more serious situation without the financial means to address it.

The original \$50,000 minimum was intended to foster the Fund's growth, something that clearly never happened. The sum of \$50,000 in 1974 would be worth *at least* \$221,540 in today's dollars, had we maintained the *value* of the Fund, rather than some arbitrary balance number—and that's if we kept the money "under a mattress" and did not invest it, or even deposit it in an interest-bearing account. Clearly, the question facing us is how to be the best stewards of the Memorial Fund, given the many challenges our parish faces. In the coming months, you'll be hearing more about this. In the meantime, if you have questions, please direct them to the Rector, Treasurer, or Wardens, or to any member of the Memorial Fund's Trustees: Cynthia Palladino, Diane May, Kathiann Krott, Chris Gwynne, Sue Dziemian, Ted Gustenhoven, or Barrie Bates.

December: Member Profile

The Demay Family!! Super Star family of the Church of the Annunciation. Brian: Daddy, Husband, vestry, Chairman house and grounds committee, Cub Scout Den Leader, Annunciation from birth.

Lynna: Mommy, Wife, Choir member, editor and publisher of the monthly Annunciator. (Did you get your copy?)

Jason: son, Acolyte, Crucifer, Sunday school, Cub Scout, Saxophone player.

Brian is a born and bred New Jerseyann. In fact he has lived his entire life in Oradell, except while attending Lafayette College. Of course Lafayette is in Easton Pa. which is just across the boarder between New Jersey and Pennsylvania and on a clear day you can see New Jersey from Easton. He received his Bachelor of Science degree with a major in Electrical Engineering.

Lynna, on the other hand, had a bit of wanderlust in her early years. Born in Indiana, family moved to Missouri then to up-state New York to Long Island to finish High School and receive an associates degree from Suffolk County Community College, then on to Queens, NYC before settling in Oradell.

Jason attends 4th grade at Oradell Elementary School. His most enjoyable time after school is devoted to basketball and practicing the Saxophone. Jason's den leader in his Cub Scout den is his dad.

Love and romance blossomed during a systems project both were involved with at Coach Leatherware.

That led to Lynna and Brian getting married at the Church of the Annunciation with Father George Allen officiating in 1999. Lynna and Brian's idea of church membership is not to be Sunday visitors but to be active participants. It is obvious that they are accomplishing this with high marks.

Both Brian and Lynna have corporate executive positions with Coach Leatherware. Brian has been Divisional Vice President for 2 years. His main responsibility concerns systems and architecture. Lynna, also a Divisional Vice President works in the planning and inventory department. Interesting note: The source of Lynna's name is her mother's college roommate.

The "Profiler" had a pleasant time delving into the background of an interesting family that is an excellent model that we can all appreciate.

Anonymous

ECW

No cooking or stirring or icing or such
And really and truly we're not asking much
Just the price of some cookies, a pie or a cake
There is nothing to sell, to mix, or to bake.
Although we're only in January, in the month of
February the ECW will again have its bakeless cake
sale. More information next month.

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 November 30:

	Since Jan.	Annual Budget
Offerings Received	\$69,314	—
Offerings Promised	\$75,570	\$91,500
Difference	\$-6,255	
Total Income	\$151,553	\$131,223
Total Expense	\$183,865	\$162,147
Difference	\$-32,311	\$-30,924
Unrestricted cash on hand:	\$18,812	
Total pledges for 2010:	\$82,400	

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:

lynnademay@gmail.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