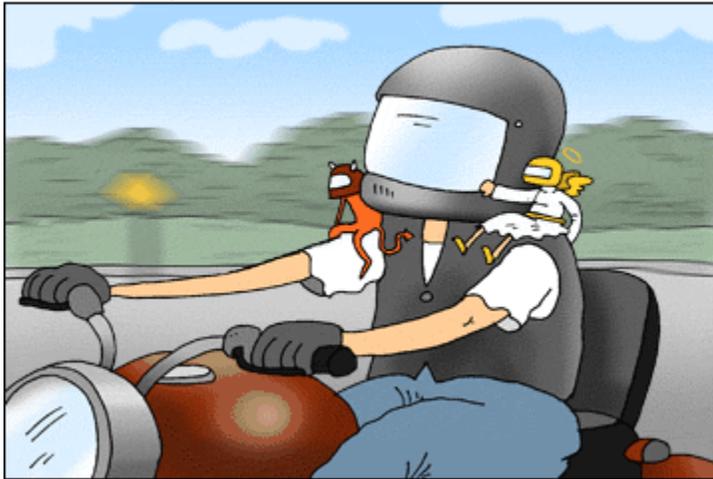


# e-News *from the Church of the Annunciation* February 2011

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01-17-2011

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## 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. ✕

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## February Dates to Note on Your Calendar:

**Feb 12:** Fellowship and Faith @ 5:30 PM

**Feb 21:** Presidents Day

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## 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, 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](mailto: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. ✕

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## From the Rector:

### Confirmation

One of the things that distinguishes us Anglicans from many other Christian denominations is Confirmation. This is the rite of the church in which Christians "make a mature public affirmation of their faith and commitment of their Baptism," and receive the laying-on of hands by the bishop. In the Diocese of Newark, we do this at Trinity and St. Philip's Cathedral in Newark, in order to emphasize that we belong to and are committed to something bigger than just our parish church.

In days gone by, Confirmation was seen as a "completion of Baptism," which in my view is an impoverished theological position. Instead, we now view Confirmation as an opportunity to recommit publicly to the life of a Christian, to the specific form of ministry each of us is called to, and to the particularity of the Church of the Annunciation, the Diocese of Newark, the Episcopal Church, and the worldwide Anglican Communion.

As Anglicans, we also hold to the tradition of confirmation that is actually performed by a bishop—a practice the Roman Catholics and Orthodox have mostly abandoned. In those denominations, confirmation is more often performed by priest in a local parish—thus depriving the rite of its universal character. For us, Confirmation continues to be a moment in which we are physically in contact with a bishop, who is called to be "one with the apostles," in a succession that traces back to Jesus and the early

church. This is what we mean when we claim “apostolic succession” for Anglicanism; many denominations broke from this during the great Reformation of the sixteenth century (or since).

This year, I will be emphasizing Confirmation for our Vestry, licensed lay ministers, and others. You may have been confirmed as a youth—but now you feel is the time to pray again that the Holy Spirit, who has begun a good work in you, will direct and uphold you in your service. You may have been confirmed in other denomination—but now is the time for you to be recognized as a member of the one holy catholic and apostolic church, and received into the fellowship of the Anglican Communion. You may never have been confirmed—and so now comes an opportunity to make a mature public profession of your faith. Our confirmation service is scheduled for Sunday, May 22, at Trinity and St. Philip’s Cathedral in Newark. My hope is that a dozen or more Annunciation parishioners will attend and participate, along with fifty or more from other congregations throughout the diocese.

The Vestry will be devoting about forty minutes of their meeting to topics geared toward Confirmation for the next three months. You are invited to join us on third Tuesdays at 6 p.m. (March 15, April 19, and May 17) for about forty minutes of instruction and discussion in the Parish Hall. (You are also invited to remain for the full Vestry meeting, which continues immediately afterward and runs till 7:30.) Those preparing to be licensed as Lay Preachers are also undergoing a Confirmation process, and we will be gathering for a similar process at times and places to be announced. Everyone is invited and encouraged to take part in this exciting venture to renew and strengthen the covenant made with God in your baptism. ✠

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—The Rev. Dr. J. Barrington Bates

## Pancake Supper

Join us on Shrove Tuesday March 8, 2011.

From 5:30 – 8:00 PM in the Parish Hall.

If you would like to volunteer your help with this fundraiser, please see Grace Oliff.

The word *shrove* is the past tense of the English verb *shrive*, which means to obtain [absolution](#) for one's [sins](#) by way of [confession](#) and doing [penance](#).

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## Ash Wednesday

The first day of Lent this year is March 9. Because of our Rector's schedule, the only service at Annunciation that day will be at 10 a.m. Please plan to attend, if it is at all possible. Closer to the time, we will publish the times of Ash Wednesday services at other Episcopal churches in the area, so that those who cannot be present at this morning service can properly observe the beginning of this holy season.

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## Episcobells Corner

It is with great pleasure I write to you in our newsletter to tell you how wonderful I feel our Bell Choir is. We have a new name in case you have not noticed. We now call ourselves, The Episcobells, as termed by my husband, George Keitel. We have been growing as musicians, as friends and as family in the church of Christ.

We hope that you have enjoyed our music! We still have one position open for anyone who wants to try playing Handbells. If you are interested, I am willing to spend time meeting with you, teaching you how to mark music, and how to play. All you need to do is be able to count to four!

We meet on Sundays at 5:15-6:30 for rehearsals. We play the first Sunday of every month and on holidays.

This year, we are delighted to offer our Middle School students an opportunity to join the choir. If you have noticed- Sam Wekselblatt has joined us and is doing a fabulous job! Thank you Sam for joining our choir!

In his service,

Sue Keitel

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## Special Thanks to...

- **All Newsletter Contributors**, I appreciate the help.

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## Parishioners' Milestones

**Birthdays:** Barbara Maggio 2/2, Susan Hoag 2/10, Christine Dziemian 2/12, Grace Oliff 2/25

**Baptisms:** Emily Oliff 2/19, Barbara Maggio 2/28

**Confirmations:** Kathiann Krott 2/10, Daniel Oliff 2/22, Alison Oliff 2/22, Clare Simpson 2/22, Alyssa Faigle 2/23, Anthony Palladino 2/23

**Anniversaries:**

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## Goodsearch & Goodshop

### A donation that costs you nothing!

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](http://goodsearch.org), and we will earn 1¢ each time you search. Simply go to [goodsearch.com](http://goodsearch.com) and register "Church of the Annunciation (Oradell, NJ)" as your charity.

Shopping online? If you shop through the [goodshop.org](http://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.

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## Music Corner:

Let's talk about Bells!

Where did bells come from? Who invented them? What makes a handbell different from other bells? What kind of metal is used in handbells?

We do not know who made the first bell but we have evidence of bells being used in religious

ceremonies in China some 2500 years ago. Rows of hung bells tuned to different pitches were used in worship throughout Europe before the Norman Conquest in 1066 AD. Later, sets of diatonic bells (i.e. tuned like our major scales) were produced, independent of a frame, each with its own leather handle. These early bells served the purpose of allowing tower bell ringers to practice *change ringing* without spending hours in freezing weather in the towers, or driving people from the village while they learned! As they practiced, they discovered the joy of ringing actual music for their own enjoyment.

What is *change ringing*? It is a series of pitches played in different sequences. An example of this is the [Westminster Chimes](#) rung from some church or university bell towers. There are four pitches (or tones) which are rung in four different ways. The more pitches there are, the more possible sequences there are.

What makes a handbell different from other bells is the spring which allows the clapper to travel in one direction, front-to-back and back-to-front, without moving sideways. This gives the ringer control over the strike point. Also, there is a piece of felt, leather, or plastic attached to the clapper to soften the tone. In modern bells, the clapper may be adjusted to ring [hard](#), [medium](#), or [soft](#).

The metal? I know it looks like brass, but it is not. Handbells are made of bronze, an alloy of copper and tin. Bronze is more brittle than most metals, hence the extreme care we take in handling the bells. Because any lacquer treatment to discourage tarnishing would change the tone, the bells are polished and left bare. This is why we wear gloves when we play, so that the acids and oils on our skin do not come into contact with the metal.

Handbells in this country can be traced originally to P.T. Barnum, the great circus entrepreneur. He saw possibilities in a handbell choir he found in England, the Lancashire Ringers. He dressed them in Swiss clothes, called them the Swiss Bell Ringers, and toured the U.S. with them. There were also traveling families of bell ringers who entertained all over the world.

Bell-ringing in America experienced its greatest period of growth in the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Two major American manufacturers of handbells emerged: Malmark, and Schulmerich. The sound ideal, however, still rests with the English Whitechapel bells, with their extra heavy construction and leather handles.

Handbell playing is addictive. A bell rehearsal can make you [high](#) with energy and excitement! When everyone is involved in the process of bringing to life the notes on the page, each ringer inserting his assigned bells into the fabric, the result is magical, and emblematic of the highest level of teamwork.

The teamwork required of a handbell player demands mental, emotional, physical, and artistic skills. It also requires that one submerge one's own self, one's own ego, for the good of the team effort. The demands made upon a handbell ringer are no less than those required of sports teams.

The feeling of satisfaction from having been a part of something larger than oneself is a spiritual one. The role an individual ringer plays may seem small, with an assignment of only 2 bells, out of so many being played. What is different about the handbell experience is that, while in an orchestra there are many instruments on one part, in a choir there are many singers on a part, and on a baseball team there are many batters, in a handbell choir, *you* are the only one who plays those bells, and if *you* do not play them at the right place, there is an *empty hole in the music*. There is nothing like it to make you feel needed, and important! Knowing that you played your part for the sake of the others and the whole effort, builds strength and self-confidence.

Won't you make time in your schedule for a handbell choir for yourself, and for a family member? You will be richer for it.

Ringin' out, for now!

**BELL QUIZ: (answers on page 5)**

- 1) What is 2 - in - hand ringin'?
- 2) What is 4 - in - hand ringin'?

Linda Lanier-Keosaian  
Director of Music Ministries  
Church of the Annunciation

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## Note Worthy:

### Howard Brady

1092 D Avenue of the Oaks  
Newhall, CA 91321-1444  
Cell: 201-247-8481

**Marie Papp** is now a resident of County Manor Nursing Home at:

133 County Rd. Room 134  
Tenafly, NJ 07670  
201-568-6700 ext 229

Notes and telephone calls would be welcomed. Marie often is out of her room, so if you don't connect on the first try, try again.

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## 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.

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## 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.

The ECW will have its bakeless cake sale during the month of February. Donations may be given to any ECW member. Remember to include your name in order that we may credit you with your donation.

Checks should be made out to ECW.

The next ECW meeting will be held on Monday February 28 at 1PM in the parish hall. All women of the parish are welcome.

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### Food for Thought: Kids Who Sing In Choruses Get Better Grades

"When it comes to grades, children who participate in a chorus do significantly better than children who have never sung in a choir. Forty-five percent of parents surveyed whose children sing state their child receives 'all or mostly A's' in mathematics (versus 38 percent of nonchoir parents) and 54 percent get 'all or mostly A's' in English and other language arts classes (versus 43 percent)." [Read more from the Atlanta Journal-Constitution](#) in an article written by Chorus America president & CEO Ann Meier Baker.

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## 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 December 31:

	Since Jan.	Annual Budget
Offerings Received	\$75,856	—
Offerings Promised	\$82,400	\$91,500
Difference	<b>\$-6,643</b>	
Total Income	\$157,789	\$154,860
Total Expense	\$200,521	\$188,154
Difference	<b>\$-42,642</b>	<b>\$-33,294</b>
Unrestricted cash on hand:	\$17,973	
Total pledges for 2010:	\$82,400	

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### BELL QUIZ ANSWERS:

- 1) One bell rung in each hand.
- 2) Two bells rung in each hand.

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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](mailto:lynnademay@gmail.com)

Thank you

Lynna Demay.

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### 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](mailto:administrator@annunciationoradell.org).*

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### 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](http://www.annunciationoradell.org)