

Welcome Back, Archie Palmer



You are the People of God who gather at Annunciation to worship, learn, have fun, and grow – and from which you go out to serve. You have many, many talents and lots of enthusiasm. Your wonderful qualities make it truly exciting for me to re-join you as your interim minister. I trust that you'll benefit from our time together – as you identify the gifts God has given each one of you individually and all of your gifts collectively and how you can best use your gifts to serve our Lord.

Please view me as your guest, charged with some clearly defined liturgical, pastoral, and teaching functions to perform with you – never on or at you. Look for a visit at home [sometimes at work], where we can share lunch [with me bringing my own so as not to be a burden] and conversation and some time in prayer. Most importantly, know that your Wardens are in charge of what happens at Christ Church and, together with the Vestry, are my collective boss – and that the bishop is your rector during this time. And, just in case you were expecting miracles with me, remember that you have a Savior. His name is Jesus Christ. And I'm not in competition with him!

Whenever you have any concern, positive or otherwise, about anything I do, please feel free to tell me directly. That goes for children as well as adults. As you've probably realized, you've got someone with strong views in me. You graciously grant me a fantastic forum to speak, as I believe God leads me. You have an equal right to speak up – as God blesses you – and to challenge me in return.

In case you're wondering, I prefer to be on a first-name basis with everyone, including every child in the congregation. Through our baptism, God knows us by name. Because of my increasing "intellectual interludes," I'll take the liberty of addressing each of you by your first name. So I ask you to address me as "Archie" without any title, as a sign of our Christian relationship and our journey together in faith.

Some background. After graduating from St. Albans School at the Washington Cathedral and Williams College, I spent a little over four years in the Army, both as an enlisted man and as a commissioned officer. The day my orders for OCS arrived in 1963, I was AWOL, marching with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., in Washington, DC, where I tried to grow up. Some of you may have been there too. Jump school and training as a tank officer led to stints in Korea and Texas. After graduation from the Philadelphia Divinity School, Bishop Leland Stark ordained me in 1969. Lynne and I met and married during seminary.

I served as assistant at St. James' in Upper Montclair, 1969-71; rector of Trinity Church, Arlington, in Kearny, 1971-82; and rector of Trinity, Cranford, 1982-84, which was not a happy time. The next 16 years I was "non-parochial" and worked first as a management and skills trainer for Automatic Data Processing, 1985-88, then as manager of apheresis development at The Blood Center of New Jersey, 1988-2000.

Eleven years ago, I took the basic Interim Ministry Network course. There I learned to focus on providing leadership in worship, pastoral care, and support for lay ministries, plus guidance and encouragement while folk work through the various opportunities that constitute this "in-between time." In January 2001, I began full-time interim ministry at St. James, Ridgefield Park, but God had other plans. Later that year I started over, this time in half-time interim ministry at St. Andrew's, Lincoln Park; followed by St. Luke's, Haworth, and Trinity, Cliffside Park, all for a year each' with two months at St. Andrew & Holy Communion, South Orange; 19 months with Annunciation, Oradell; and 32 months at Christ Church, Pompton Lakes, through June of last year. I finally retired for good from the Blood Center at the end of 2006.

Lynne retired three years ago as the school social

worker in North Arlington. She worships at the Congregational Church in Glen Ridge, where we live. There she's been a Stephen Minister for many years. Since retirement she's taken up a long-withheld love, of fine art. This summer, she's exhibited a number of her paintings at several venues this summer and has sold or contributed artwork to charity. We've been happily married for over 44 years.

Our daughter Karen lives in Wharton with her daughters Tyler [almost 17] and Madison [almost 7] and husband John Steger. Karen works for Budget Car Rental and in 2003 graduated *magna cum laude* from William Paterson. She earned her MBA from Centenary College in 2009 with straight As. She teaches Sunday school, served as treasurer at Wharton Community Church [where her children flourish], and is a phenomenal mother.

Lynne and I are "cat people" and backyard beekeepers, usually harvesting hundreds of pounds of honey from our four hives. We enjoy bicycling and cross-country skiing when the weather's right, as well as reading and classical music. I try to swim or Nordic-track three times a week, bake sourdough bread, and walk the streets of Glen Ridge as often as possible with Lynne.

We have a rewarding tradition of family prayer that's seen us through some heavy-duty life challenges. We're significantly involved with several charities. Giving platelets is one of my passions = over 500 donations plus another 100 of whole blood or red cells. I served three terms as a trustee at Bloomfield College and have been privileged to act with power-of-attorney and as executor for several family members and friends.

Your role as spelled out in the contract signed by Ted Gustenhoven and Brian Demay is to be the People of God. That involves a lot of loving and caring for one another, reaching out with open arms and willing hearts to each other, newcomers in your midst, and the world beyond.

You are infinitely precious to God. I look forward to encouraging you always to work out your own salvation...knowing that God's in the midst of it, cheering you on! [See Philippians 2:12b-13] It's my hope that together we can put flesh on Jesus' New Commandment = to love one another as he loves us [See John 13:34], as you spend quality time learning more about yourselves, God's will for you as a parish, what commitments you're willing to make – all in preparation for your calling your next rector.

Archie Palmer

September:

Dates to Note on Your Calendar

9/5 - Labor Day

9/7 – Communion and Healing Service

9/11 - First day of Sunday school

9/23 – First day of Fall

9/26 – ECW meeting at 1 PM

Sunday Scripture in September

9/4 Proper 18 – Exodus 12:1-14; Psalm 149; Romans 13:8-14; Matthew 18:15-20

9/11 Proper 19 – Exodus 14:19-31; Psalm 114; Romans 14:1-12; Matthew 18:21-35

9/18 Proper 20 – Exodus 16:2-15; Psalm 105:1-6 & 37-45; Philippians 1:21-30; Matthew 20:1-16

9/25 Proper 21 – Exodus 17:1-7; Psalm 78:1-4 & 12-16; Philippians 2:1-13; Matthew 21:23-32

Comments from Archie: This is something that I'd like to be a regular feature of the Newsletter. I want people to "do their homework" and come to church aware of and "owning" the Scripture readings for the day = the Ministry of the Word part of the service. My sermon style is to engage people with the Bible and draw life experiences and focus on faith/learning opportunities. These readings will be on a sheet in the bulletin. Things will be quite different there, more like what was standard during my last time at Annunciation.

Parishioners' Milestones

Birthdays: David Oliff 9/1, Jane Sarnicki 9/2, Dorothy Grefrath 9/3, Viola Willis 9/7, Eleanor Lowell 9/11, Patricia Brady 9/22, Emily Oliff 9/25, Amanda Lozano 9/26, Daniel Oliff 9/27

Baptisms: Robert Dziemian 9/7, Lily Barnes 9/23, Kathiann Krott 9/25, Clare Simpson 9/26

Confirmations:

Anniversaries: Bill and Marilyn Youakim 9/23, Edward and Denise Cannizzaro-Garcia 9/28

Communion and Healing Service

Wednesday September 7 at 11 am.

Scripture: Ezekiel 33:7-11; Psalm 119:33-40; Matthew 18-15-20 Focus = Paul Jones, Bishop The intent here is to engage the people who gather to learn something about great and not-so-great figures in our faith history. They can give us a focus on our own spiritual life and give us pointers for our spiritual growth. Should this concept catch on, it could continue each Wednesday morning, for about an hour. People could bring a bag lunch, so we can continue the conversation and get to know one another better or even have some fun together. Should some of folk from Friends for Life may also participate, so much the better.

Episcopal Church Women

There will be an Episcopal Church Women meeting on Monday, September 26, at 1 pm in the Parish Hall. All women in the parish are invited to attend. Refreshments will follow the meeting.

See Ginny Baird or Barbara Maggio for more information.

Community Good Works

Good News Number 1: The Four units at the Waldwick site have been completed and the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony is scheduled for Saturday September 10 at 12 P.M. It is a wonderful accomplishment that four families will be able to move in at one time. The site construction was a remodeling of an 1800's mansion to four units that include a back yard with individual decks. Annunciation involvement included a volunteer group working twice at the site plus being generous when the "absent member" collection is for Bergen Habitat for Humanity.

Good News Number 2 : Habitat for Humanity has been approved by the Oradell Zoning Board of Adjustment to build in Oradell. At the present time, permits are being signed and approved to construct two stand alone buildings with two three bedroom units in each building. The site is at 209-211 Westervelt Place. This will be another opportunity for Annunciation to become "involved". Construction is expected to start in late September.

Greg Kouletsis

Teacher Resource Day

The Christian Formation Commission is sponsoring a Teacher Resource Day on Saturday, September 10, 2011 at St. Luke's Church, 73 S. Fullerton Avenue [2 blocks south of Bloomfield Avenue] in Montclair. It's advertised as "a perfect way to · Support and prepare your Sunday school teachers for the coming year· Learn ways to invigorate your programs for children and youth· Have your volunteers participate in Safe Church training· Provide opportunities for networking and support· Gather ideas to enhance your existing programs. Brochures can be requested. Simply email or call Kitty Kawecki at 973.430.9902 or kkawecki@dioceseofnewark.org

There's also a downloadable flyer at the diocesan website = <http://www.dioceseofnewark.org>

Christophany

A weekend event planned by youth for youth, Christophany is a great way for those in grades 6, 7 and 8 to have fun, play games, make new friends, and explore their spirituality. This year it will be held **October 21-23** at St. Paul's, Chatham. (Download [flyer](#).)

The event costs \$66.00 and, as always, scholarships are available upon request.

The registration deadline is **Friday, October 7**. To register, please use the diocesan [Program Participation Form](#).

For more information, please contact [Kaileen Alston](#), Director of Youth & Young Adult Ministries, 973-430-9991.

Vestry University:

A day for all wardens, vestry members, treasurers, clergy and other congregational leaders to learn, network and celebrate your ministry. **Saturday, October 15**, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at St. Elizabeth's Church in Ridgewood. (Did you attend last year? Not to worry, we're featuring many new workshops this year, as well as repeating some of the most popular workshops from last year.) [Download the flyer](#) with registration form and workshop schedule.

NJ Jackals — Our annual outing to see the NJ Jackals play ball and watch fireworks after the game was on Saturday, July 30.

It was a great time! The weather was good and the fireworks didn't disappoint.

Thank you to Nancy, Eric and Brian E. for coordinating this event.

Parish Communications

Did you know there is a Google Group for Annunciation parishioners?

If you are not a member and would like to join please send me an email at lynnademay@gmail.com

The monthly newsletter is available via the Google group. It is also available on the Annunciation website. There are hard copies available on the table in the hall.

A Recipe for Basic Prayer

If you're not in the habit of praying for more than a few minutes a day, I suggest trying the following thirty minute recipe for basic prayer.

1. Clearing
2. Focusing
3. Listening
4. Asking
5. Thanking

Like the "Basic Bread" recipe in "The Joy of Cooking", you can use this template to create seemingly infinite variations to suit your particular taste and style. Just try this approach until you get the hang of it, and gradually branch out if you feel the need. If it is helpful, play some soothing instrumental music during this time

By Eric Elnes, Adapted from his book "Asphalt Jesus".

God Bless

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

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