

joyful noise

Five Days of Summer Music Camp

A New Kind of Vacation Bible School

For Children Ages 6 to 10

August 3-7, 2009

Oradell

*What is **joyful noise**?* This is a new venture of the Church of the Annunciation in Oradell, is a parish of the Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Newark. Designed for children ages 6 through 10, Joyful Noise is much, much more than your typical Vacation Bible School.

*What kind of activities will my child participate in at **joyful noise**?* This program may be different from other Vacation Bible School programs you've known. We'll emphasize music rather than dogma. We'll teach our young singers lots of new songs, and try singing a few of them in two-part harmony. We'll also introduce them to elementary solfege (a system of recognizing musical intervals). Each day will include some outdoor play time and a snack, and we'll play musical games, and share a few stories from the Bible. We may even break out our church's beautiful set of handbells! We'll use music in many ways to express our joy in the beauty and power of creation, and all the blessings of love, friendship, and hope.

*What else is different about **joyful noise**?* This being a program of a parish in the Episcopal Church, we seek to give children an appreciation of the great stories of our heritage—not to indoctrinate them in our faith. We welcome not only other Christians, but also children of Jewish, Buddhist, Muslim, and other faith traditions—or of no faith tradition at all.

*What will **joyful noise** do for my child?* Your child will learn some of the great human narrative through the telling of Bible stories, from the Hebrew scripture (or Old Testament) as well as from the Christian dispensation (the New Testament). Children will also gain or improve musical skill. Research has shown that children who participate in music programs are often better socialized than those who do not, and they frequently score better in reading comprehension and mathematics. Your child should leave with a sense of

accomplishment and happy memories of learning and sharing music with friends, and feeling a sense of care, love, and safety. Children will also have take-home materials to enjoy with their parents.

The Church of the Annunciation is conveniently located at the corner of Kinderkamack Road and Center Street, next to Oradell Town Hall and just behind Oradell Public School. The church and parish hall are air conditioned.

Elizabeth Allison Craig (project director): Founder of “kidsensemble” in New York, a children’s singing group. Currently serving as Warden (lay leader) of this parish. She is the mother of two children, and has years of experience singing in both choirs and jazz ensembles.

Michael Kooman (supervising musician): Graduate of Carnegie Mellon University’s music program. Last year, he was invited to participate in the Johnny Mercer Songwriters’ Program, and a musical he wrote was workshopped at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. (For more information on Michael, see www.youtube.com/user/koomandiamond or www.myspace.com/koomandiamond.)

The Rev. J. Barrington Bates (priest): Rector of this parish church, he will be present with to assist with the children daily. He is a former member of the Tanglewood Festival Chorus (the house chorus of the Boston Symphony Orchestra), and has a six-year-old son.

Grace Oliff has been an educator, librarian, and storyteller for 35 years. Her performances as a storyteller include the West End Theatre, the Hans Christian Andersen Statue, and featured keynote performances at the New Jersey Storytelling Festival. She is currently storyteller in residence at the Elisabeth Morrow School. She incorporates Signed Exact English in both story and song. She is the mother of three grown children.

Our staff will be assisted by a corps of volunteers from the parish, including musicians, professional teachers, and other parents.

All staff and volunteers will receive “Safe Church” training under the auspices of the Diocese of Newark., ensuring a safe and nurturing environment for the children. The complete policy is available to read or download from our web site (<http://www.annunciationoradell.org/sundayschool.html>).

COSTS: \$50 for one child, \$80 for two siblings, or \$100 maximum per family. Includes a daily snack and all music materials. Limited scholarship assistance available. Tax-deductible donations to our scholarship fund accepted with grateful thanks.

SCHEDULE: 1 to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday

ALSO BEING CONSIDERED: A performance for families at the end of the program, a take-home compact disc to enjoy for years to come, and ideas you have yet to submit.