

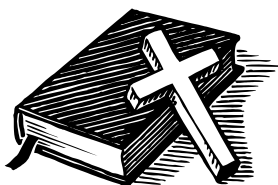
MAGNIFICAT

PARISH NEWS FROM THE ANNUNCIATION OF OUR LADY EPISCOPAL CHURCH
SEPTEMBER 2009

Here's what's inside this Month

From the Rector.....	1
From the Senior Warden.....	2
From the Junior Warden.....	3
From the Vestry.....	3
Education News.....	4
Youth Group Updates.....	6
Opportunities to join in and serve.....	7&8
AND MUCH, MUCH MORE!!	

FROM YOUR RECTOR



Part of being in community is very much like being a member of a family. There are responsibilities that every member must engage themselves in so that the entire body can function properly. Our parish operates from this assumption and we have flourished because our people so freely give of their time and talent. The Sunday School is but one example of this work...and it is work! The benefit that we gain from the dedicated people who share their faith with our children from week to week is immeasurable. I want to thank our teachers and our Education team for the work that they consistently do to make Christian Education one of the strong offerings to our community and a real defining ministry of our parish.

Hospitality, or the ministry of welcoming others, is another signature ministry of our parish. One of the easy ways that we do that

is by offering coffee hour at the end of the services. This is such an important ministry in the life of the Church that in seminary it is often referred to as “the Seventh Sacrament”. It balances out the formal gathering and sharing in our worship with an informal and often quite extended time for people to get to know others more fully and find real connections with others. This is why I am putting out a call for people to sign up for this hospitality hour. I know that there are people connected with the parish who do not like to host coffee hour but it is only fair that everyone who considers themselves members of this parish take the responsibility for hosting at LEAST one coffee hour a year.

We are having great difficulty getting people to sign up this fall to complete our coffee hour list. In years past, I have taken the pledge list and included those who I know are consistent attendees and assigned a coffee hour date for them to serve. It is not popular and it is extra work for the staff, but it does get the list completed. We will have a list out for folks to sign up for a few more weeks and it is my hope that everyone will step up and support this truly vital ministry. I will take a look at the list in mid-September and plug in people who have not signed up to complete the schedule for the year. You can always arrange to switch dates with others, but this seems the most fair approach to share the burden of our hospitality ministry.

A few tips for a successful coffee hour: 1. Sign up to host. 2. Bring enough food so

that you do not worry if there is enough for others when the children come at the end of service. To my great dismay, I have heard that people discourage our children from taking food (Remember you can always submit your receipts for reimbursement). 3. Seek out Angel and Chris Harold for a walk through of the basics of coffee hour. A handout is also available that notes the key things to remember. 4. Offer it up in love and joy.

You can sign up with someone else and share the effort (always a more enjoyable experience) with a friend. You get to know our people better and it is really gratifying to know that you have taken a little time and created a great environment for the Spirit to deepen our bonds of affection.

I look forward to another great program year for our parish. Please do your part. It makes a world of difference.

See you in Church!
Fr. Clyde+

FROM THE SENIOR WARDEN

A lot of you may know that a large portion of my summer is devoted to working at a children's oncology camp in Michigan. This was my fifth summer working at Special Days Camp, but it was the first time I actually received a stipend for my efforts since I took on the role of Program Coordinator. The Program Coordinator's job is to make the camp schedule, plan any "all camp" activities, run the dining hall, recruit and supervise a number of support staff and "other duties as assigned." I lead campfire sing a longs, start games, and fill A LOT of water balloons.

It is an intense two weeks of camp preceded by months of planning. This can easily get overwhelming. One creative idea generates

another and another, and the next thing you know, you're building a drawbridge, an exploding spaceship or a giant storybook for characters to pop out of in order to complement that year's particular theme. This year, however, was a little different. Some of the support staff who really love last minute challenges (like building exploding spaceships) weren't able to come. I have no talent at all when it comes to complicated construction projects like this and I worried how the program would be affected. What I discovered is an insight that I hope to apply throughout my life: The Work to Wow ratio.

The Work to Wow ratio is this: Let "Work" be something that is hard for you to do. Let "Wow" be the positive effect you hope to get from your work. As your "Work" increases, there should be a corresponding and (fairly) equal increase in "Wow." Remember, that the "Work" is something that is difficult. Filling up water balloons is not difficult for me. I find it fun and relaxing. I could do it all day long. On the other hand, building a giant catapult for the water balloons IS difficult for me. That is WORK. So, using the Work to Wow ratio, I ask myself, "How much will the camper "WOW" be increased by my WORK of making a giant catapult?" The truth is, not a whole lot. The water balloons will still get thrown, kids will still get wet and a catapult, while cool, will not change that. Question answered: no catapult.

Now, that scenario applies to me only. For Mark, the staffer at camp who loves to build things, the Work to Wow ratio would be entirely different. He could whip out a catapult in a twinkling. In his case, the Work to Wow ratio would be right in line.

There are times when increased Work does elicit a major increase in Wow. This year I put together individual supply bins for Camp's six different age group "villages". UGh! What a pain! The Wow, though, I

knew, would be huge! Those bins really met a need. At the end, the Wow actually exceeded the Work that went into them.

So, what does all this have to do with church, Senior Warden? Well, a lot. I encourage you, when it comes to volunteering at church, to apply the Work to Wow ratio. For example, for coffee hour, if you hate to bake, realize that Oreos and Ritz crackers will be eaten just as much as someone else's homemade banana bread. Or what about balancing a checkbook? For me, that is WORK. But if you think it's easy, then maybe you'd like to serve on the Finance committee or count the offering on Sunday mornings. You'd get a big WOW from me! We'll be having another Parish Planning meeting in September. That is the perfect time to practice the Work to Wow ratio. Hope to see you there! -Maggie Attiyeh

FROM THE JUNIOR WARDEN

Summer is almost over. I do hope that you all had a good summer's worth of relaxation and fun with your families and friends. For some of us it meant going across the country to see our family. For others, it simply meant taking short trips in and around the area—anything to get away for a while and refresh ourselves.

Now the autumn activities of Annunciation are about to begin again. Sunday School, the Giving campaign, Advent, Thanksgiving, Christmas, the New Year, and the Annual Parish meeting all happen within the next 120 days, exciting and very busy times to say the very least. While you are all thinking of these various activities and events which I have not even mentioned, I would like you to think of the next Parish Planning session which will happen on **September 20**. Here is your opportunity to give your ideas of what Annunciation might be doing from Advent to

Lent. If you feel strongly enough about an activity or event, you might want to even volunteer to lead it. This would give you the opportunity to step out and say “I can do this” and have fun doing it at the same time. Even if you do not want to lead an activity or event, you might feel that you can help by volunteering to help with some activity. The field is wide open and you can help make it all worthwhile.

If you really feel that you are being pulled to do something that is out of your comfort zone, you could consider standing for election to the Vestry. This is the ultimate lay leadership role at Annunciation. This takes a little more time than leading an event, but the rewards are just as satisfying if not more. If you are interested, talk to Father Clyde, any Vestry member, or the wardens about the Vestry.

I hope to see you at the next planning meeting on September 20.

-Rich Ringhofer

FROM THE VESTRY

Last month, Laura wrote about the process each ministry team is going through now to renew their goals. I think the back-to-school season is an excellent time for this activity, as many of us with children are experiencing the thrill of a fresh school year: new friends, new challenges, opportunities to grow in new and exciting ways, a chance for a fresh start. Our ministry teams will be reenergizing themselves in a similar way, after a pause during the traditionally slow summer. The teams exist to support the operation of your parish and to enable your parish to amplify the voices, energies and priorities of all of us through organized, deliberate, thoughtful action. The question on my mind: “Are the ministry teams’ plans aligned with your expectations?”

As your elected representatives, we Vestry members seek to act on your behalf in pursuit of our parish's mission. To do this effectively, we need your input. As the various ministry teams refine their long term goals, please lend your voice to the process. Grab a Vestry member or Committee Chair at coffee hour and "bend their ear" for a few minutes. **THEY WON'T MIND!** Tell us what you want Annunciation to do (and be known for) in 2010 and beyond.

Our parish is strong and getting stronger. It will remain so if you remain engaged in our programs; but we better be focusing on things about which you have a passion, or else the summer lull will have a tendency to stick around well into the new year. See you in the coffee line!
-Gary Riemer

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

As summer comes to an end, the Education Committee is organizing a series of Adult Forum programs along with several retreats to provide a variety of spiritual growth experiences for our parish community.

This year, we are going to address four themes, rotating them throughout the year. First, we will continue with the ever-popular *Wired Word* to relate our faith to current events and topics. Second, we will discuss topics related to outreach – peace, justice, service. Third, we will try to present educational topics related to Anglican worship, sacraments and liturgy. Finally, we want to address topics of human concern from a Christian perspective – examples include death and dying, financial issues, family spirituality, loss and grief of any kind, and vocation.

In addition to our regular adult education, we would like to offer some special opportunities to parishioners who are interested in a deeper exploration of their faith. If there is sufficient interest, Jennifer

Haworth would be pleased to offer an eight week program entitled *Meeting Christ in Prayer* after the 10 AM service on Sundays. This is an extension of the series on Ignatian Spirituality that Jennifer conducted earlier this year, and is in response to the interest expressed in the feedback survey. Please notify Jennifer, our priests or me if you want more information or are interested in attending this program.

We also plan to present a few retreats this year, the first of which will be offered during Advent. We will cap off the Christian Education season next May 21 and 22 with a family retreat at Camp Dewan in Wisconsin. Please mark the date on your calendar.

Finally, the diocese requires that parishioners in various leadership roles around the church receive training in abuse prevention. *Keeping God's People Safe* parts 1 and 2 will be held on October 10 at Annunciation. All Sunday school teachers are required to take at least some of this training, and the list of other positions requiring this training can be found in the church office. If you ever might be interested in volunteering at any level in the church, it is a good idea to take this brief training course.

The members of the Christian Education committee hope that you will find some or all of these offerings interesting, and we encourage you to join us in these opportunities for spiritual growth.

-Deb Gallinger

ATRIUM NEWS



Greetings! September is one of my favorite months, because it is back to school time and back to the atrium. This season will be an exciting one for our atrium. We have some returning students and several new three-

year-olds. The teaching staff will consist of Doreen Lemke, Cindy Even and me. This year we will start our atrium session promptly at 9:00 am and we will finish with a prayer at 9:45. Each child will need to be picked up by their parent at the end of class. I am excited to start our third year and I know that even if it is your child's first year in the atrium, they will amaze you with their stories of the Good Shepherd. -Mary Oesterlein

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Have you ever put the name of a friend or loved one on our prayer list? If so, you know how it feels when many voices say that person's name during the Prayers of the People. The name pops out at you. Why? Because you know the *reason* behind that prayer request. You know how the Lord may help this person in their time of need. That name is not just part of a list. It becomes alive. When the name is spoken aloud, you feel the emotions – the sympathy, empathy, fear, understanding, desperation – that are all rolled up into that request.

Each name on our prayer list represents a true need, which is why we are raising these people up in prayer. We are asking on their behalf for guidance, strength, healing...any number of needs. The prayer leader reminds us to "take a breath after each name, as it is read, so that we may thoughtfully lift these people in prayer." Often times, the reading of names can become a run-away train, speeding down a steep hill. If we can't take a few extra seconds to offer a heartfelt intercession for these people, whether we know them or not, how can we expect God to pay any more attention to them, either? Thank goodness He does! But you get my point.

I often wonder if we listed the need for the prayer instead of the name if it would make a difference. Our prayers might sound like this, "*We pray for those with other concerns, especially the 14 year old honor student who's being bullied, the newly retired couple who instead of enjoying their free time are spending it on a first round of chemotherapy for a newfound cancer, the extremely talented parishioner who is currently unemployed and losing her home because jobs are scarce.*" Our prayers would take considerably longer, but you sure can feel for these people, even if you don't know them. So, please, take your time when reading the prayers on Sunday so God knows we are praying because we care, not because it's on the Sunday "to-do" list.

If you have never put someone on the prayers of the people and would like to, here's how it works. In the Narthex, there is a black wrought iron stand near the office door. Complete the form with your name, the name of the person for whom we'll pray and indicate whether they are sick or have other concerns. Each name is kept on the list for 4 weeks. You may, at the end of that time, put the person on the list again. You may also list people who have passed away recently. Why do some of the names have dates after them that include a year and others do not? For example, *Mary* Smith (8/7), *John* Doe (8/20/09). We pray annually for members of our parish who have passed away. They are listed with a month and day only. People who have died in the current year will have the year added to their date.

If you have any other questions about the prayers of the people, please leave a note in the office for me or drop me an e-mail. Don't forget, we can include thanksgivings in the prayers, too!

– Molly Shumate
Parish Administrator

MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP

Welcome to a new year of Youth Group. We are excited to start our 6th season. Come and join us for **music, fun, games, getting to know each other**, and of course **food**. Mark your calendars now:

- 2nd Sunday of the month
- 5th-8th Grade

Sept 13th - 4-7pm at the church

Oct 11th - 4-7pm at the church

Nov 8th - 4-7pm at the church

Dec – No Youth Group

Jan 10th – Winter Outing

Feb 21st - 4-7pm at the church

Mar 14th – Sports Complex

April 11th 4-7pm at the church

May - No Youth Group

June – Lock-in with Emmanuel/Trinity



New Beginning Dates

[New Beginnings #22](#), September 25 – 27

[New Beginnings #23](#) January 29 – 31, 2010;

[Junior High/High School Retreat](#) April 16 – 18, 2010 at Camp Algonquin.

Parents: This program needs your help. Each meeting requires adult chaperon/host (min of 2) with a 5:1 ratio. Host responsibilities: an extra adult in the area to help supervise our young people (this ensures at least 2 adults are present). Provide a light meal since this meeting time goes over their dinner time and what's fellowship without food? Look for a sign up to schedule for the month(s) that work for you.

-Jane Penticoff

INTRODUCING... A NEW HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP



Welcome to a new year and a Youth Group dedicated to our High School. 1st-We have **food**; 2nd-**games & music** 3rd -develop new/old **relationships** (including our relationship with God!) 4th **community service**.

- 3rd Sunday of the month (occasionally combined with the middle school group on a second Sunday for a special event)
- Freshmen-Senior
- All of this is proposed...we will meet with all interested parties on September 20th at 4pm to discuss if there is interest in a Senior High youth group. Volunteers needed and welcomed!

Happening Dates

[Happening #89](#) November 13 – 15, 2009;

[Happening #90](#) January 29 – 31, 2010;

[Junior High/High School Retreat](#) April 16 – 18, 2010 at Camp Algonquin.

Parents: This program needs your help. Each meeting requires adult chaperon/host (min of 2) with an 8:1 ratio. Host responsibilities: an extra adult in the area to help supervise our young people (this ensures at least 2 adults are present). Provide a light meal since this meeting time goes over their dinner time and what's fellowship without food? Look for a sign up to schedule for the month(s) that work for you.

-Jane Penticoff

“NEW BEGINNINGS” AND “HAPPENING” – WHAT ARE THEY, AND WHAT DO THEY HAVE TO DO WITH ME?

Our diocese has a strong Youth Program with many offering to support youth faith development. These programs also support relationship building, team building and leadership skills. **New Beginnings** is a weekend retreat for 6-8th graders and is staffed by High Schoolers (with responsible adult supervision!). **Happening** is a retreat weekend for High School aged youth that is run by High School youth who have attended as participants (again, supervisory adults included). Over the last two years, many of our youth have become actively engaged in these programs and have continued on to develop leadership skill as staff members for these retreats.

What does this have to do with the rest of us? Our diocese asks that every congregation who sends youth to diocesan youth events *also* send adult chaperons (*other* than a parent of participants) with the youth. The sexual abuse policies put forward in "Keeping God's People Safe" (the diocesan training session) contain the following requirements: Male and female adults are needed when bringing male and female youth. The ratios for these age groups are 1 adult to every 5 junior high youth and at the high school level, 1 adult for every 8 high school students. Adults accompanying our youth are also required to be current with the Episcopal training in "Keeping God's People Safe".

If I attend as a chaperon, what is expected of me? Adults are there for supervision, support, to monitor the youth they bring, check in with them, and to make sure that they feel safe. Adult chaperons are *not* responsible for creating or providing activities for the youth. It makes such a

difference when adults engage young people in conversation, and get to know them. Young people also need good adult mentors and companions in their spiritual journey, in addition to their parents. It may not be apparent to you at first, but just the fact that you are willing to spend your weekend with these young people means a lot to them.

When? Annunciation youth may participate in 5 retreat weekends throughout the school year. The 2009-2010 retreat weekends are: [New Beginnings #22](#), September 25 – 27 [Happening #89](#) November 13 – 15 [New Beginnings #23](#) January 29 – 31, 2010 [Happening #90](#) January 29 – 31, 2010 [Junior High/High School Retreat](#) April 16 – 18, 2010 at Camp Algonquin.

In order for our youth group to grow and integrate with the wonderful diocesan programs for young people, adults from our parish need to attend the training, "Keeping God's People Safe" and set aside weekends so that they may attend the retreats. This interaction with the diocese has had a significant impact upon our youth, and continued participation is necessary for our own youth program to continue to flourish. Please consider participating. The next "Keeping God's People Safe" training is October 10th at Annunciation of Our Lady.

Following is a link to the *Policies and Guidelines for Adults accompanying Youth to Diocesan Youth Events and Retreats*. <http://episcopalchicago.org/ministries/youth-ministry/Guidelinesforadultsatyouthevents2-2005.pdf.pdf>

If you are interested in supporting our youth through chaperoning one or more of these events, please contact Father Clyde or Jane Penticoff. Thank you in advance for your support in the spiritual development of our youth.
-Jane Penticoff

SUNRISE MINISTRY



One of our Outreach Ministries needs your help ½ hour once a month: There is a Sunrise Assisted Living service every Sunday held at their facilities at 500 North Hunt Club Road in Gurnee, just a few minutes away from our church. We are looking for people to assist at the 9:15 am service that lasts 15 minutes once a month! If you are interested please contact Fr. Clyde, Rev. Kate, or Linda Lutter ... or any of the team members: Elizabeth Danos, Pat Donegan, Carol Eads, Jan Harastany, Ken Peterson, Cindy Pullinger, Dale and Sandy Sander, Dan and Carol Sluga, Tony and Linda Waynick ... **we especially need a 5th Sunday team.**

CRAFT FAIR ALERT!

The craft fair is coming and it will be a little different this year. We're going to try something new. A small number of vendors will be included and we are limiting it to members of our church (regular crafters do not need to be members). The money we raise will be divided – the money from the table/booth rentals will go to the church, the money raised by the bake sale and kitchen will go to the youth group, and there will be a table of items donated with a raffle and a PartyLite Candle fund-raiser for the Dustan family. Registration forms are on the table in the Narthex and we still have table space so spread the word! Saturday, November 14th is the date and the registration fee is \$30.00; an extra table costs an additional \$10.00. Any questions, contact Virginia Bosserman or Terry Kline



U.T.O.

United Thank Offering (UTO) – that little blue box that holds a lot of hopes and dreams for many of the Episcopal churches all over the world. Stop by the table in the narthex and pick up your blue box today. Take it home or keep it in your car and every time you have a thanksgiving put a coin in the box. You will be AMAZED how fast that box fills up. Then on October 18th bring it to church and your coins will be combined with all the others to assist communities all over the world.. In Charleston, South Carolina the UTO purchased a vehicle to drive young girls from a violent neighbor school setting to a safe environment. In our own diocese, UTO money was used to purchase a van for a church in a low-income neighborhood so that their children could attend diocesan youth events. Stories like this abound! Give generously.



Our mission is to know God and to make God known. Our office is open Monday – Thursday from 9-1. The vestry members who guide our church are:
Maggie Attiyeh, Senior Warden
Rich Ringhofer, Junior Warden
Deb Gallinger
Bill Hagan
Laura O'Connor
Greg Percival
Deb Rakestraw
Gary Riemer
Dale Sander



LET'S CELEBRATE!

If you should be on this list, and you're not,
please make a note on the Parish
Administrator's clipboard in the office. Thanks!



September Birthdays:

Spencer Fulton	9/2
Kelley Bush	9/3
Robin Donegan	9/4
Elizabeth Danos	9/7
Andrew Wolcott	9/8
Michael Boyke	9/10
Jim Ashley	9/11
Joan Reinhardt	9/12
Dan Sluga	9/12
Joan Reinhardt	9/12
Karen Ashley	9/12
Susan O'Morchoe	9/13
Carol Nitsche	9/14
Julie Lucas	9/14
Bob Nitsche	9/15
Lisa DePino	9/15
Betsy Donegan	9/16
Brian Schwerman	9/17
Laura Fulton	9/18
Ruth Knabel	9/18
Anne Wolcott	9/18
Dustan Nilsen	9/18
Ruth Chatlien	9/18
William Hagan, Jr.	9/19
Peter Joseph	9/20
Skylar Kooyenga	9/21
Jan Harastany	9/22
Angel Harold	9/22
Tom Carrick	9/22
Richard Myers	9/24
Jennie West	9/24
Robert Potochnik	9/25
Lisa Unda	9/25

Scott Bush	9/29
Merritt Penticoff	9/29
Lilly Kooyenga	9/29
Mary Haviland	9/30
Dave Fulton, Jr.	9/30

September Anniversaries:

Joan & Lloyd Reinhardt	9/7
Laura & Ken Peterson	9/11
Mary & Vic Oesterlein	9/12
Deb & Michael Modde	9/16
Tina & Chuck Pocklington	9/17
Marilyn & Bob Prinzing	9/21
Beth & Bill Hagan	9/28
Clara & Joseph Celebuski	9/30