

MAGNIFICAT

PARISH NEWS FROM THE ANNUNCIATION OF OUR LADY EPISCOPAL CHURCH
FEBRUARY 2010

FROM YOUR RECTOR



Twenty ten is upon us! As I write this, the parish annual meeting is still fresh in my mind. I want to thank our new vestry class for offering their service to our parish. Please congratulate and thank our new members when you see them. The class of 2013 is Mary Jones, Mark Johnson and Katie Perry. Additionally, a one year position is being filled by Virginia Bosserman and our new wardens are Rich Ringhofer and Lars Lukas. I was really impressed by the various leaders of our ministry teams: their voices rang out the reality of the relational approach that we have adopted for the parish. It is important that we all understand the way that we make decisions here because the process relies so much on your voice and participation. Attending the seasonal planning sessions and the annual parish dialogue directly influences our path during the year and provides the raw material for our leaders to continue to shape the future path of the parish. I know that this means attending and participating, but the price of democracy is engaged involvement.

At my desk I have a small icon of Mary holding the infant Jesus. One traditional way of seeing this icon is to observe the holy mother's hand in a gesture of inviting, a gesture of open giving. Mary knew that Jesus was not intended for her alone and that one day she would have to give him up for the calling that was his alone. She knew that his purpose was greater than a beloved son. So she holds him in one arm with the

fierce love of a mother, and with the other she gestures the invitation to come and receive him. Jesus was meant for us. God incarnate to dwell with us. This simple gesture of the holy mother giving her precious son, a foreshadowing of the man who would teach us of God's unfailing steadfast love, remains as a bittersweet reminder of Mary's struggle and the understanding that she was a part of something larger than herself, larger than her love for the boy in her arms.



I see your gifts given for the good of our community of faith in a similar light. You, who have lives outside of these walls, outside of our times of fellowship...still you give freely of your time, talent and treasure. I know that in your decision to be here with your friends, you have chosen to forego other opportunities. What you give is a great treasure. I hope you see that. I hope that you also understand that what you give is in the context of a larger reality of God's vision for us. That is what the Kingdom in your midst refers to in its best sense. When we gather for worship or in service to others or in genuine fellowship with people we enjoy, this brings the vision of the Kingdom that much closer. This is your best and greatest witness to the world engulfed by

superficialities. Jesus lived in such a way. He taught with a sense of wonder and joy in God's creation, and people responded to the fresh, unhindered approach to God that did not require a sacrifice or a purification rite but simply a heart hungry for God.

As we begin this year anew, my hope and prayer for you, for our community of faith, is that we might see the value of our gift to one another in our time shared as a people of God. One hand holding those we love and one hand open in hospitality to the world...a witness to the realization that we are part of something larger. Our calling is not Mary's, but our gesture should mirror hers. With great humility we bring God's kingdom closer, and with that same humility we offer our gifts of life, love and hospitality in God's name to the world. Live into that call to be a people set apart to witness a love beyond imagining. God bless your coming in and going out, your rest and your travelling about, God bless the rough, the smooth, the bright and the drear. God bless your year! See you in Church!

Fr. Clyde+

SENIOR WARDEN THOUGHTS

On January 17, 2009 democracy and Annunciation met again. Annunciation held its Annual Parish meeting. The new Senior Warden and the new Junior Warden as well as 4 new Vestry members were elected. These newly elected members as well as the 5 current members comprise the official elected leadership of the parish. These people have stated that they are willing to give their time and energy to insure that Annunciation is as well led as it can be. They come from different backgrounds and experiences. But these men and women cannot lead by themselves. The rest of the parish can also help them in this momentous task. So if you asked to do something for the

parish, please understand that you are helping make Annunciation the best Episcopal Church in Lake County.

On December 31, 2009 the financial books were closed again. The parish met all its financial obligations and by prudent spending managed to have a small surplus. Because of the tough economic time times, the Vestry had to approve a deficit budget for 2010. The deficit is being offset by the surplus from 2009. The Finance Committee and the Vestry should be applauded for doing such a good job of developing a budget that meets the needs of Annunciation. It provides the financial basis to implement the goals for the Growing Together Plan, which the members of the parish helped develop for 2010.

Lastly, I truly appreciate the trust that you have given me by electing me as the Senior Warden of Annunciation for the next two years. Please feel free to call, e-mail, or talk to me.

-Rich Ringhofer
Senior Warden

MEET THE JUNIOR WARDEN

After 2 months of visiting local parishes, my family and I walked through the doors of Annunciation Church on a cold February morning in 2007. My wife who was raised Reformed and later converted to Catholicism and I who was raised an Episcopalian both felt at home the minute the service started.

We were searching for a church where we could raise our growing family as well as nourish our spiritual needs. I truly believe we found that with Annunciation Church and my desire to join the vestry is to ensure we (the church) keep that good thing going.

I was born in Waukegan and raised in Christ Episcopal Church. I was brought up on a

working nursery farm and taught that hard work is the only sure way to success. I'm the proud husband of Julie Lukas (Sr. Manager, Human Resources Project Management Office, Abbott Labs) and the glowing father of 2 beautiful boys (Charlie 4 ½ and Jansen 8 mo.). I'm a Sr. Project Manager with The Walgreen Co. in Deerfield. I primarily work on large Information Technology programs and am tasked with the responsibility over the Budget, Resources, Scope, and Delivery aspects of these programs. I bring to the vestry my background in Finance, Resource Management, Project Management, as well as a family history of Episcopalian vestry/warden members.

I'm excited to help this wonderful parish grow even more, and I encourage any and all members who have questions, comments, or concerns to reach out to me.

-Lars Lukas

FROM THE VESTRY

Hello fellow parishioners. Well, the time has come for me to write my first article as a member of your Vestry. My fellow Vestry members said that I could write about whatever I wish which doesn't make it any easier since I probably plagiarized every paper I ever wrote in school.

Just as I was at wits end as to what to write about, I discovered a pamphlet in the lobby describing daily devotions. They highlight things you should be thankful for on a daily basis. Here are a few they left out...

I am thankful for:

- The wife who says it's hot dogs tonight / because she is home with me
- The taxes I pay / because it means I'm employed
- The mess to clean up after a party / because it means I'm surrounded by friends

- The shadow that watches me / because it means I am out in the sunshine
- The people around me complaining about the government / because it means we have freedom of speech
- My heating bill / because it means my family is warm
- The lady in church who sings off key / because it means I can hear her
- And finally... For the alarm that goes off early in the morning / because it means I'm alive
- Live well, laugh often.

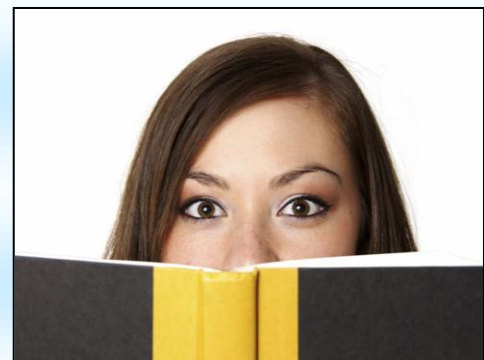
-Greg Percival

Second Winter Storytelling Night

Cabin fever got you down? Sick of having 200 TV channels and nothing to watch? Writers' Group is offering to help solve your problem.

Since prehistoric times, winter was a time when people gathered in their dwellings and whiled away the long hours of darkness by telling stories. On Saturday, February 7, we will continue that ancient tradition by holding the second Winter Storytelling Night. Several writers from Annunciation will read their original works, plus Yukon Slim is making a return appearance to tell us more hair-raising tales of the gold-rush days in Alaska. This event was a big hit last year, so be sure not to miss it! In fact, feel free to invite your friends and neighbors. The event is suitable for adults and children over 12. The program starts at 7:00, and refreshments will be served.

-Ruth Chatlien



EDUCATION UPDATE

The Education Committee has been hard at work developing an exciting and engaging calendar of events for the seasons of Epiphany, Lent, and Eastertide. From creative Adult Forum offerings to reflective retreats and a new engaging Lenten program, there's no excuse not to grow in the life of your faith in some new way!

Adult Forum. Our weekly Sunday morning (9–10am) Adult Education Forum will continue to feature a mix of practical spirituality, social justice, Anglican identity, and *Wired Word* offerings. We encourage parishioners to make a special effort to attend the fora on February 7th and the 14th, both of which will involve presentations by outside guests. On **February 7th, Jenny Dale from the Chicago office of the New Sanctuary Movement** will speak on "Immigration, Detention, Deportation: Communities of Faith Responding to Injustice." The New Sanctuary Movement is a national, interfaith, non-profit organization focused on promoting dialogue about immigration in the United States. Based, in part, on the weekly prayer services she leads for undocumented individuals at the McHenry Detention Facility, Jenny Dale will bring a faith-based lens to the topic of immigration in our nation. One week later, on **February 14th, a representative from All Saints Episcopal Church in Chicago** will visit Annunciation to discuss their **parish's involvement with Ravenswood Community Services (RCS)**, a Food Pantry and Community Kitchen that operates out of their church hall. RCS is an agency of Episcopal Charities and Community Services that works in partnership with the Greater Chicago Food Depository, First Slice, The Night Ministry and DePaul University's School of Nursing. Every Tuesday evening, volunteers from All Saints team with these partners to feed about 300 of their Ravenswood neighbors -- 80% of whom are elderly, living on fixed

incomes, or homeless. Our guest will discuss why All Saints became involved in this ministry, what their efforts entail, and how this important ministry has enriched the lives of their parishioners and neighbors.

This winter's Adult Forum will also feature two panel discussions involving members of our own parish community. Drawing on one of the major themes of Lent, on **February 21st** our own Jaime Dustan and Tim Grant will reflect on some of their own **experiences with suffering** as part of our ongoing series on practical spirituality. Then, on **April 21st**, Anita Murrens, John Anderson, and Linda Lutter will share some "God Stories" of their own, focusing specifically on **where and how they have found God's life and love in our parish.**

Retreats. We are excited to offer two retreat opportunities to parishioners this winter and spring. On **March 6th**, Rob Quirk, a hospice chaplain with Odyssey Healthcare in Milwaukee and a licensed clinical social worker, will offer a half-day retreat on "**Death and Dying.**" Rob's experience ministering to the suffering and bereaved is vast and deep, and his three-hour retreat promises to offer keen spiritual insights and enormously practical wisdom to anyone coping with any form of loss. On **Friday, May 21st and Saturday, May 22nd**, Annunciation will host its first **Family Retreat at Camp Dewan** in Burlington, Wisconsin. This retreat will encourage family members to get to know one another in new and creative ways and, we hope, further deepen the bonds that our congregation shares as a larger faith community. Camp Dewan is a beautiful facility (complete with real beds to sleep on, a modern kitchen, and the coolest gym and home theater you'll ever find inside a barn; go to <http://www.campdewan.com/>). Besides getting closer to God, rumor has it that one of the retreat coordinators is hoping to organize a Bears vs. Packers themed softball

game (just imagine: the Bears may just win one!). Please plan to join us for this event; everyone is welcome!

Lenten Program. This year our Wednesday evening Lenten program will be drawn from a new curriculum known as “**Living the Questions.**” Originally developed by two Methodist pastors, this series has been used by more than 5,000 churches and groups across the globe. We’re excited by this new resource and the practical focus it brings to some of the most basic – and profound – questions of what it means to be loving and compassionate people of faith. As in previous years, our Lenten program will begin with a light supper at 6:15 p.m., followed by a large group teaching and small group discussion. We will conclude by 8 p.m. The Lenten program begins on **February 24th**.

The Latin root of education is “educare,” meaning “to draw out.” The Education Committee hopes that the diversity of offerings we have assembled will, indeed, help to draw out your natural desire to learn and grow as persons of faith. And now that we have included a handy schedule of our events in the *Magnificat*, we’re confident that we’ll see many of you at these wonderful events! All are welcome; please join us!

**Education at Annunciation: Winter/Spring
2010 Calendar of Events**

January 31	Adult Forum: Jennifer Haworth on the Religious & Spiritual Lives of Today’s 13 – 23 Year Olds
February 7	Adult Forum: Jenny Dale of the New Sanctuary Movement on "Immigration, Detention, Deportation: Communities of Faith Responding to Injustice"
February 14	Adult Forum: All Saints, Chicago on “Feeding Our Neighbors: A Partnership with Ravenswood

	Community Services”
February 21	Adult Forum: Spirituality and Suffering: A Discussion with Parishioners Jaime Dustan and Tim Grant.
February 24 (Wednesday, 6-8pm)	Lenten Program: <i>Living the Questions_{2.0}</i>
February 28	Adult Forum: Anglican Identity – the Meaning of Lent
March 3 (Wednesday, 6-8pm)	Lenten Program: <i>Living the Questions_{2.0}</i>
March 6 (Saturday, 9am – Noon)	Retreat: Rob Quirk on “Death and Dying”
March 7	Adult Forum: <i>Wired Word</i>
March 10 (Wednesday, 6-8pm)	Lenten Program: <i>Living the Questions_{2.0}</i>
March 14	Adult Forum: End of Life Planning
March 17 (Wednesday, 6- 8pm)	Lenten Program: <i>Living the Questions_{2.0}</i>
March 21	Adult Forum: End of Life Planning or Topic TBA
March 24 (Wednesday, 6-8pm)	Lenten Program: <i>Living the Questions_{2.0}</i>
March 28	No Forum – Palm Sunday
April 4	No Forum – Easter
April 11	Adult Forum: Anglican Identity -- The meaning of Eastertide
April 18	Adult Forum: <i>Wired Word</i>
April 25	Adult Forum: Wisdom Stories from Annunciation: A Discussion with Linda Lutter, Anita Murrens, and John Anderson
May 2	Adult Forum: <i>Wired Word</i>
May 21-22 (Friday evening to Saturday @ 7pm)	Family Retreat Camp Dewan, Burlington, WI

MEET YOUR NEW VESTRY MEMBERS

Virginia Bosserman: I came to Annunciation in the summer of 2006 after moving to Lindenhurst. I was actually church shopping but after attending Annunciation, I never made it to the other Episcopal churches in the area. I'm part of the choir, I was on Parish Life, I have chaired the craft fair the last couple of years, and started the flower sale last year. I work at UL (Underwriters Labs) in Northbrook and I have 2 grown daughters, a cocker spaniel and a cat. I really enjoy our Book Club and SIS. I was received in 1983 but I left the RC and started attending the Episcopal church in 1977. This is my first time serving on a vestry and I look forward to it.



Virginia, Laura & Tim Emmerling, Tina Bosserman

Mary Jones: My husband John and I began attending Annunciation in November 2006. Since that time, I have been involved in Outreach activities - Habitat for Humanity, PADS and mostly Lake County United where I was recently on the steering team for 2 years. I also attend the Tuesday night Bible Study, SIS, and really enjoy the annual Lenten program.

My husband and I love to golf, travel, scuba dive, and I enjoy gardening. Being from different backgrounds, John Roman Catholic and myself Presbyterian, we found the Episcopal Church a good fit and after our first visit, knew this was our church.

I am the RV Parks and Manufactured Housing Division Manager for Jennings Realty in Evanston, and I also manage one of their communities in Beach Park.



John & Mary Jones

Mark Johnson: After many years as a member of church of The Annunciation, I'm pleased to be joining the vestry for the first time. I am a lifelong Episcopalian, having attended and been confirmed at St Luke's in Madison, WI, where my parents are still members. My wife Cheri and I have been married 35 years, and started attending Church of the Annunciation about 20 years ago, after moving to this area. We have three grown children, Christina, Bryan, and Alan, all of whom attended Church of the Annunciation during their youth, and have since moved to different parts of the country. Professionally, I was trained as a chemist, and currently work in Business Development for a large generic pharmaceutical company. Currently I'm a member of the Education Committee and a Small Group. Cheri and I are also active in a number of other church activities as well. For those of you who don't know me, please introduce yourselves. You will generally see Cheri and me at the 8 am service.



Cheri & Mark Johnson

MARDI GRAS!

Mardi Gras is almost here. The celebration will be on Tuesday, February 5. If you've never attended a Mardi Gras Annunciation style, here's what you can expect:



Dinner will be served between 5:00 and 8:00 pm featuring traditional New Orleans foods with special kid-friendly and vegetarian selections available. Water, coffee & tea are provided. BYOB.

Music: The *Actual Size* band will make their fourth appearance this year. Come on and let the good times roll!

Parade: Find the "baby" in the King's cake and you could be the king or queen leading the parade! Floats are designed, decorated and operated by the parish youth.

Sign-up so that appropriate amounts of food are prepared. Help is needed to serve, clean up, set up & decorate. See the posting on the Narthex wall.

Coordinators: Maria & Michael Westphal maria.westphal@att.net Don't miss this night of food and fun for all ages before Lent begins!

OUR MISSION IS,

"to know God and to make God known."

Office hours: Monday – Thursday from 9-1.

Vestry Members:

Rich Ringhofer, Senior Warden
Lars Lukas, Junior Warden
Virginia Bosserman
Bill Hagan
Mark Johnson
Mary Jones
Laura O'Connor
Greg Percival
Katie Perry
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!

February Birthdays:

Vanessa DePino	2/3
Craig Lutter	2/4
Amanda Pullinger	2/4
Carol Sluga	2/5
John Boyke	2/5
Jonathan Oesterlein	2/5
Dottie Herdliska	2/7
Jeff Gallinger	2/7
Leni Bordelon	2/11
Rick VanHorn	2/11
Tina Pocklington	2/11
Joshua Westphal	2/11
Jonathan Dohnalek	2/12
Denise Dogadalski	2/14
Gretchen Riemer	2/16
Gene Brown	2/16
Steven Kulbis	2/17
Erin Donegan	2/19
Tanya Galardi	2/21
Christopher Wolcott	2/23
Stacey Gallinger	2/25
Cindy Schwerman	2/27

February Anniversaries:

Susie & Steve Kooyenga	2/10
Laura & Dave Fulton, Sr.	2/14
Leslie & Steve McCarthy	2/17
Pam & Richard Myers	2/18
Molly & Todd Shumate	2/18
Sara & David O'Dowd	2/18
Elizabeth & William Potochnik	2/27
Maria & Michael Westphal	2/29