

CHRONICLE

CREATION 2016



From the Rector



"We carry this precious Message around in the unadorned clay pots of our ordinary lives... We've been surrounded and battered by troubles, but not demoralized; we're not sure what to do, but we know that God knows what to do; we've been spiritually terrorized, but God hasn't left our side; we've been thrown down, but we haven't broken."
2 Corinthians 4:7-8 (The Message)

Dear Friends,

St. Paul proclaimed the good news of God's love in Christ. His desire was that "this precious message" would be as essential to daily life as the clay pots that were used every day to cook or draw water.

We may not cook very often with clay pots, but our world is not so different from Paul's. We need to hear and believe in the precious message that God is Love in our own day.

In fact, in 1965, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. paraphrased Paul's words in his "I have a dream" speech. He took the promise that though we are "surrounded and battered by troubles," we will never be "demoralized" and made it his own, because Dr. King in his struggles had received God's love. This promise was so important to African Americans who had suffered so much, and to everyone who worked to extend "liberty and justice for all" to all Americans. With great eloquence, Dr. King urged those who listened **"to hew out of a mountain of despair, a stone of hope."**

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

From the Rector	2
Animals Blessing	3
Annual Giving	4
Outreach	4
New Rectory	5
Church School	6
Confirmation/Youth	6
Eagle Scout Project	7
Annual Fair	8
Lift High the Cross	9
Taizé	10
Adult Retreat	11
Environment	11
Invite a Friend	12
Interfaith	13
Arts & Music	14
Join the Choir	14
Vestry News	15
Jazz Art & Wine	16



From the Rector (Continued)

Isn't that what we need today? In our public and private lives we have our own share of profound concerns. In the public sphere, it is terrorist acts in Manhattan and New Jersey. It's a divisive presidential campaign which has uncovered the prejudices within our society. It's the profound need of refugees to find a home. In the private spaces of our own lives, it's the battle with illness or addiction. It's the concern for a child who is struggling. It's the breakup of a longtime relationship. It's the uncertainties of the workplace. We want to be generous and grateful and open. But it's so hard, so hard to do so in the world in which we live.

We're not so different from St. Paul or Dr. King. We're all merely human. We face similar challenges. And we know that to follow Jesus, leads us to a cross. On the cross Jesus saw the sin, evil, suffering, injustice and brokenness of our lives and of the world heaped on him, who gave himself out of pure love. The cross and the grave were not the end of him. He rose in great glory so that we might live. It's a life of joy, of forgiveness and mercy. It's a life of gratitude and generosity. A life where the hope is alive that God is with us, that God never deserts us, and that God will enable us to live in love:

"...We've been surrounded and battered by troubles, but not demoralized; we're not sure what to do, but we know that God knows what to do; we've been spiritually terrorized, but God hasn't left our side; we've been thrown down, but we haven't broken."

Let's follow Jesus together. Jesus came to proclaim a kingdom. He began by calling disciples, and others gathered round him. Together with them, in this time and place, we have formed a community called "Church of the Atonement." It was formed for us, first by Christ, then his disciples such as Paul, then by our ancestors in faith, then by the founders of our parish. Today, we have each other, so that we can love and care for each other. We can sing and pray together. We can celebrate with each other and grieve with each other. We are called to be Christians together, not here only but in all places, because we are the Body of Christ. We've been surrounded and battered by troubles, but we are not demoralized, because God has loved us, and because now and always, nothing can separate us from God's love in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Faithfully,



Blessing of the Animals

Our annual Blessing of Animals will take place at 10:00 am on Sunday, October 9th in the auditorium.

Bring your animals -- live or stuffed variety -- for a blessing and to celebrate the companionship and affection we share with our pets. Treats for pets and their humans will be available after the service!

The Youth Ensemble will sing "We are a Part of All Creation" and the Adult Choir will lead us in joyful hymns celebrating God's Creation such as "All Creatures of Our God and King," "All Things Bright and Beautiful," and "Morning Has Broken."

Wet or dry food for cats and dogs will be collected and donated to the food pantry at C.L.A.W.S. Animal Welfare Society in Closter.

Invite a neighbor, colleague or fellow pet-loving friend!





Annual Giving

By John Hancock

The 2017 Annual Giving Campaign is underway! This year's theme, "Creating Our Future," reminds us that while we, the congregation of Atonement, enjoy the legacy of those who came before us, the future of our beloved church and its mission and ministry relies upon the gifts and treasure that we cultivate and contribute together.

Pledges represent the largest share of Atonement's income, making the Annual Giving Campaign the cornerstone of our financial stability. Through our pledges, we compensate our staff, maintain our facilities, and support the remarkable breadth of ministries and programs that enrich our lives as Christians and as human beings.

More information on annual giving becomes available with a special presentation on Sunday, October 23rd. The stewardship team along with Mother Lynne will be in contact throughout the fall until we present our pledge cards together at the Annual Giving Breakfast, which takes place at 9:30 on Sunday, November 20th. Please be sure to mark your calendars!

We are hopeful that this year's campaign will reflect the prayerfully considered pledges of the entire congregation. 100%! We are very close!

Outreach – Gifts for Life

By Carol Petrovich

My friend called me the other day and said, "UGH, I saw a Christmas display in Kohl's today!" I agreed, until I read a brochure from **Gifts for Life** from Episcopal Relief and Development that Lynne passed on to me. The brochure reminded us that most of us are fortunate enough to have adequate food, shelter, safe water and education. Therefore, we are called upon to share our blessings and bring hope to millions of people lacking the most essential necessities of life...which brings me back to Christmas and Gifts for Life.

If you have anyone on your Christmas list who says, "there is nothing I need," consider donating \$35 in their name which provides clean water for one person; or \$80 that would acquire a milk-producing goat; or \$50 for fifty trees; or \$35 that buys care for a mom and her newborn.

So yes, UGH -- too early Christmas displays but this message is not a display. Rather, a gift idea for you for the person who has everything. Make your shopping easier and consider a Gift for Life in a loved one's name.

Click the following link for more information or to make a donation: <http://www.episcopalrelief.org/what-you-can-do/gifts-for-life>.



The New Rectory

By Lynne Bleich Weber

Atonement's wardens and vestry, on the recommendation of the Finance Committee, decided to sell the old rectory at 81 Highwood Avenue and purchase the new one at 4 Old Quarry Road in Englewood.

This move was an act of exemplary stewardship. It will help Atonement remain financially stable now and in the future. The old rectory needed expensive capital improvements. The new rectory is in excellent condition, needing no capital improvements. With the payment of regular maintenance fees and with predictable expenses, Atonement can plan on having a rectory in good condition now, as well as a home attractive to future rectors.

It's hard, even a bit scary, to leave the old and familiar. However, the vestry had the courage to let go of a rectory and begin anew. The rewards for planning for the long- term have already begun to show themselves, and I believe these rewards will continue to do so for years to come.

It was a time consuming and often stressful process, but well worth the effort invested by everyone involved. I would like to thank the Rectory Search Committee, especially Walton Clark (chair), with Carol Petrovich, Mike Murphy, Jack Caloz, and Roberta Roshong. Thanks also to our realtor, Martin Huguley, and Adele Macris. Allen Bell, our lawyer, served us well and patiently, as well as, in the Diocese of Newark, did the chair of the Standing Committee, the Rev. John Mennell, and the Chancellor, Diane Sammons.

Although the sale and purchase of rectories was not something that either Dean or I expected, it worked out very well for both the church and us. Each time I walk into the new rectory, I feel happy. For Dean and me, it's a relief to live in a house that is comfortable, open, and easy to clean and maintain. We felt "at home" almost immediately. In the process of moving we gave away accumulated "stuff." We've made donations to the fairs at both Atonement and All Saints, and to the Vietnam Vets. We've thrown away more than we thought possible.

We are eager for you to see the new rectory! SO - SAVE THE DATE! Dean and I hope that you can drop in at the Rectory Open House on Sunday, October 30th. between 2:00pm and 5pm. Stay for a few minutes or an hour. Enjoy light refreshments and conversation. The new rectory address is: 4 Old Quarry Road, Englewood, NJ 07631 (in the Oak Trail development). An invitation with driving and parking information will be sent out soon.





Church School News

By Kristen Kasarjian

The Church School is off to a great start this year!

Over the summer, teachers and volunteers worked hard to spruce up the downstairs room and to come up with an enriching and exciting schedule of lessons and activities for the year. We have a lot of fun games, music and movement, and arts and crafts projects based on a scriptural lesson each week planned for our faithful crew of youth.

Any and all children in kindergarten through 6th grade are welcome to attend. Children and teachers meet in the front pews of the church at 9:55am on Sundays, stay through the Collect, and return for Holy Communion.

Any church members wishing to volunteer with the Church School in any way are encouraged to speak with me.

Confirmation and Youth Group

By Carol Petrovich

A reminder that our Confirmation Class for 7th through 9th graders is a separate program encouraging teens to both learn and discuss among themselves how Christian faith affects their daily lives, and the world. The class also meets on Sundays at 9:55am in the front left-hand pew with me, then goes to the Reception Room for class and returns for Holy Communion.

Teens in 7th through 12th grade are invited to participate in the Youth Group. The first meeting of the group was held on Sunday, September 25th in the Reception Room for an hour of pizza, games and planning for the year to come.



Eagle Scout Project

By Carol Petrovich

On Saturday, September 17th, nineteen Boy Scouts and eight adults descended upon the choir room to give it a facelift to support the leadership project of soon-to-be Eagle Scout, Ty Reilly. Walls were scraped and primed to be painted, tiles replaced, a closet built, and windows repaired.

It was amazing to see all the boys engaged in the project which will be completed by the end of September. Of course, all the boys got hungry, so they were very happy to see Ty's mother arrive with drinks and ten boxes of pizza! Some Atonement parishioners gave money to Ty's project, so be sure to take a peek in the choir room to see the facelift!





Annual Fair

By Carol Petrovich

Please mark your calendars for these very important dates:

FAIR PREVIEW DINNER – FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 11th
ANNUAL FAIR – SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 12th

The preview dinner includes fantastic food, fabulous fellowship, and chances to purchase items before the general public on the day of the fair. All of our booths will be stocked with new items... perfect for gift giving. All of you know about the booths we display, so please donate whatever items you can that are new or almost new.

What we also desperately need is your HELP! Help in setting up booths, all hands on deck during the big day, and more help tearing down the booths when the fair is over. Please respond positively when approached by Roberta or me to participate. Many hands make light work, and we cannot rely on just a few.

And please invite friends to attend the dinner and/or join you for lunch at the fair.

With your help, we can make this year's fair the most successful yet!



Lift High the Cross

By Carol Petrovich

During the latter
part of August, a

letter was mailed to announce our capital campaign to repair our beautiful cross and belfry which stands so majestically atop the steeple of our church.

Our cross needs to be replaced and the belfry repaired, and the estimated cost is \$30,000. The cost is high because scaffolding must be erected in order

to make the repairs.

We are hoping to
get a \$10,000
diocesan grant and
to raise the
remainder.

A number of you
have already made
a contribution for
which we are very
appreciative. Will
you join those and
“Follow the Cross?”
If you have any
questions about the
project, please
speak with Walton
Clark or call the
church office.



Taizé at Atonement – 15 Years

By Lynne Bleich Weber

Atonement is entering the 15th year of its Taizé ministry! Have you tried it yet?

“Taizé at Atonement” resumed with its first fall service on **September 11th** and will continue on **November 6th** and **December 4th** at 7:00pm in the candlelit Chapel. Experience this peaceful ecumenical 45-minute service of simple songs, scripture, prayers and 10 minutes of silent reflection led by Lynne Weber and by musicians Alan Lauderdale (flute) and the Rev. Joyce McGirr or Ms. Angie Rispoli (piano, voice).

Taizé is a small village hidden away in the hills of Burgundy, France, not far from the city of Cluny. Since 1940, it has been the home of an ecumenical community of brothers whose prayer, three times per day, is at the center of their lives. Taizé is a place to which visitors of all ages and backgrounds come on pilgrimage. Every summer, thousands of young people from across the world stay at Taizé to work and pray; our bishop Mark Beckwith has led a group from our diocese to do just that for several years now.

Song and scripture are the essential elements of Taizé worship. The songs, repeated again and again, have a meditative quality. Using just a few words, they express a basic reality of faith quickly grasped by the mind. As the words are sung many times, this reality gradually penetrates the whole being. These songs remain in our hearts and minds enabling us to continue our prayer as we resume our daily lives.



Adult Education Retreat

Atonement and All Saints, Leonia, held our Sixth Annual Adult Education Retreat, "Holy Places, Holy People," on Friday, September 30th through Sunday, October 2nd at Holy Cross Monastery (Episcopal).



Join us next year or the year after for another wonderful time of learning and growing in faith and friendship in a beautiful location overlooking the Hudson! **SAVE THE DATES:**

Friday, September 22nd through Sunday, September 24th, 2017

Friday, September 28th through Sunday, September 30th, 2018

Environmental News

By Carol Schults

On November 6th during the 10:00am service, the church school students will harvest and put the garden to sleep. The church school planted herbs in the spring and everyone will be able to take some home to enjoy! We will also check out how the compost did over the summer. Please bring gardening gloves to church that day. This event will happen light rain or shine!



Invite a Friend to Atonement!

“Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?”

Response: “I will with God’s help.”

At first it might seem “scary” to invite a friend to church. But, assuming that you’re at Atonement because you’ve found something here that is important to you and/or your family -- faith, inspiration, learning, sharing, community, music -- chances are that others might find something important to them, too!

There are some easy ways to share the “good news” of God’s love at Atonement. Sunday morning is a great place for newcomers -- especially, for instance, if they have children and are interested in Church School or Confirmation. However, if you’re not sure what their experience of church has been in the past, you might begin by inviting friends to something other than a regular worship service. Instead, you can invite them to:

- Help provide food and/or serve dinner to the homeless at St. Paul’s Shelter on the second Sunday of the month.
- Bring their pet to our “Blessing of the Animals” on Sunday, October 9th at 10:00am in the auditorium.
- Try the Taizé service on Sunday, November 6th at 7:00pm -- a 45-minute service of simple songs, scripture, prayer and silence in the candlelit Chapel.
- Bible study on first and third Thursdays, Book Group on Friday mornings, or Discovery Night one Tuesday per month (beginning October 11th).
- The Country Fair on November 12th and/or the preview dinner on November 11th.
- A special music event such as “Candlelight & Carols” with our choir and soloists on Sunday, December 11th at 5:00pm and other special music events to be publicized soon.
- Browse the Opp Shop on Thursdays between 10:00am and 4:00pm or on Saturdays between 10:00am and 1:00pm.

Who knows? One of your friends or neighbors may be searching for a faith community, a deeper connection to God, a place to ask questions about Jesus, an opportunity to serve others, or all of the above...but weren’t sure where to go or how to begin! Your invitation may be received more warmly than you expected -- and you can help Atonement to grow!



Interfaith Women's Initiative

Kim Regan, Angie Rispoli, Lynne Weber and Fran Regan were the Christian hosts at a meeting of the Interfaith Women's Initiative (IWI) at Atonement on Wednesday, September 21st, as they do every three months. IWI consists of Jewish, Muslim and Christian women who meet every month, alternating hosts, for conversation, education and joint action. You're welcome to join the group; speak to Fran or Lynne.



Opportunity Shop

By Carol Petrovich

The Opp Shop is fully stocked and open for business!

Among our many standard favorites, we are featuring many brand new items, men's long-sleeve shirts for \$10 and short-sleeve for \$8, and an entire rack of winter coats for just \$5 each. Also, the policy of "Buy 3 and Get 1 Free" still prevails!

We continue to accept donations, but also have a request -- please tell your neighbors and friends about us. We need new customers. The best advertisement is word-of-mouth. Will you help us?



Arts & Music

By Brian Schober

The coming fall and Advent seasons will prove to be an exciting one in the musical life of Atonement. The annual Candlelight and Carols service will feature the Saint-Saens **Christmas Oratorio** and will include the adult choir, soloists, organ and harp. Beverly Thompson-Shea, who has played for us many times, will return to play the harp. The choir and soloists will continue to provide music for the weekly services. The music will range from the Baroque to several spirituals and will also include selections from Handel's **Messiah** during Advent.

Join the Choir!

By Brian Schober

The Senior Choir has just started rehearsing for what promises to be another exciting season at Atonement, and new members are always welcome. Rehearsals take place every Wednesday evening at 7:30pm from September through mid-June and last for about an hour and a half. Prior to Sunday worship at 10:00am, we also conduct a warm-up rehearsal for an hour. Even if you can join us only occasionally or for a short while, we would love to have you. If you have a basic grasp of music, so much the better! If you are interested or just love to sing, please contact me at brs512000@gmail.com or 917-355-6699, or speak to me directly after church.



Vestry News

By Fran Regan

Business Continuity Plan

The Vestry has established a Business Continuity Plan that will be activated if there is some event that causes a disruption in the functioning of the church. When Hurricane Sandy hit and knocked out electricity and the internet, we ultimately got everything up and running -- but it would have been easier with a plan. Also, we were lucky with that event, as the church buildings and grounds were not seriously damaged. Putting together a continuity plan forces us to actually prepare for a disaster and then when one hits, it will be easier to recover. The Vestry has tested the plan using a table-top exercise and everyone who is in charge of a ministry or activity has received a copy of the plan.

We also want to make sure the whole congregation is aware of how to stay in contact with the church during a crisis situation. Part of the plan is for the Vestry members to execute a calling chain to contact all the parishioners. We will be testing the chain shortly to make sure we have accurate contact information. The calling chain will also allow Lynne and the Vestry to keep in touch with the members of the church community to determine if anyone has any specific needs to address. Moreover, in an emergency, you will be able to call the church to get announcements about the status of the church and worship services as well as leave messages. We hope Atonement will never have to activate the plan, but we should all feel more comfortable that there is one that will help us to recover smoothly and safely. **A trial run of the "phone chain" will take place over the weekend of November 5th and 6th.** Look for more information about what to expect.

Website

We have started the process of moving our website to the diocesan website project, which will provide an updated format at a lower cost. During the summer, a consultant from the diocese met with our Website Committee to introduce us to the website template. We then met to discuss the general structure of the website and will continue working with the consultant to design the new website. As we begin to enter our information into the new design, we will be seeking input from the members of the church to make the new website informative and inviting. One of our long-term goals is to have a consistent message and "look" across all of our communications. The team is reviewing the diocesan website platform as we go along to assure that it meets our needs. Talk to Vanessa Roshong Moore, Tanya Quirk or Fran Regan if you'd like to participate in this process.

Other items

The Vestry oversees many aspects of our parish life which cannot all be included here. Among them, over the past few months, the vestry has approved the sale of the former rectory at 81 Highwood Avenue and the purchase of the new rectory at 4 Old Quarry Road in Englewood...a set of complicated transactions. We thank the rectory search committee -- Walton Clark, Mike Murphy, Carol Petrovich and Martin Huguley with the assistance of Roberta Roshong, Lynne and Dean Weber and Jack Caloz.

In addition to the final stages of the Organ Restoration Project, the Vestry went ahead with the repair of our west retaining wall, and the initiation of a capital campaign for \$20,000 to restore our steeple and cross. (A letter about our "Follow the Cross" campaign was mailed out in August.) We have discussed church growth and evangelism, and worked on our own "elevator speeches." We're inviting everyone at Atonement into this process as we seek to share the Good News of God's love in Jesus Christ with our neighbors, so that we are able to continue as a healthy, vibrant, serving Christian community at the corner of Highwood Avenue and Engle Street in Tenafly.

CHURCH OF THE ATONEMENT

97 Highwood Avenue at Engle Street

Tenafly, New Jersey 07670

Phone 201-568-1763

Fax 201-568-1775

Email parish.admin@atonement-tenafly.org

Website www.atonement-tenafly.org



CREATION 2016



Join with members from other **District 9** Episcopal congregations in our area for an evening of music, art, wine and fellowship hosted by St. Paul's in Englewood on **Saturday, October 15th at 4:00pm to 7:00pm.**

Whether or not you choose to attend the event, you're invited to submit

one or two pieces of artwork for viewing on that Saturday. Or, if you are a musician, you can volunteer to sing or play.

A voluntary donation at the door will raise funds for the diocesan "Alleluia Fund" for outreach and for Crossroads Camp. St. Paul's is located at 113 Engle Street in Englewood. For more information, email granitehead@netzero.net or speak to Lynne Weber.