

CHRONICLE

ADVENT-CHRISTMAS 2017



FROM THE RECTOR



Dear Friends,

"I love to tell the story...of Jesus and his love..." So goes the old hymn.

The Story has begun! Advent is the first chapter in the story of Jesus and us, and the whole world. Each year we love to tell the story -- yet again. During the Advent season, we'll prepare to give thanks for the coming of Christ, in whom God -- the God who created all things -- became human for us. It's an amazing story, the story of our salvation. But it is more than a story -- it is true. God loved us so much that God could not bear to be apart from us. God desired, as any lover would, to be as close to us as our breath, to touch us, to live and die and rise again, so that we might know how much we are loved and be saved:

*Love came down at Christmas, love all lovely, love divine;
love was born at Christmas: star and angels gave the sign.
Love shall be our token; love be yours and love be mine,
love to God and neighbor, love for plea and gift and sign.
-- Christina Rossetti (Hymn 84)*

Several times during the year, we have special opportunities to hear the Story. I'm thinking particularly of "Candlelight and Carols" at this time of year -- and the Great Vigil of Easter in the spring. At these services, we hear a succession of readings from the Old and New Testaments that remind us of the unfolding story of God's creation, redemption and ongoing "inspiration" of the world. We worship a God who is not an impersonal force, but a personal Being whose creative

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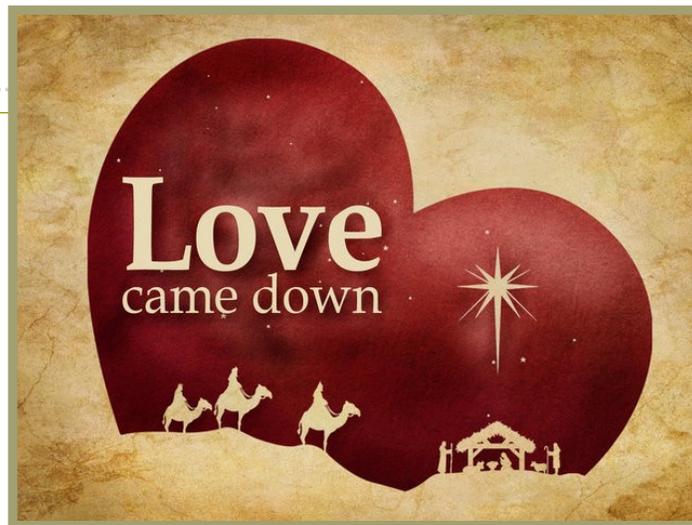
FROM THE RECTOR (Continued)

love continually seeks us out through time and history. When we feel small and insignificant, when we consider how brief and fragile our lives are, when we grieve the loss of a loved one, we find meaning and hope in the knowledge that we are each characters in this wonderful Story, and that the Author knows each of us and those we love by name, and never forgets us.

I hope you'll join us for "Candlelight & Carols" on Sunday, December 17th at 5:00pm to hear the Story, framed by beautiful music provided by our Choir, Soloists, and young people by candlelight. (In fact, we begin the Story and music of Christmas that morning, because at 10:00 a.m. "St. Nick" will join us and our children in church!) Then, join us for our Christmas Eve Services on Sunday, December 24th at 5:00pm and 10:00pm. And don't forget our Christmas 3 Kings Pageant & Celebration on Sunday, January 7th at 9:55am -- and be prepared to hear more of the Story and more carols, with our Choir, Soloists and Children's Choir, accompanied by Brian Schober and Kristen Kasarjian. Then, to top it all off, save the date for the return of the one-act opera, "Amahl and the Night Visitors" on Sunday, January 21st at 5:00pm.

How I love to tell the Story....at Atonement. I feel blessed to be a part of "the little church" in this corner of God's Realm. I hope that you do, too.

In Christ's Peace,



Click to listen to "Love Came Down at Christmas"
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g4o6gqwwhnU>



CATCH THE SPIRIT AT ATONMENT DURING ADVENT, CHRISTMAS AND EPIPHANY!



SUNDAYS 8:00am and 10:00am Holy Eucharist

THANKSGIVING – Thursday, November 23rd at 10:00am
Come as you are and give thanks for Communion service in the Chapel.

ADVENT 1 – Sunday, December 3rd at 10:00am
Great Litany in Candelight Procession. Holy Eucharist, traditional.

BIBLE STUDY – Thursday, December 7th and 21st at 7:15pm to 8:30pm
Continuing our study of The Acts of the Apostles. All are welcome.

DISCOVERY NIGHT – Tuesday, December 12th at 7:15pm
7:15pm Supper Provided 7:45-8:30pm DVD and Discussion
Our monthly Discovery Nights are for learners and spiritual seekers.

ADVENT 3 – Sunday, December 17th at 10:00am
10:00am A visit from St. Nick Come and meet the “real” Santa Claus!
5:00pm Britten’s “CEREMONY of CAROLS” Lessons and Carols for the
season with our Choir and soloists; reception.

CHRISTMAS EVE – Sunday, December 24th
5:00pm Family Service – Children’s service with Communion
10:00pm Special Music 10:30pm Candlelight Eucharist

CHRISTMAS DAY – Monday, December 25th at 10:00am
Holy Eucharist with Carols – Chapel

3 KINGS/EPIPHANY PAGEANT – Sunday, January 7th at 10:00am

“AM AHL AND THE NIGHT VISITORS” – Sunday, January 21 at 4:00pm
Gian Carlo Menotti’s beloved holiday Opera with Soloists, Choir and Children.



THANKSGIVING SERVICES

The Tenafly Interfaith Association invites you to join together in prayer and thanksgiving to God for the abundance we enjoy, and reaching out to those who in the midst of that abundance are hurting and hungry. Representatives from the Jewish, Christian and Muslim faith communities will lead the service. All are welcome!

Tuesday, November 21st at 7:30pm
The Presbyterian Church at Tenafly
55 Magnolia Avenue

An offering of food, toiletries or money will be taken for the Center for Food Action. If donations are provided by check, please write them to the Center for Food Action. Reception will follow.

For more information, call 201-567-0111 (Christian), 201-568-3035 (Jewish) or or 201-568-4604 (Muslim).



Before the feasting begins, come as you are to worship and give thanks to God for all of the wonder blessings in your life:

Thursday, November 23rd at 10:00am
Holy Eucharist in Atonement's Chapel



CHURCH SCHOOL

By Kristen Kasarjian

The Church School has been off to a great start this year! We are all enjoying our new curriculum, Weaving God's Promises, and have had a great time studying Saints of the church for our annual All Saint's Day project. Now we are looking forward to preparations for the Christmas season. We will work on an Advent-themed project on November 26th (the last Sunday before Advent) by making ornaments to adorn the Jesse Tree as well as organize a toy drive for the Center of Hope and Safety.

This year, there is one major change to our usual line-up. Our Family Sunday on December 17th will focus on St. Nicholas (and yes...there will be a certain special guest). Please don't miss this fun event! With the special visit from St. Nick, that means our pageant will take place on January 7th and focus on the Epiphany story. Even though Christmas traditionally was celebrated for 12 days and ended with this very important holiday, Epiphany is often glossed over now as we all "recover" from our busy holiday season. This is an exciting opportunity for us to explore Epiphany in greater depth and hear a different side of the Christmas story. We are all very excited to get to work on this and share it with the congregation!

ST. NICK TO VISIT ATONEMENT!

Meet the "real" Santa Claus! Bring a spare shoe for your gifts! Bring a friend!

Sunday, December 17 at 10:00am

Because Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday this year, our Pageant has been slated for Epiphany Sunday, January 7th, 2018 on the 3 Kings Celebration. However, here's an opportunity for your family to learn the true meaning of Christmas.



ARTS & MUSIC

By Brian Schober

As we approach the Advent and Christmas seasons, please mark your calendars for two important upcoming events. On December 17th at 5:00pm, we will have our annual Candlelight and Carols service. This year we will present Benjamin Britten's Ceremony of Carols featuring the Atonement Choir and harpist Beverly Thompson Shea. Written for Christmas, the work consists of 11 movements, with text from The English Galaxy of Shorter Poems, edited by Gerald Bullett in Middle English. The piece was written in 1942 while Britten was at sea, going from the United States to England.

To celebrate the Epiphany season, Church of the Atonement will present a fully staged version of Gian Carlo Menotti's ever popular Amahl and the Night Visitors. This opera was commissioned by NBC and first performed by the NBC Opera Theatre on December 24, 1951, in New York City at NBC studio 8H in Rockefeller Center, where it was broadcast live on television from that venue as the debut production of the Hallmark Hall of Fame. It was the first opera specifically composed for television in America. The story is about the three kings stopping at the home of the poor and crippled boy, Amahl, and the miracle that ensues. The performance will feature Luciano Pantano in the title role, GERALYN KEELY as his mother, Jeffrey Broadhurst, Steven Fredericks and Clyde Crewsey as the three kings, and the Atonement adult and children's choirs as the villagers.



CANDLELIGHT & CAROLS

December 17th at 5:00pm

Featuring Benjamin Britten's Ceremony of Carols featuring the Atonement Choir and harpist Beverly Thompson Shea.



Amahl and the Night Visitors

The Arts & Music Committee is proud to present Amahl and the Night Visitors, one of the most popular American operas by Gian Carlo Menotti, at 4:00pm on Sunday, January 21st.

Amahl and the Night Visitors is a timeless story of the power of faith and the meaning of love. The one-act opera tells the story of Amahl, a poor crippled boy, who lives with his mother in a village somewhere on the road to Bethlehem. When the Three Kings following the star in the East seek shelter for the night, the lives of Amahl and his mother are changed forever.



Playing the lead role of Amahl is Luciano Pantano, a member of the Church of the Transfiguration Men and Boys Choir, located in New York City. The role of the mother will be played by GERALYN KEELY and the Three Kings will be performed by Jeffrey Broadhurst, Clyde Crewey and Steve Fredericks. The production is being directed by Brian Schober who will be at piano and accompanied by Bob LeClair on oboe. Jeff Pieper and Wilson Reimers are designing and constructing the set.

Tickets for this event are on sale now at the price of \$20 for adults, \$15 for senior citizens, \$10 for college students; admission for children 17 and under is free. To purchase tickets or for more information call: 201-568-1763 or email: parish.admin@atonement-tenafly.org.



FAIR RESULTS

By Carol Petrovich and Roberta Roshong

Many hands and hours of hard work make for a successful fair. Yes... Atonement's annual fair was a SUCCESS! Folks enjoyed the preview dinner and anxiously listened to see if their numbers were called in the restaurant raffle. All the booths were attractively set up so attendees were drawn to purchase. A **BIG** thank you to all who participated to help us raise approximately \$13,500 (final figure not available at this time). We could not have done it without you! God bless all of you!

ADVENT QUIET DAY

December 9th ■ 9:30am~1:30pm

Set aside time in this busy season for a morning of learning, reflection, meditation, poetry and art.

The retreat concludes with a festive luncheon. Suggested donation \$10.

RSVP to 201-947-1233 or
parishadministrator@allsaintsleonia.com
by December 6th.





THRIFT SHOP

By Carol Petrovich and Mary Ann Silver

Atonement's Thrift Shop (name change from Opportunity Shop) has been in existence 61 years and is one of the six sources of income for Atonement. Under the capable hands of Mary Ann Silver, it has gone through a number of changes which has helped to bring in additional income. We now have a MAJOR problem -- lack of customer traffic. We attribute this to the opening of more thrift shops, fantastic bargains in department stores, and many more people now using e-commerce. Most retail stores are having the same problem. So now we need your help. We are hoping that many of you will visit the shop on any given Thursday, Saturday or Sunday so you can see what fabulous items we have for sale at bargain prices, including many new items! Then you can tell your friends and people you work with about your experience in shop. Will you help us gain new customers?

NEWCOMERS' COFFEE HOUR

By Tracey Preolo

While we are grateful for all the familiar faces we see week to week and year to year, we are always very pleased to see new faces! Whether newcomers come to worship with us occasionally or they choose to make Atonement their faith community, we are grateful for their presence among us. If you have joined Atonement's vibrant community within the last two years, please mark your calendars for a special Newcomers' Coffee Hour that will take place in February, either on the 4th or the 11th. A date will be finalized at our next Vestry meeting. We hope you will join us!

CHURCH OF THE ATONEMENT

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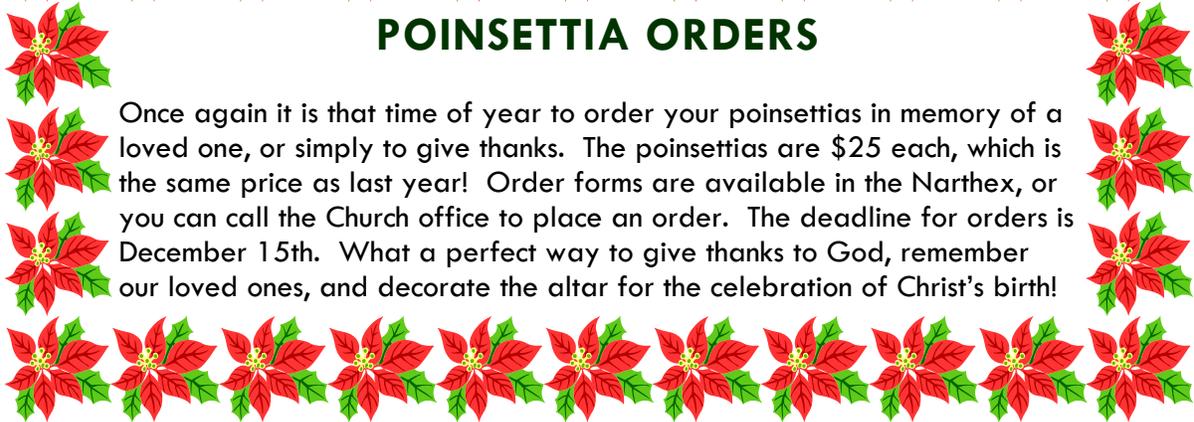
Website www.atonement-tenafly.org



ADVENT-CHRISTMAS 2017



POINSETTIA ORDERS



Once again it is that time of year to order your poinsettias in memory of a loved one, or simply to give thanks. The poinsettias are \$25 each, which is the same price as last year! Order forms are available in the Narthex, or you can call the Church office to place an order. The deadline for orders is December 15th. What a perfect way to give thanks to God, remember our loved ones, and decorate the altar for the celebration of Christ's birth!

PARKING AT ATONEMENT



Parking is a commodity at Atonement, particularly during the holiday season. In order to be welcoming to all, please consider parking your sleigh further up or down Highwood Avenue in order to leave spaces for those less

able to walk easily. Parking is also available on Sisson Terrace (just one block north of Highwood) as well as Magnolia Avenue or Highwood east of Engle Street. Also, please park close to the car in front of you to make room for more spaces. Thank you!