

CHRONICLE

EPIPHANY 2017



From the Rector



As we begin the New Year, it's a good time to reflect on what's most important to us. How will I spend my time, energy, creative gifts, money? What is most important to my life and my family life? Am I worried, fearful, hopeful or excited for what is to come?

Human life contains the "good" and the "bad" -- joy, beauty, pain, loss and sorrow, change for better or worse, security and fragility, sickness and health. On a communal level, there are movements towards greater justice, ethics and compassion, and there are movements towards injustice and disdain for the weak or different. They aren't limited to one church, one political party or movement. They simply are, and the question put to faithful people is -- what are my priorities, what will I do, how will I live?

As faithful people, we know that even good and beautiful things, channels of the Spirit, may fail to deliver the good life that we so desire. Indeed, one of the reasons we can experience them as channels of the Spirit in the first place, is that we've paid attention to the foundation of all things spiritual and good, God. If faith and community are central to our lives, then all the other things that give us pleasure can be fully appreciated and enjoyed, and affirmed as ways through which we experience the love of God.

And if they are taken away from us, like Job in the Hebrew Scriptures we will rightly sob and protest and wonder if life is worth living. We will question why the good and innocent suffer. Then we may remember that God is good and will always be so, and will be with us no matter what. We will know when we are faithful, that our security rests in God.

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From the Rector (Continued)

Rooted in secure love, we move to bear each other's burdens, to actively show care and compassion, to give of ourselves and our resources to proclaim that love, and continue to pray, worship, gather, celebrate, and serve.

Church of the Atonement is a place where these things happen, and will happen for you and those you love. Here, we're assured of God's mercy, and receive encouragement for our lives. We are promised in Scripture and Sacrament the forgiveness for our sin, the gift of the Holy Spirit, and communion with God and each other.

When terrible, even inexplicable things happen, the ties of community and communion bind us together.

Then together, we're challenged to take on suffering, evil and injustice, to care for all of God's creation, to make and appreciate beauty in art and music, to respond to the hungry, the widow and orphan, the immigrant and refugee.

I am so grateful to God for this community of faith at Atonement, our little corner of the universal Church, the Body of Christ. In the past weeks, as I've been sick with a sinus infection and had a bad fall, I've been strengthened with the love of this congregation. It included chicken soup (and offers of more), emails, kind words, flowers. I'm thankful for those, including Wilson Reimers and Carol Petrovich, who made our January 15 service -- without a priest -- a wonderful experience of worship. I know that you prayed for me. As I sat at my kitchen table on Sunday morning, with a cup of tea, a box of tissues, an ice pack, a Prayer Book and a Bible, I thought of you, and gave thanks.

What can be better than to enter the New Year rooted in faith, and in the experience of God's love and peace that will support and guide us, and those we love, on the road ahead?

Confident in God's grace for another year and beyond,



Epiphany

OUTREACH SUNDAY – January 29th at 10:00am
Celebrating our Outreach Ministry Eucharist, Rite Two

CANDLEMAS CELEBRATION – February 5th
The Presentation of our Lord Jesus Christ in the Temple
8:00am and 9:55am Holy Eucharist, Rite One
9:55am Blessing of Candles, procession honoring the Holy Family
Bring your own candle to be blessed...or receive one from us after the service

CANDLEMAS TAIZÉ SERVICE – Sunday, February 5th at 7:00pm
Chants, prayers, scripture, silence in the candlelit Chapel,
for those who don't mind a break from Super Bowl fever!

EPIPHANY FAMILY SERVICE – Sunday, February 12th at 9:55am
The Church School offers a special presentation. Eucharist, Inclusive Rite.

CHAMPAGNE CELEBRATION – ORGAN AND STEEPLE PROJECTS
Sunday, February 26th at 9:55am
After the service, stay for a 30-minute Recital and Festive Reception
to celebrate the completion of our two campaigns.

LENT

ASH WEDNESDAY – March 1st
1 LENT, Induction of Confirmation Class – March 5th
2 LENT, Legacy Sunday – March 12th
3 LENT, Family Sunday – March 19th
4 LENT, "Invite a Friend Sunday," – March 25th at 9:55am
Celebrating the Feast of the Annunciation
LENTEN MEDITATIONS – March 26th at 5:00pm



Stewardship

By Carol Petrovich

This year's Annual Giving Campaign theme was "Creating Our Future." The Stewardship Committee is grateful that so far, a total of \$143,966 was pledged which is \$3,000 less than last year. A number of members have not yet responded. Thank you to everyone who has exercised their stewardship by pledging to support our community!

Since Grace and Love has moved to a new space in a different church, Heavenly Light, a smaller congregation, will not be contributing as much which presents a challenge to balance our budget. The Finance Committee who puts in many hours of hard work to balance the budget, are working on a solution, and more will be reported on this topic in the next *Chronicle*.

Meanwhile, if you haven't made your pledge yet, you still can, and we hope that you do. The number of pledges is important to us, as it is a sign that Atonement is your "spiritual home" and also a sign to the larger diocese and church of our parish's viability and vitality. A pledge of any amount is always welcome, and can be paid at any time in 2017. You can download a pledge card from our website (click on "ministries" and then on "stewardship") and mail it in. Or you can click directly on "Donate Now" on the home page, enter your credit information, and indicate whether it is a pledge, one-time or repeated. If you have any questions, contact our treasurer at treasurer@atonement-tenafly.org.

Stewardship is a year-round project, not just during Annual Giving. We give our time and talent all the time -- not only at Atonement, but in our communities and workplaces. We honor the legacies left to Atonement on Legacy Sunday who have helped Atonement create a future. Our Outreach grants help many who are in need. We visit our shut-in parishioners. We participate in environmental ministry to care for the Creation God has given us. Yes, stewardship takes place all year and in so many ways. How do you make stewardship part of your everyday life?



Outreach

By Deedy Clark

Outreach Grant Program 2016

Outreach Grants totaling \$11,500 were distributed to the below community partners in December. We had two new recipients: Haven for Hope for Kids and Woman's Rights Information Center. The organizations were so thankful for our support of their work.

Bright Side Manor – \$1,200	Pascack Valley Meals on Wheels – \$1,100
Center for Food Action – \$1,100	North Porch – \$1,200
Center for Hope and Safety – \$1,100	St. Paul's Development Men's Shelter – \$1,100
Family Promise of Bergen County – \$1,100	St. Peters Haven – \$1,200
Haven for Hope for Kids – \$600	Woman's Rights Information Center – \$600
Meals with a Mission – \$1,200	

Outreach Sunday

On, Sunday January 29th we will celebrate Outreach Sunday! Patty Belenski the director of Meals with a Mission in Garfield will speak to us about her very important organization. Their mission is to serve with dignity and concern the hungry in our area by preparing and distributing nutritious home-style meals to shelters and pantries. We will have a festive reception following the service arranged by the Outreach Team where you can learn more about this organization and information about our other partners. Luke Johnson will kick off his confirmation project this Sunday as well.

Rebuilding Together Bergen County

There could be some outreach opportunities available for April weekends. There will be 9 projects this year and some volunteers are needed. More information will be forthcoming on this.

Mentoring Mom's Gifts

Thank you to all who participated in the Mentoring Mom's gift program around the holidays. They were so appreciative of our generosity for the moms and kids in this program.

Food Donations

You can always drop off donations in the chapel at any time of the day. There are a lot of sales going on so anything would be most appreciated. Here is a current list of those items needed by our partner Center for Food Action: supermarket gift cards (to purchase food items not donated), canned meat (tuna, chicken, etc.), canned hearty soup, canned vegetables, macaroni & cheese, peanut butter and jelly, tomato sauce, canned fruit, cold cereal and oatmeal, powdered milk or Parmalat, instant potatoes, 100% juice, baby formula and diapers (sizes 4-6), bar or bottled soap, toothpaste and toothbrush.

Thank you for all of your support of the team's efforts. If you have any questions, concerns or suggestions, please don't hesitate to let me know.



Confirmation and Youth Group

By Carol Petrovich

On Saturday, May 13th, Luke Johnston will be presented to Bishop Mark Beckwith to be confirmed at Trinity & St. Philip's Cathedral in Newark. Luke is learning and working to continue his formation in Christian faith and witness. Under the guidance of his sponsor, Walton Clark, Luke will be presenting his Confirmation project on hunger and our response as people of faith, to the congregation in the very near future. He also continues to serve as an Acolyte and attend Sunday classes, and will meet with Lynne this spring for additional sessions on the meaning of the Baptismal Covenant. Please keep Luke in your prayers as he completes this very important journey.

The Youth group had a fun time bowling together on Sunday, November 20th. On Sunday evening, February 12th the group will meet in the church to enjoy pizza together and then play Man Hunt. On March 12th the class will join the Church School in providing supper for the homeless men at St. Paul's Shelter in Paterson.





Episcopal Visitation

Sunday, May 14th at 9:30am

Yes, it's Mother's Day!

Make worship at Atonement with Bishop Mark Beckwith the great beginning to the day as we honor mothers, all the women who have nurtured and inspired us, and also the "Reception of the Confirmands" (Confirmation is the day before in Newark.)

thank you!

Dear Friends in Christ,

On behalf of House of Prayer Episcopal Church in Newark, I would like to thank you for all your donations made to our annual Coat Drive which was held on Saturday, November 12th at House of Prayer.

Parishioners from House of Prayer, the Christian Methodist Episcopal Congregation, and students from Pillar College Church spent the day helping our guests from the neighborhood find clothing, boots and blankets for the cold winter months. Each guest left with a bagged lunch and prayer put together by parishioners.

Thank you for being a part of giving to our neighbors in need.

With a grateful heart,

Rev. Joyce McGirr
Priest in Residence
House of Prayer Episcopal Church, Newark



Lift High the Cross! Steeple Restoration Project Update

By Walton Clark

The steeple restoration project is almost complete but it is not too late to help. The installation work is finished and only the removing of scaffolding remains. Just a few warm days are needed, and we will be finished.

When we opened up the steeple for repair, there was significant wood rot from water leaks over the last few decades. The result is that we had to totally rebuild the section above the belfry. We also found out that the cross was literally falling apart. The good news is that we caught the problems in time and we have a new cross and steeple that should last 100 years.

People have asked if they could still help. Yes, any donation will be greatly appreciated to help Atonement pay for this essential project.

Thanks again to everyone who has "followed the cross" and contributed; we appreciate your support.





A CHAMPAGNE TOAST! Organ & Steeple Project Celebration

By Carol Petrovich

A champagne toast? Did I read correctly? Yes you did!

Please circle your calendars and make sure to be in church on **Sunday, February 26th** (of course, we hope you circle every Sunday and mark it Church). We will toast the completion of our 1912 Austin organ and our “Lift High the Cross” steeple project.

To further enhance our toast, our organist, Brian Schober will present a 30-minute organ recital. He will also explain what repairs were made and how they affect the sound and function of the organ. An expanded coffee hour will also be served.

Please come to toast these big accomplishments -- and a BIG thanks to all of you who helped make these projects possible!

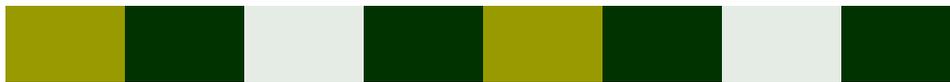


Organ Restoration Completed!

By Jim Scott

Thank you for your contributions and your patience. The organ restoration is finally finished. It was delayed by a long illness of the organ professional we hired. Then, once he recovered, his work was backed up, so even then it took longer than it should have.

Nonetheless, the gaskets on the inner door and in the main wind chest have been repaired or replaced, eliminating air leaks and hissing. The pipework has been cleaned, and the sympathetic rattle in the bass pipes has been eliminated. The pneumatic motor is working properly, the access ladder in the organ chamber has been repositioned, and the dirt and dust in the organ chamber has been removed. There is even the possibility that we may receive a new rank of pipes! In any case, we are glad the restoration is complete and the organ sounds great. Thanks again.



Arts & Music

By Brian Schober

At last, the restoration project of our 104 year-old Austin organ is finished! To celebrate this momentous occasion, I will present a brief lecture and mini-recital following the 10:00am service on February 26th. The music will illustrate the full resources of the organ. This will give everyone the chance to see and hear for themselves the mechanical and musical improvements that were made. Again, many thanks go to those who supported this project.

Our annual Lenten Meditations will take place on Sunday, March 26th at 5:00pm. Since it will take place one day after the Feast of the Annunciation, the music will feature vocal and choral music based on the Blessed Virgin Mary.



Environmental News — Vigil on January 30th

By Carol Schults

Caring for God's creation through education, inspiration, water and energy conservation, gardening, and other actions has been part of Atonement's environmental ministry since 2001. This year we will begin by co-sponsoring a Multi-Faith Vigil for Climate Action on Monday, January 30th (postponed from January 23rd). Other members of the Circle include Christian, Jewish, Buddhist and Ethical Cultural groups in Bergen County.

The People's Climate Movement held a number of actions during the first 100 hours of the inauguration of the Trump Administration. In solidarity with this effort, GreenFaith, as an active part of this coalition held 100 interfaith vigils throughout this same period.

The GreenFaith Circle of Central Bergen County will sponsor the local vigil as part of this nationwide action. The word "vigil" comes from the Latin root -- to be watchful, to be awake. These vigils are gatherings for prayer, meditation and reflection for our environment, for good jobs in a clean energy economy, and for protection of our vulnerable communities.

Coopers Pond in Bergenfield was chosen because of its historical connection with the South Presbyterian Church, one of our member congregations. The park and historic site exemplifies the kinds of preservation efforts that can enrich and enhance our local community.

Going forward, look for more opportunities at Atonement to protect Earth and all its creatures for future generations. If you'd like to join our Environmental Team, or would like more information about what we do, speak with me.



Praying for the President

By Lynne Weber

On almost every Sunday at Atonement, and in Episcopal churches across the country, we pray for our President, our Governor, and others who “bear the authority of government...” At the beginning of a new administration -- one that concerns and even frightens some, and excites and inspires others -- it’s good to remember our Anglican/Episcopal (and indeed biblical) tradition of praying for those in power.

In case you did not read it yet, here’s an excerpt from a pastoral letter from our Presiding Bishop, published on January 16th, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day:

We can and, indeed, I believe we must pray for all who lead in our civic order, nationally and internationally. I pray for the President in part because Jesus Christ is my Savior and Lord. If Jesus is my Lord and the model and guide for my life, his way must be my way, however difficult. And...prayer for others is a part of how I follow the way of Jesus.

This practice of praying for leaders is deep in our biblical and Anglican/Episcopalian traditions. Psalm 72 prays that the ancient Israelite king might rule in the ways of God’s justice, defending “the cause of the poor,” bringing “deliverance to the needy.” 1 Timothy 2:1-2 encourages followers of Jesus to pray earnestly for those in leadership, that they may lead in ways that serve the common good. Even in the most extreme case, Jesus himself said, while dying on the cross, “Father forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing,” was praying for Pontius Pilate, the Governor of Rome who ordered his execution, and for all who were complicit in it. In this spirit, the Prayer Books of the Anglican/Episcopal way have always included prayer for those “who bear the authority of government,” praying in a variety of ways that they may lead in the ways of God’s wisdom, justice and truth. When we pray for Donald, Barack, George, Bill, George, or Jimmy, Presidents of the United States, we pray for their well-being, for they too are children of God, but we also pray for their leadership in our society and world. We pray that they will lead in the ways of justice and truth. We pray that their leadership will truly serve not partisan interest but the common good. When we pray for them, we are actually praying for our nation, for our world, indeed we are praying for ourselves.

Prayer is not a simplistic cheer or declaration of support. Prayers of lament cry out in pain and cry for justice. Prayer can celebrate. Prayer can also ask God to intervene and change the course of history, to change someone’s mind, or his or her heart. When we pray for our enemies, we may find that we are simultaneously emboldened to stand for justice while we are also less able to demonize another human being.



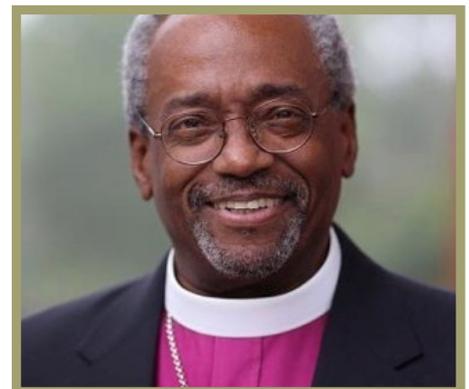
Praying for the President (Continued)

Real prayer is both contemplative and active. It involves a contemplative conversation with and listening to God, and an active following of the way of Jesus, serving and witnessing in the world in his Name. For those who follow the way of Jesus, the active side of our life of prayer seeks to live out and help our society live out what it means to “love your neighbor as yourself.” So we work for a good and just, humane and loving society. We participate as followers of Jesus in the life of our government and society, caring for each other and others, and working for policies and laws that reflect the values and teachings of Jesus to “love your neighbor,” to “do unto others as you who have them do unto you,” to fashion a civic order that reflects the goodness, the justice, the compassion that we see in the face of Jesus, that we know to reflect the very heart and dream of God for all of God’s children and God’s creation.

I grew up in a historically black congregation in the Episcopal Church. We prayed for leaders who were often lukewarm or even opposed to our very civil rights. We got on our knees in church and prayed for them, and then we got up off our knees and we marched on Washington. Following the way of Jesus, we prayed and protested at the same time. We prayed for our leaders who were fighting for our civil rights, we prayed for those with whom we disagreed, and we even prayed for those who hated us. And we did so following the Jesus, whose way is the way of unselfish, sacrificial love. And that way is the way that can set us all free.

As we celebrate the birth of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., we may find guidance in his words, spoken during one of the most painful and difficult struggles in the Civil Rights Movement. He asked that all participants live by a set of principles. The first principle read: “As you prepare to march, meditate on the life and teachings of Jesus.”...!

*The Most Rev. Michael B. Curry
Presiding Bishop and Primate, The Episcopal Church*





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." (BCP, page 305)

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. (NO twisting of arms included!!) Sunday morning's a great place for newcomers -- especially, for instance, if they have children and they're interested in Church School or Confirmation -- or if they enjoy beautiful music. (Rehearsing your brief "elevator speech" about your faith and/or church involvement is a big help.) You can invite a friend to:

- join you for "INVITE A FRIEND SUNDAY" on Sunday, March 26th at 10:00am
- a special musical event, such as "Lenten Meditations" on March 26th at 5:00pm
- help you provide food and/or serve dinner to the homeless at St. Paul's Shelter on the 2nd Sunday of the month
- Bible study on 1st and 3rd Thursdays -- the next dates are February 2nd and 16th at 7:15pm
- a special service such as the ones on Ash Wednesday, March 1st or Good Friday
- walk the new Labyrinth on our front lawn -- a helpful brochure is available
- shop in the Opp Shop!

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, a spiritual "home" where they feel safe and included regardless of their beliefs or doubts -- 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. If someone says "no" that's alright! You can simply respond, "No problem, maybe another time."

Each time we renew our Baptismal Covenant we are asked, "Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?" and we answer, "I will, with God's help." With God's help and the support of your Atonement community, you can fulfill that promise and feel good about sharing the good news of God's love in a way that is completely natural to you and for others.



Making Change, Making a Difference, Making a Well!

**2017 Lenten Outreach Campaign -- District 9
Episcopal Relief & Development**

**Goal: \$500 minimum in change for a well by Easter
to provide clean water for a community in need, via ERD.**

Start saving your change now -- more information is on the way!

Also, please begin saving medium-sized jars -- glass or plastic with lids.

In 2015, we held the "making change, making a difference" campaign to provide desks for St. Peter's Episcopal School in Liberia. All ten congregations in District 9 had the goal of raising \$500/each for a total of \$5,000.

It was a great success -- we raised over \$800 from Atonement; over \$7,000 was raised from District 9. It was enough to purchase all of the desks -- and some blackboards -- while leaving additional funds for other Episcopal schools in Liberia.

Let's come together again and make a difference. And...make a well!



Hello and Goodbye

By Carol Petrovich

On Sunday, January 28th, the Heavenly Light Church will begin worshipping at Atonement. They will replace the Grace and Love Church who are moving to a new location. Heavenly Light is a smaller congregation, and they will begin by worshipping in the Chapel only, with hope and prayer that they will grow in faith and numbers.

Congregations were interviewed and, after considerable deliberation, it was felt that the Heavenly Light Church would be the best fit at this time. Pastor David Kim is very pleased to be using our space. He looks forward to building a friendly relationship with us. Please welcome Pastor Kim and his congregation with a friendly "hello" as they begin their new journey.

We will miss our friends at Grace and Love, but they will be nearby and we look forward to a continuing relationship with them through our shelter dinner program and the Tenafly Interfaith Association.



News from the Vestry

By Fran Regan

This year our church has seen some changes: a new cross and steeple, a renovated organ, and a new congregation called Heavenly Light. After several months of construction and some surprises about the extent of the damage to the steeple and roof, the church is sporting a beautiful new cross. Music coming from the renovated organ is even more beautiful and spiritually nourishing. While we are sad to say goodbye to our friends from Grace and Love, we can be happy for them that they have grown and need larger quarters. They aren't going far, and we can continue to work with them on projects, including the men's shelter. We are thrilled to welcome another congregation and new spiritual friends from Heavenly Light.

The Finance Committee is working on a new budget and will be presenting it to the Vestry shortly, and then to the congregation at our Annual Meeting in the spring. Over the next several months, our Nominating Committee will be seeking new members for the Vestry. If you are interested in joining the leadership of our church, please let Lynne or one of the current Vestry members know. We are always looking for new voices and ideas.

The Vestry members have been working on their "elevator speeches" -- short statements of why they are members of the church and their spiritual beliefs. Over the coming weeks, we will be sharing these statements with you and encouraging you to develop your own. The idea is for all of us to be more thoughtful of our beliefs, so that we can share them with others within and outside of the church walls.

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EPIPHANY 2017



TOP: ON CHRISTMAS DAY, TWO GRANDCHILDREN OF REGGIE AND MARY ELIZABETH SMITH WERE BAPTIZED -- CHARLOTTE, DAUGHTER OF ALEX AND HILARY, AND SIMON, SON OF TAYLOR AND CARISSA. PHOEBE KONNO WAS A BIG HELP AS A COLYTE!

MIDDLE: THE CAST OF OUR CHRISTMAS PAGEANT SINGING THE FINAL SONG, "CHRISTMAS BELLS."



BOTTOM: CAROL SCHULTS, VESTRY CHAIR FOR ENVIRONMENTAL MINISTRY, MET WITH OTHERS IN THE CENTRAL BERGEN GREENFAITH CIRCLE TO PLAN A MULTI-FAITH VIGIL FOR CLIMATE ACTION WHICH WAS HELD ON JANUARY 23RD AT COOPERS POND IN BERGENFIELD.

