

LENT/EASTER 2016

From the Rector



Dear Friends,

Have you experienced grace? Has there been a dark time in your life -- perhaps a time of illness or loss, or estrangement from God or from a loved one, or the realization that you have royally messed up -- when you suddenly know that it is going to be alright? That you are accepted and cared for as you are? And where you can *accept yourself* as well?

“You are Accepted.” This is the title of a famous sermon by the 20th century theologian, Paul Tillich. He was preaching on Romans 5:20 that contains the phrase, “But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound.”

Tillich realized that most Christians find the words “sin” and “grace” rather mysterious, even strange, just because they are so well-known. So he provides other words to help us understand these terms: “Sin” means “separation” and “grace” means that moment when we know that “we are accepted” by the “Ground of Being” (Tillich’s expression for God). He reminds us that the word “sin” should never be used in the plural – it does not pertain to immoral acts; it is instead a state of being that every human being experiences. Indeed, Tillich says that it is arrogant and erroneous to divide people by calling some “sinners” and some “righteous.” Looking at the Gospels, I would say that Jesus would agree with him! Tillich preached:

“...the state of our whole life is estrangement from others and ourselves, because we are estranged from the Ground of our Being, because we are estranged from the origin and aim of our life. We are separated from the mystery, the depth, and the greatness of our existence. We hear the voice of that depth; but our ears are closed. We feel that something radical, total, and unconditioned is demanded of us; but we rebel against it, try to escape its urgency, and will not accept its promise.”



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

From the Rector	2
Coming Up	3
Holy Week	4
Hope Chests	5
Soup Supper	5
Meditations	6
Try the Choir	6
Quiet Day	7
Judy Massey	7
Legacy Sunday	8
Opp Shop	8
Outreach	9
Church School	10
Confirmation	10
Arts Festival	11
Environmental	12
Interfaith	12
Belcanto	13
Social Media	14
Vestry News	15
Pancakes	15
Photos	16



From the Rector (Continued)

However, although we can be estranged from God, we are always bound to God as well. God will not let us go, and we cannot wholly let go of God. Something will give! “Where sin abounded, grace did much more abound.” Like Paul struck on the road to Damascus, grace most often strikes us when we are in great pain, restlessness or unhappiness. It strikes us when we’re walking through the dark valley. However, it can also strike us at virtually any time in our lives when we are vulnerable and open, when we have an experience of awe or wonder. Suddenly we feel God’s presence, God’s grace, whether as a strike of lightning or, more likely, as a feeling of warmth spreading into our hearts, and we know that **“we are accepted” – “we are loved just as we are.”**

On the First Sunday in Lent, I mentioned a magnet I had seen on a refrigerator at our Episcopal convent in Mendham. It said: “What is life? It’s an opportunity to grow a soul.” This is a concise description of the movement of sin and grace in our lives. Life is often an experience of separation – but grace is always waiting for a chance to break into our separation from God, ourselves, our neighbors, our world. Grace lets us know that we are accepted, like a newborn baby that doesn’t have to do anything to justify its welcome. And then our souls can grow, like tender shoots responding to the warm sun and gentle rain of springtime, as we re-connect to the Ground of our Being and to our truest selves, and freed up for love and service.

Perhaps Lent, with its emphasis on repentance, renewal and spiritual growth, is a good time to reclaim the Gospel words of “sin” and “grace,” and to make them our own.





Coming up during Lent

Lent -- a time for taking inventory of our lives -- spiritual, personal, social.
A time for growth, discovery and renewal. Choose what's right for you.

WEEKDAY EUCHARISTS – Wednesdays at 7:00am
March 2nd, 9th, 16th & 23rd – Coffee, muffins

BIBLE STUDY – March 10th & 17th, April 3rd at 7:15pm
Continuing our study of The Parables of Jesus. All are welcome.

BOOK GROUP – Fridays at 10:00am
March 4th, 11th, 18th – Listening to the Fauré and Brahms Requiems

LENTEN TAIZÉ SERVICE – Sunday, February 28th at 7:00pm in the Chapel

DISCOVERY NIGHT – Tuesday, March 1st
7:15pm Supper 7:45pm “The Cross: Where God is” DVD & Discussion

LENTEN MINI-QUIET DAY – Saturday, March 5th at 9:30am~1:30pm
“The Bush Was Not Consumed: Finding Holy Ground in Ordinary Life”
All Saints, Leonia RSVP by signing up via phone or email.

LENTEN FAMILY SERVICE – Sunday, March 6th at 9:55am
Confirmation Class presents “Prayer”

SUNDAY FORUM – March 6th at 11:30am
“The Fauré Requiem” – led by Brian Schober

LENTEN MEDITATIONS – Sunday, March 6th at 5:00pm
The Fauré Requiem, poetry and readings. Free-will offering.

LENTEN SOUP SUPPER – Wednesday, March 9th at 6:30pm
MANY homemade soups & desserts! Bring your own bowl and spoon; BYOB.



Holy Week and Easter

PALM SUNDAY – March 20th

8:00am & 9:50am – Palms, Passion, Eucharist

MAUNDY THURSDAY – March 24th at 7:30pm

Holy Communion, Service of Shadows and Stripping of the Altar

GOOD FRIDAY – March 25th

1:00pm Ecumenical ■ 5:00pm Children ■ 8:00pm Liturgy

HOLY SATURDAY – March 26th

10:00am Liturgy ■ 8:00pm Great Vigil, First Eucharist of Easter

EASTER SUNDAY – March 27th

8:00am with Hymns ■ 10:00am Festive



Lenten ERD Drive

By Carol Petrovich

Remember those small, square purple boxes (formerly called mite boxes) we received at Lent when we were young? Well, they're back but have been replaced by a larger rectangular box which are now called Hope Chests. (You may remember that last year we handed out "Making Change – Making a Difference" jars for St. Peter's Episcopal School in Monrovia, Liberia. It was a great success for our District 9 church; we raised over \$700 to buy desk-chairs for the school.)

Episcopal Relief and Development has made these boxes available with the hope that parishioners will take a box and fill it with loose change as a Lenten discipline. Filling the box can give hope and help to others in a hurting world.

The Church School will count the money contributed at Atonement and choose an ERD project to support. There are still some boxes available, if you choose to participate in this project.

Let's help the ERD celebrate its 75th year of helping others around the world.

Lenten SOUP Supper

Mark your calendars and get your bowls ready for our Annual Lenten Soup Supper at **6:30pm on Wednesday, March 9th**. Admission is \$8/adults, \$5/children 12 and under. What kind of soups, you ask? Well, like the Oscars, that can only be revealed on the night of the supper. Come and see for yourselves what a delightful evening of soup experimenting and warm fellowship can do to feed a soul.



Gabriel Fauré's Requiem Lenten Meditations

Sunday, March 6th at 5:00pm

\$10 donation requested at the door

**Atonement's Choir with
Soloists Barbee Monk, soprano,
Clyde Crewey, baritone,
Beverly Thompson Shea, harp,
Brian Schober, Music Director**



Try the Choir!

By Brian Schober

Easter is coming! Why not lend your voice to our church choir during this musically exciting and meaningful season?

If you like to sing or have sung in the past but have been too busy to make a weekly commitment to choir -- HERE'S YOUR CHANCE. We would be happy for you to join us for either Palm Sunday, Easter Vigil or Easter Sunday...or for all three, if you can spare the time and your talents.

We plan to sing an "Antiphonal Hosanna" with the Youth Choir on Palm Sunday and different settings of "Christ the Lord is Risen Today" for Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday. Rounding things off on Easter Sunday will be the ever popular "Hallelujah Chorus." Rehearsing would be minimal.

Please speak to me if you are interested -- the choir and I would delightfully welcome you!



“The Bush was not Consumed: Finding Holy Ground in Ordinary Life”

A Lenten Mini-Quiet Day

Saturday, March 5th at 9:30am~1:30pm

In the course of his daily work, Moses was drawn aside to encounter the living God, and he -- like the bush -- was not consumed. But he was changed.

Learning, imaginative meditation, quiet time for reflection, poetry, discussion, art as prayer, and a luncheon.

Location: All Saints' Episcopal Church, 150 Park Ave., Leonia
Led by: Lynne & Dean Weber
Cost: \$10 suggested donation for food
RSVP: parishadministrator@allsaintsleonias.com or 201-947-1233

Judy Massey

By Carol Petrovich

On February 17th at 7:00am Lynne led a spiritual, meaningful Lenten Wednesday morning service, but...one thing was missing -- our beloved Judy who passed away on Friday, February 12th. Judy attended this service for as long as one can remember and was often Lector. As a member of the Altar Guild, she cleared the altar and put things away.

We all have different memories of Judy. One can still see her processing with the choir singing many anthems by heart. Judy taught Sunday School, and served on many other committees. Whatever she did at Atonement was with 100% commitment.

Judy spoke her mind and recently said, "I have been known to say a tart word or two." There was never a surprise about what Judy was thinking or how she felt about a topic.

Judy was a very special lady. Atonement has lost a devoted friend whose presence will be missed, and we will always hold wonderful memories of her in our hearts.



Make Atonement Part of Your...

LEGACY

On March 13th, we will hold our annual "Legacy Sunday."

Financial stability is an important element of enabling our parish life to flourish beyond our lifetime, for the benefit of future generations. Please join those generous souls who have included Atonement in their planned giving.

"Nothing worth doing can be achieved in a lifetime; therefore we must be saved by hope. Nothing that is true or beautiful or good makes complete sense in any immediate context of history; therefore we must be saved by faith. Nothing that we do, however virtuous, can be accomplished alone, therefore we are saved by hope. -- Reinhold Niebuhr

Contact Mike Murphy at treasurer@atonement-tenafly.org to schedule an informative conversation to explore possibilities together.

From the Planned Giving Team
Mike Murphy, Carol Petrovich, Fran Regan and Reggie Smith

Opportunity Shop

By Carol Petrovich

The Opp Shop continues to have busy days and has seen some new customers. This means more articles are sold which means more money for our church and our outreach ministries. Please continue to tell your friends about the shop and continue with your wonderful donations.

At this time, we are no longer taking winter donations. However, feel free to drop off spring and summer clothing!

We have two new volunteers: Andrea Pieper and Beezie Woodson -- and what a blessing they have been. Beezie is our display coordinator, as merchandising was her field before she retired and her expertise is certainly an asset.



Outreach

By Deedy Clark

Food Donations: We would like our church family to continue to think our hungry neighbors and bring in food donations. There has been a downturn in donation at the area food bank and we don't want to forget about our outreach partners at Center for Food Action. Here is the list of CFA's most needed items:

Supermarket gift cards
Canned meat (tuna, chicken, etc.)
Canned hearty soup
Canned vegetables
Macaroni and cheese
Peanut butter and jelly
Tomato sauce
Oatmeal and cold cereal (low sugar)
Powdered milk or boxed milk, such as Parmalat
Canned fruit and vegetables
Instant potatoes
100% juice
Baby formula and diapers (sizes 4-6)
Bar soap
Toothpaste, toothbrushes and dental floss

Rebuilding Together Bergen County: National Rebuilding Day is Saturday April 30th! We will advise if we have some volunteer opportunities for this day or some of the weekends leading up to the day. I will send out an email if volunteer slots are available.

Mother's Day Drive for North Porch: We will have our drive for North Porch starting May 1st for one month. The items that we will need are listed below, and will send out reminder email and the following. We will be sending this reminders in email and in the Sunday bulletin:

Enfamil 12.5 ounce powdered baby formula and soy formula
Diapers (sizes 5 and 6 as well as pull-ups of all sizes)
Baby wipes
Baby food (all ages including fruit, vegetables and first foods)

Outreach Sunday: Kirsten Laursen-Muth, Senior Director of International Programs at Episcopal Relief and Development, will be our speaker on Outreach Sunday, May 22nd (rescheduled from our snowstorm weekend in January). Kirsten will speak at the service and hold a Q&A during a special reception after the service.

Feel free to contact me if you have any questions.



Church School

By Kristen Kasarjian

The Church School young people are busy working on music and preparations for Easter. We are also discussing the meaning of Lent, how it can apply to our modern lives, and how we can use this as a time of reflection to better understand ourselves and our relationship with God instead of just an exercise in giving up candy.

One of my favorite passages during the Easter season is...

"A new command I give you: Love one another as I have loved you." (John 13:34)

Since the first Sunday of Lent fell on Valentine's Day this year, it gave us a nice opportunity to explore the various meanings of love and how we can be more loving towards ourselves and the people in our lives and world. We explored I Corinthians 13 and picked verses that spoke to us to frame on hearts on the bulletin board, and we made heart shaped Valentines for the congregation.

Our wonderful church school kids will be singing during the family Sunday on March 6th, Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday.

Confirmation

By Carol Petrovich

On April 10th, Church of Atonement will send two confirmands -- Mack Hancock and Anthony Parmelee -- to the cathedral in Newark to be confirmed by Bishop Mark Beckwith. Mack and Anthony will have completed all the necessary requirements for Confirmation, having worked on a joint project mentored by Deedy & Walton Clark. They are organizing events for the youth group including meetings, a cultural event, and a workday event.

In support of Anthony and Mack's Confirmation project, please hold April 21st from 9:00am to 3:00pm on your calendars for a Parish Work. You will be hearing about the jobs and projects that need to get done, as the boys will sign-up and coordinate volunteers. Lunch will be served! More details coming from the Confirmands in the weeks ahead! It has been a pleasure to work with Mack and Anthony.



By Vanessa Roshong-Moore

Mark your calendars for our 11th Annual Fine Arts Festival slated for Friday, April 1st through Sunday, April 10th. The program will offer many exciting changes this year!

The Palisades Virtuosi Chamber Group will be kicking off the festival on April 1st with a lovely concert for flute, clarinet and piano featuring a piece by Atonement's own Brian Schober. Tickets are currently for sale at an advanced price of \$15. Please see Roberta Roshong, Vanessa Roshong-Moore or Carol Petrovich to purchase a ticket for you and a friend.

The week will continue with old and new festivities including: Poetry Night, Salsa Dance Lessons, Art Activities for Adults and Kids, and Arts Sunday. Dates and times are still being arranged but all events are FREE.

Be sure to keep an eye on the church bulletin or visit our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/TheChurchoftheAtonement> for event dates, times and details.

We look forward to seeing you and a friend at one or all of these events, and we eagerly await Spring of 2017 for Atonement's revamped Art Show.



Environmental Ministry

By Carol Schults

The Environmental Committee has been busy preparing for the renewal of our Water Pledges and Earth Day.

On March 6th, there will be a Family Service which will include the opportunity to renew our Water Pledges as a community. We will also provide a list of ideas on how to conserve water in the home and in the garden.

As part of the service on Earth Day on Sunday, April 24th, the church school students will be coming out to the garden to prepare it for the growing season. If you have garden gloves please bring them to church that day and wear casual clothes. We will clean-up and wake-up the garden for the upcoming growing season. We have tools for children to use.



JACK AND EMMA O'BRIEN ADD THEIR VOICES TO THE YOUTH CHOIR AT THE BERGEN COUNTY INTERFAITH BROTHERHOOD-SISTERHOOD BREAKFAST ON PRESIDENT'S DAY!





Belcanto Kettering Concert

By John Hancock



Belcanto Kettering, a renowned choir from the United Kingdom under the direction of Barry Clark, returns to perform at Atonement on Saturday, June 4th at 2:00pm. Many will remember Belcanto's rousing concert at Atonement in 2012, as well as their joining us to sing the Hallelujah Chorus at Easter Sunday that year.

The choir sings a wide range of music covering all styles and periods including classical and contemporary works, gospel and musicals, both accompanied and unaccompanied. The members aim to bring joy to all those who come to their concerts, always striving to uphold the tradition of Bel Canto (Italian for 'beautiful singing').

Belcanto give regular concerts and raise funds for a number of charities and churches in the Kettering district of the United Kingdom. They are winners of the First Prize for female choirs at the Llangollen International Eisteddfod in 2015 and 2012.

There is a suggested donation of \$10/adults and \$5/seniors; students age 18 and under are free. For more information about the Belcanto Kettering choir visit www.belcantokettering.co.uk.



Social Media and Website Committee

By Fran Regan

The Vestry has convened a Social Media and Website Committee (SMWS) to improve the church's digital footprint.

The committee will review the current website and Facebook page to update and coordinate design as well as function. To that end, we are considering whether and how to redesign our current website and move our web hosting platform to the diocese web project. The website is the church's digital home, and we will seek to make it both more attractive to outsiders looking for a place to worship as well as more useful to the congregation.

If you have any interest in joining us in this effort, even if you know nothing about websites but just have opinions, please let Fran Regan know at franr916@gmail.com.

While the church's Facebook page is very visible and is kept vibrant by Vanessa Roshong-Moore and Pastor Lynne, we are looking to promote it better. Over the coming months, keep an eye out for more information how each parishioner can use the "Like" and "Share" functions on Facebook to promote the church's activities and pastoral messages.

The committee encourages you to bring your cellphone to church (with the sound turned off) to post your location on Facebook and your thoughts and impressions on the service and sermon. This is the 21st century way to share the good news.



News from the Vestry

By Fran Regan

On February 19th and 20th, the Rector and Vestry held their annual retreat at the Convent St. John Baptist in Mendham, New Jersey.

The retreat commenced with the Vestry reading and discussing the passage from Luke 10:1-12 known as "Dwelling in the Word." In this passage, the Lord sends out his disciples to proclaim his good news. He provides very specific instructions on how they are to approach the people and what to do when rejected.

Today, Christ's church is similarly called to spread his message. The Vestry contemplated Atonement's mission and purpose for being -- focusing on our church's particular gifts. Considering the needs of our community and our impact on that community, how do we need to change to improve our vitality and viability?

Atonement has an outstanding reputation for its music, outreach and children's programs as well as our dedication to a rich, prayerful liturgy. How do we bring our message of Christ's love to others who are searching for direction, hope and a place to worship?

In the coming months, we will be focusing on our personal insights for being a member of the Episcopal Church and worshipping at Atonement. These so-called "Elevator speeches" will help us to develop a program at Atonement to spread our message about how we live Christ's word at Atonement.

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

By Carol Petrovich

The Shrove Pancake Supper was held on Tuesday, February 9th. Over fifty people enjoyed pancakes flipped under the direction of Lynne Weber who was ably assisted by Confirmands Anthony Parmelee and Mack Hancock. The young people hid Alleluias which will be found on Easter Sunday. Thanks to Mike Murphy who procured the batter from IHOP. It was a fun night enjoyed by all who attended, and \$200 was raised for parish activities.

THE CHURCH OF THE ATONEMENT

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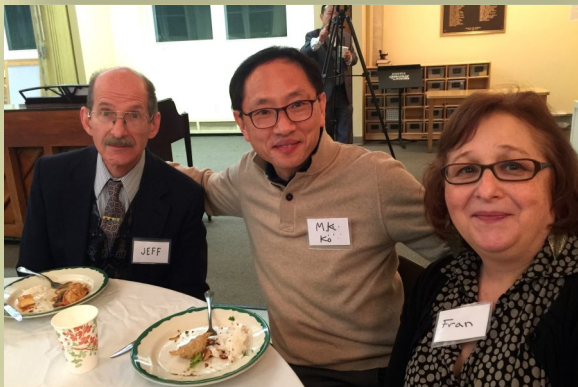
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LENT/EASTER 2016



MEMBERS OF CHURCH OF THE ATONEMENT AND GRACE & LOVE KOREAN CHURCH
JOINED TOGETHER FOR A NIGHT OF GOOD FOOD, HYMNS AND FELLOWSHIP ON WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 20th.