

CHRONICLE

PENTECOST 2019



FROM THE RECTOR

Out in the highways and byways of life, many are weary and sad;
Carry the sunshine where darkness is rife, making the sorrowing glad.
Make me a blessing, make me a blessing; out of my life may Jesus shine;
Make me a blessing, make me a blessing, make me a blessing to someone today.
~ Verse 1 & Refrain, Hymn 158, Lift Every Voice and Sing (LEVAS)



Dear Friends,

Growing up in a Baptist church, some of the hymns we sang repeatedly, and which I remember to this day, are included in the Episcopal Church's African American Hymnal, "Lift Every Voice and Sing" (LEVAS for short). At Atonement, we often have inserts in the bulletin with hymns from LEVAS or one of the other supplemental hymnals of the Episcopal Church.

We sang "Out in the Highways and Byways" as our final hymn on Sunday, July 14. It connects to the Gospel, which includes Jesus' teaching to love God and neighbor, and his telling of the parable of the Good Samaritan.

The hymn reminds us of our calling to be a blessing to another. The last verse is, "Give as 'twas given to you in your need, Love as the Master loved you; Be to the helpless a helper in need, Unto your mission be true. Make me a blessing..." I like the way the hymn operates: each verse speaks to the one who is singing, reminding him or her of how they've been blessed, and of the great need for love in the world. Then the refrain encourages the singers' response: "Make ME a blessing..." It reminds me of this quote:

Miss no single opportunity of making some small sacrifice,
here by a smiling look, there by a kindly word; always
doing the smaller right and doing it all for love.
~St. Thérèse of Lisieux 1873-1897

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FROM THE RECTOR (Continued)

What is the “smaller right” for each of us? What is the blessing we can bestow on a neighbor, a co-worker, a homebound parishioner, a hungry child, a stranger by the side of the road? It may be a listening ear, a kind word, a can of soup...or perhaps hosting a Blessings Booth...?!

Yes, we’re entering the second year of our new ministry, “Blessings to Go.” Born of our 150th Anniversary brainstorming, we’ve taken our Blessings Booth to the Tenafly Community Night, Earth Fairs, Veteran’s Day and Memorial Day ceremonies, Pride marches, and the Englewood Farmers’ Market. The purpose of the “Blessings to Go” ministry isn’t to convert anyone, or even to cultivate potential new members (although both would be a good thing). The purpose of this ministry is simply to bless.


As we brainstormed, one of the questions was, “How do we reach out to our community, to honor this anniversary?” We knew that many secular organizations do good works – feeding the hungry, caring for the homeless and the refugee – and that Atonement was already supporting many of those groups.

But...what was one important thing that we could offer, that other organizations, doing other good and important things, couldn’t do? The answer: offer spiritual support, encouragement, healing, and/or prayer for those who might need these things.

One way to be a blessing to others is to volunteer to help host the Blessings Booth for an hour or two this summer or in the fall. (We have printed interfaith Blessing Cards, so you don’t have to come up with a blessing prayer on the spot – just read the card!) I hope you’ll consider taking this opportunity to be a blessing. You can contact Birgitta Karlén, Tanya Quirk, Fran Regan or me if you have any questions, or would like to volunteer. Our next dates are at the Englewood Farmer’s Market on August 9 and 16, and then the Tenafly Community Night on September 17.

More importantly though, to be a blessing to others is something we can do any day, at almost any time, anywhere. It extends beyond our immediate neighbor, outwards to our community, our nation, and our world. We can be an agent of blessing when we help someone right next to us, and also when we thoughtfully and prayerfully consider how our mission plays itself out in terms of social, economic and political policy. These are areas where we may disagree about the details – sometimes significantly – but never disagree about the aim – to love, to serve, to help, to heal, and to seek what is good and just for those who are in need.

A parishioner recently told me that she learned two things from her early church experience that she tries to live by: “Be ye kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another...” (Ephesians 4:32 – and coincidentally – part of the choir anthem text for the anniversary Evensong on June 2), and “Make me a sunbeam” (a Sunday School song). Perhaps this summer is as good a time as any to increase our attentiveness to those around us, and to respond with a tender heart.

Faithfully, 



ANGEL UPDATE AND HOMECOMING!

Save the Date: Saturday, September 21 at 5:00 p.m.

By Wilson Reimers

Matt Hayes, the restorer for Atonement's "Angel" is hard at work and becoming more and more excited as he discovers the beauty of the original Ella Condie Lamb painting. It seems that in her last restoration, the painting was heavily and sloppily over-painted to dull her down. Underneath, Mr. Hayes is discovering a beautifully painted, much brighter "Angel."

We are all excited to see her return, so save the date of Saturday, September 21 at 5:00 p.m. for our Angel's return to Atonement. We will have a gala unveiling and rededication cocktail party to celebrate the homecoming!

At the party we plan to have an "Angel" exhibit, so look around your homes and lend us angels that adorn your home. It doesn't matter what you have – a dish towel, a picture, a toy, a sculpture – bring your angels to welcome our Angel home.

The Angel Celebration will be our final 150th Anniversary Celebration, and we hope to have not only the congregation, but many other people who generously donated to the Angel fund. If you've pledged a donation, it would be very helpful to receive the balance by Sunday, September 15, one week ahead of the Homecoming, so we can complete our project.

More information to come in the following months!

P.S. Along with hors d'oeuvres, we'll be serving angel's food cake!



ADULT EDUCATION RETREAT

September 27-29

By Lynne Weber

Our 9th annual Adult Education Retreat will be held Friday, September 27 through Sunday, September 29 at Holy Cross Monastery (Episcopal) in West Park, New York. This year the theme, “Your faith has saved you; Go in peace” focuses on Healing of Body, Mind and Spirit.

We’ll look at scripture, Christian spirituality and liturgy past and present, and contemporary writers, led by Lynne and Dean Weber. There are also the elegant Offices led by the monks, farm-to-table meals eaten in the dining room overlooking the Hudson River, the book shop, quiet time, and free time, especially on Saturday afternoon.

Cost is \$220 inclusive of retreat, room with shared bath, and all meals. Partial scholarships available on a confidential basis; speak with Lynne Weber. Checks should be made out to “Church of the Atonement” with “Adult Ed Retreat” on the memo line.





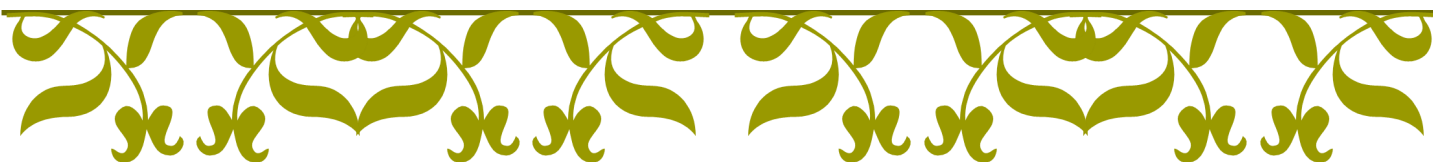
WHAT'S NEW WITH ATONEMENT'S ENVIRONMENTAL MINISTRY?

By Birgitta Karlén

Members of Atonement recently participated in the protest, “Save Our Lungs,” opposing the controversial proposed power plant in the Meadowlands, which drew hundreds of protesters to Ridgefield High School on May 18. The march was organized by local high school students from across the county in partnership with the environmental organizations Sierra Club and Food and Water Watch to rally against another gas-fired power plant in an area already graded an “F” for clean air by the America Lung Association.

Looking ahead, the long-awaited draft of the State of New Jersey Energy Master Plan has just been released. This document is supposed to be the blueprint to get NJ to 100% clean energy by 2050 to avoid climate catastrophe. If you would like to get more information regarding the critical first public hearing on the Master Plan, click here <https://www.nj.gov/emp/get/>.

Also coming up, Creation Season begins on Sunday, October 4 – when we celebrate the Blessing of the Animals, honoring Francis of Assisi – and ends on Thanksgiving Day. During October and November, we incorporate prayers and hymns appropriate to the season in worship, and also invite at least one special speaker. The Environmental Committee leads a “putting the garden to sleep” event for our young people. The committee is also planning an Eco-cruise, or a cleanup day in conjunction with GreenFaith and Hackensack River Keeper for a date yet to be determined in September, so stayed tuned for information on that. It will be a fun and rewarding event!





Lenten SOUP Supper





OPEN HOUSE

By Carol Petrovich

The grill was sizzling and the smell of burgers cooking was in the air on June 14 in the Preolo family's backyard. Tracey and John, along with sons Frank and John hosted, offering the main course. Those who attended brought a side dish, beverage or dessert. There was good fellowship throughout the evening and everyone left with a full stomach.

Many thanks to the Preolo family for their willingness to host! As an added note, open houses are held a few times during the year. If you'd like to host one, but are wondering what it may involve, or have any other questions about it, please contact Vestry Parish Life Chairperson Andrea Pieper at andreapieper564@gmail.com or call Pat in the church office at 201-568-1763.

150th DINNER DANCE

By Carol Petrovich

Madeleines' Petit Paris was the setting for Atonement's 150th Anniversary Dinner Dance. It was a wonderful evening for all those who attended. The setting, perfect. The food, delicious. The music, easy for dancing. Plus, laughter and good conversation was heard throughout the evening. Everyone left with a smile (and their commemorative glass) and agreed that they had a delightful evening!



What's the faithful Christian response to the crisis at our southern border? For one answer to this question, from the bishops of the Episcopal dioceses of Texas, you can click on or paste this link to read their recent statement: <https://www.epicenter.org/article/bishops-of-all-six-episcopal-dioceses-in-texas-issue-statement-decryng-the-inhumane-conditions-at-our-countrys-borders/>



COFFEE AND BIBLE

Our monthly "Coffee and Bible Conversation" was held on July 11 at 11:00 a.m. at Tenafly Diner. Next month we meet on Thursday, August 15 at 11:00 a.m. at Miller's Bakery. Every month we look at a different short text, and share our thoughts. Join us – no prep or Bible knowledge required!



D9 LENTEN OFFERING RESULTS — \$5,038.81

“Making change – Make a Difference” Feeds our Hungry Neighbors!

During Lent, Atonement again participated in the District 9 Lenten Offering, this year earmarked for Center for Food Action, a local organization we know well and have supported for many years with food and financial assistance.

During Lent, our “Making Change – Make a Difference” change jars added up to \$569.81. Thanks to everyone who participated, and to our Confirmation Class for presenting the challenge on the First Sunday in Lent!

One or two parishioners have told me that they have a change jar that they weren’t able to bring in on time. That’s OK! Bring in your offerings and Mike Murphy, our Treasurer, will make sure the money gets to CFA to help feed our hungry neighbors in Bergen County. And don’t forget to continue to bring in shelf-stable food during the summer – when the shelves tend to run bare. You can drop off food 24/7 in the Chapel narthex.

Altogether, the eight Episcopal Churches in Northeastern Bergen County that adopted this joint campaign during Lent 2019 has raised \$5,038.81.

In past years, Atonement and the other D9 churches have raised \$5,000 or more for Episcopal schools in Liberia, a well for a drought-stricken town through Episcopal Relief & Development, and last year for Episcopal schools in the hurricane-damaged U.S. Virgin Islands.



PICTURED LEFT TO RIGHT: CLAUDIA SMITH OF ST. LUKE’S HAWORTH AND CO-CHAIR OF THE D9 2019 LENTEN OFFERING COMMITTEE; PATRICIA ESPY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CFA; AND LYNNE WEBER, CONVENER FOR DISTRICT 9 EPISCOPAL CHURCHES PRESENTING CHECKS TOTALLING \$5,094.81 TO CENTER FOR FOOD ACTION. CFA PROVIDES EMERGENCY FOOD PACKAGES AND HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION SERVICES TO LOCAL LOW-INCOME INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES.



ROOF PROJECT

By Walton Clark

In 2018 we began a five year project to replace the roof in stages. Last year we replaced the section over the main altar. In June of this year we replaced the roof over the chapel. By doing it in sections we can spread the cost out and have a better chance of getting five smaller diocesan Ward J. Herbert Fund grants to help rather than one large grant. The Fund board (consisting of clergy and laity) approved our grant requests for nearly half of the cost of the 2018 and 2019 projects, and Atonement paid the balance.

Next year we plan to tackle the roof over the main church – a much larger project – and we’ll keep you informed and ask for your help as we move forward. The goal of Building & Grounds Committee is to be proactive by staying in front of repairs in order to better manage a little bit every year and avoid any crisis.





vensong



PHOTOS FROM OUR JUNE 2 EVENSONG WITH OUR BISHOP CARLYE HUGHES. THE EVENSONG CELEBRATED THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF LYNNE WEBER'S PRIESTHOOD (MAY 21, 1994), AND CONTINUED THE SERIES OF SERVICES CELEBRATING ATONEMENT'S 150TH ANNIVERSARY. THANKS TO OUR MUSICIANS, VESTRY AND VISITING CLERGY FOR MAKING THIS A TRULY SPECIAL EVENING.





ANNUAL MEETING

By Fran Regan

The Annual Meeting was held on May 5 where the Annual Report was distributed to the attending congregation. Rector Lynne Weber welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked all the members of the parish who had a role in making the church year a success.

Lynne gave a brief overview of the events and projects the church has been working on to commemorate Atonement's 150th Anniversary. She also gave special thanks to the outgoing members of the vestry, including Senior Warden Roberta Roshong and two-term Newcomers Chair Tracey Preolo.

The year kicked off with our 2018 Arts & Music Festival and with a parish barbeque on the front lawn in September. We instituted our "Blessings to Go" ministry which showed up in various locations and events including Tenafly's first Pride Day, 2018 Earth Day Fair at Northern Valley High School, and the farmers markets in Englewood and Tenafly.

A major project is the restoration of Ella Condie Lamb's painting An Advent Angel, spearheaded by Wilson Reimers. Fundraising for the project exceeded expectations. In addition to a series of three beautiful services of Evensong, the highlight of the year-long celebration was the Dinner Dance.

Several reports were given at the Annual Meeting involving the church's finances, and Buildings & Grounds projects, including the five-year roof plan.

The most important business at the meeting was to elect new leadership. The Nominating Committee nominated Carol Petrovich and Fran Regan to serve two-year terms as Senior Warden and Junior Warden, respectively; and John Hancock, Denise Peirce and Bryon Roshong to serve three-year terms as Vestry members. The following members were also nominated to serve as Deputies and Alternates to the District 9 and to the 2019 Diocesan Convention:

Deputies: Warden, Fran Regan; Vestry, Wilson Reimers; At-Large, Tracey Preolo
Alternates: Warden, Carol Petrovich; Vestry, Andrea Pieper; At-Large, Ralph Messina

No nominations were offered from the floor and the slate was elected unanimously. The Rector thanked the members for agreeing to serve.

Before adjournment, resolutions of courtesy were passed, to send greetings to former rector and bishop Jack Croneberger, former priest in charge Charlie Lochner, and former bishop Mark Beckwith.



25th ANNIVERSARY OF LYNNE'S ORDINATION

By Carol Petrovich

After listening to a beautiful service of Choral Evensong -- and witnessing the Rt. Rev. Carlye J. Hughes, Bishop of Newark administer The Renewal of Ordination Vows to commemorate the 25th Anniversary of her ordination to the priesthood -- all assembled in the auditorium for a reception.

During July, Lynne started her 19th year as our priest. She has shared our joys and sadness and inspired us to try new things...always listening to our ideas. To celebrate her ordination anniversary, and to show our appreciation for all she has done for Atonement, we wanted to do something very special.

After some Vestry brainstorming, we came up with what we thought was the perfect idea. Something that had never been done for any priest who had served at Atonement. We would rename the Chapel in her name.

During the reception Lynne, who was completely surprised, was presented with a plaque. The plaque was inscribed with the following:

**This Ecumenical Chapel is dedicated in Honor of
Lynne Bleich Weber
On the 25th Anniversary of her Ordination
May 21, 2019**

Lynne felt very appreciative of this honor which was given to her...and truly deserved. It was the perfect ending for a very eventful evening at Atonement!

CHURCH OF THE ATONEMENT

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PENTECOST 2019

COMING UP AT ATONEMENT

Thursday, September 5th and 12th at 7:15pm
a new Bible Study begins on First Peter in the Reception Room

Sunday, September 8th at 7:55am and 9:55am
return to our regular worship schedule
with choir and youth programs at the later service

Saturday, September 21st at 5:00pm
Cocktail party to welcome back and unveil *An Advent Angel* in the Auditorium

Friday, September 27th through Sunday, September 29th
Ninth Annual Adult Education Retreat

Sunday, October 6th at 9:55am
Blessing of the Animals; Creation Season begins in the Auditorium

Sunday, November 3rd at 9:30am
Annual Giving Breakfast, All Saints Remembrances

Friday, November 15th and Saturday, November 16th
COUNTRY FAIR

Sunday, April 19th, 2020
Episcopal Visitation of Bishop Carlye Hughes