



One Note

A newsletter from

The Episcopal Church of the Atonement

February 25, 2022



Dear People of Atonement,

This is the first of what will be many messages to you from the Vestry regarding Mother Nancy's retirement and our Clergy Transition. Moving forward we will strive to keep you updated about where we are in the process and how you can be involved.

What's been going on

- ◆ In early February the Vestry met with Canon Rich Simpson, the Diocesan Officer in charge of clergy transitions. We are using our Diocese's *Clergy Transition Guide for Congregations* to help us with the process. If interested, the transition manual can be found on the Diocese's website at diocesewma.org under the "For Lay Leaders" tab. Printed copies of the guide are available in the Narthex or by sending a request to Office Administrator Tanya Woodbury at program@atonementwestfield.org.
- ◆ We are grateful to Mother Nancy and past Vestries who have cared for our building and fixtures. But there are some issues that still need addressing (including the leaking tower), so Phil Siska, our Jr. Warden, is working with past Jr. Wardens Bonnie Adams and Gary Cole to pull together a study of the building for a comprehensive understanding of its condition and any necessary repairs or desired improvements, along with cost estimates. This will allow the Vestry to formulate plans for addressing building issues.
- ◆ Bishop Fisher celebrated the Eucharist with us this past Sunday, expressing his gratitude for Mother Nancy's ministry, and full support for Atonement and our transition journey.

What's coming up

- ◆ Vestry member David Dashiell is organizing the farewell celebration for Mother Nancy. More about this will be shared in our next communication along with a summary of the entire transition process.
- ◆ We are beginning to line up Supply clergy for the summer months while Canon Simpson starts the search for an Interim Priest.

What we are seeking from you

- ◆ Please join us in giving Mother Nancy a "good goodbye." This is the time to share thanks and appreciation for her leadership and the many gifts she has shared with us over her 12-year tenure.
- ◆ Feel free to contact any member of the Vestry for more information and to share your ideas and concerns. We welcome your prayerful and active participation in the process of our becoming the church that Christ is leading us to be.

The Vestry

*Kathryn DeJean, Sr. Warden Philip Siska, Jr. Warden Janet Parks, Treasurer Deborah Bruno, Clerk
Bonnie Adams Rachel Burke Evelyn Casey David Dashiell III Gail Meehan*

Lent and Holy Week at Atonement

As this goes to press, it is projected that COVID 19 restrictions will be gradually lifted through the spring and summer. Throughout the pandemic, your Rector and Vestry have worked prayerfully to keep us safe and keep us connected, recognizing that flexibility is key. Our proposed schedule of services and events is below. For up to the minute information, call us at 413-562-6461 or check the website at www.atonementwestfield.org.

ASH WEDNESDAY, March 2

Holy Eucharist and Imposition of Ashes at 12:15 pm

Holy Eucharist and Imposition of Ashes with music at 7:00 pm (Also livestreamed)

TUESDAYS

7:00 pm on Zoom *The Women of Holy Week and Easter*

Join Mother Nancy Tuesday evenings, beginning on March 8 for reflections on the women who shared in the life and passion of Jesus.

WEDNESDAYS

12:15 pm Healing and Holy Eucharist in the Church

7:00 pm on Zoom Hampden Deanery Lenten Series

Join the clergy of the Hampden Deanery discussing the sermons of Presiding Bishop Michael Curry.

Mother Nancy leads off on March 9.

THURSDAYS

6:30 pm Evensong in person and on Facebook

Note that there is no service on March 3.

SUNDAYS

In person at 8 am and 10 am. 10 am has music and is livestreamed.

Our 10 am service is also broadcast on Channel 15 in Westfield at 6 pm.

Children and their adults are invited to "Prayers on the Playground" at 9:15 on Sunday mornings.

HOLY WEEK and EASTER

Maundy Thursday, April 14, 7 pm

Good Friday, April 15, Noon

Holy Saturday

10:55 am Easter Egg Hunt

7:00 pm Easter Vigil

Easter Day

8:00 am Holy Eucharist with hymns

10:00 am Holy Eucharist with brass and choir



From the Rector

Dear Atonemates,

For the past twelve and a half years, it has been my privilege to serve you as “rector.” The canonical definition of that word means that I have the responsibility to provide for the worship, pastoral care, and stewardship of this parish. This is work that I have felt called to do most of my life, and I am very grateful to you called me to work with you!

As much as I love the work, I have discovered many more blessings in my role as your rector. We have been friends together, following Jesus together, trying to figure out together how to glorify God and care for God’s people. Did I have to repeat the word three times? Together! Thank you so much for your generosity in welcoming me to this place! Thank you for your love and care for me and Bill, and even my children and grandchildren who visit only occasionally. This time together with you has been a most wonderful time in my life.

Many of you have asked what’s next for me and for Bill. Our plans are still developing, but here is what we know so far. I will retire on June 1. Then we will begin to move. We have not yet found our next home, but we are looking in the western suburbs of Philadelphia—where we grew up, were married, and raised our children. Our sons live there, and brothers on both sides, along with their children and grandchildren. Our daughter and her family (including the now famous Harry and Gus) live only two hours away.

Although we will be living there, I will continue to be a priest of the Diocese of Western Massachusetts for the foreseeable future. That means that Bishop Fisher will still be my bishop. And I will serve our diocese as a deputy to General Convention which meets this year in Baltimore July 7 to 14.

After that? Well, there will be a home to set up, children to visit, grandchildren to spoil, and lots of naps to take! I will not be serving as a rector anywhere. But I will still be a priest, and if someone asks me to fill in, or preach a sermon, I will help where I can. Bill has already heard from friends who are engaged in living history in the Delaware Valley that his talents as a costumed interpreter will be welcomed.

From June 1, what happens at Atonement will no longer be my work. But you will continue in my prayers and esteem for the rest of my life. We can exchange Christmas cards and Facebook posts about the kids and the pets and our joys and sorrows. But I may not and will not engage in conversation about your ministry here at Atonement. I have every confidence in you, and more! I believe that God has blessed you with the call to be the Episcopal branch of the Jesus Movement in this place. And I trust the prophet Jeremiah, who understood uncertain times: *For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope (Jeremiah 29:11).*

Nancy

CONTACT US

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Christina Leung, Ministry Intern	
Jeffrey Benson, Custodian	
Michael Cassanelli, Sexton	

- ◆ The church office is open 9:30 am to 12:30 pm, Tuesday through Friday
 - ◆ Call us anytime at 413-562-5461
- ◆ For a copy of the parish directory, contact the Office Administrator



The Episcopal Church of the Atonement

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