...the Church in each place is to be the sign, instrument and foretaste of the reign of God present in Christ for that place: a sign, planted in the midst of the present realities of the place but pointing beyond them to the future which God has promised; an instrument available for God’s use in the doing of his will for that place; a foretaste-manifesting and enjoying already, in the midst of the messianic tribulations, a genuine foretaste of the peace and joy of God’s reign.

What is Lent?

Lent is the season leading up to, and preparing for, Easter. It is the forty weekdays and six Sundays before Easter. For centuries, it has been observed as a special time of self-examination and penitence. Lent is a time for concentration on fundamental values and priorities for our journey in faith, not a time for self-punishment.

Throughout Lent, the worship services of the church take on a scaled back, simple tone, appropriate to this season. Crosses showing the risen Christ may be veiled. The word “Alleluia” is not used in the words of the liturgy or hymns. These practices help our Parish Family mark this season of renewal as a special time in the church year.

The culmination of the Lenten Season comes in the week preceding Easter Sunday—Holy Week. Holy Week holds unique and specific worship observances and gatherings meant to prepare and draw us into the fullness of the Easter morning and Season.

Observing Lent

The custom is to mark the season of Lent by giving up some things (fasting) and taking on others (discipline). Both can serve to mark the season as a holy time of preparation. Some examples of things people give up for Lent include sweets, meat for all or some meals, and alcohol. In most cases, giving up something for Lent can be made more meaningful by using the money or time for another purpose. For example, meal times on fast days could be spent in prayer. Another example is that if you give up meat during Lent, the extra money that would go to meat dishes can be given to a group, such as World Vision, which works to end hunger worldwide.

Some things added during Lent are daily Bible reading, fasting on Fridays, times of prayer, taking a course of study related in some way to spirituality.

Lent affords an especially appropriate time for the rite of reconciliation—Private Confession. While confession through a priest is not required to receive God’s forgiveness, it can be a meaningful rite of reconciliation to God.

Know that the season of Lent is forty days, plus the six Sundays. This is because Sundays are celebrations of Jesus’ resurrection and are always an appropriate day to lessen the restrictions of Lent, offering a respite from your Lenten fasting and disciplines.

Special Days & Observances During Lent

Ash Wednesday

The first day of Lent is marked with a special experience allowing us to see that we stand as those receiving the God’s grace. This is symbolized by the imposition of ashes on the forehead, with the words, “You are dust and to dust you shall return.” In the Old Testament, ashes were a sign of penitence (feeling regretful at offenses) and mourning. For us, the ashes remind us of the lament and changes we make as we live into God’s grace.

Ash Wednesday is one of two days of special observance (the other being Good Friday) for which participation is expected.

The Way (Stations) of the Cross

These are depictions of 14 incidents from the Gospel accounts of Jesus’ death moving from the trial in Pilate’s house to Jesus’ being placed in the tomb. These 14 points make up the stations for the Way of the Cross, which visits each incident in turn with a brief reading, response, collect and on some occasions, a meditation. This is particularly appropriate for all Fridays in Lent and Good Friday. You are welcome to walk privately the Way of the Cross in the Historic Sanctuary any Friday in Lent, 9-7pm. Devotional Guides and prayers will be available in the Bell Tower vestibule.

Mothering, or Refreshment, Sunday

The fourth Sunday of Lent has long been observed as a day for completely relaxing the disciplines of Lent. It is also known as Mothering Sunday as this was the first Mother’s Day and a traditional time for remembering your mother.

Sacrament of Reconciliation (“A Private Confession”)

The Church of Jesus Christ has always provided a means by which Christians burdened by sin may confess and find the healing grace of personal forgiveness. Jesus forgave sins as a part of healing and charged his disciples to do the same (Luke 5:17-26; John 20:22-23).

Should I go to private confession? Examine yourself and your relationship with God and with others. Is there something in the way? Is there something you have trouble forgetting? Private confession is an exercise in complete honesty about ourselves that seeks to remove obstacles to our spiritual growth in Christ.

If you would like for private confession to be a part of your spiritual discipline, or you feel called to make a confession this Lent, please contact Fr Bill so that a time can be scheduled between now and Good Friday.
Upcoming Opportunities

When is a desk more than a desk?
When it’s a symbol of hope, a commitment to the future, and a sign of God’s enduring love!

Special appeal & in-gathering by the ten congregations in our area of the Diocese, District 9.

The children of St. Peter Episcopal School, located on the grounds of the St. Peter Episcopal Church outside Monrovia, the capital of Liberia, have lived through so much in their young lives - the aftermath of a devastating civil war, ongoing political upheaval, and most recently, the horrors of the Ebola epidemic raging through their country. Schools in the country have been closed for more than six months. The promise of ongoing education and training is a sign of stability and trust in the future.

St. Peter’s serves low income and non-monthly income parents’ with children in elementary level school seeking to learn farming skills. St. Peter Episcopal Church has ten acres of land where a eight classroom buildings have been constructed. The immediate challenge is the purchase of chair-desks for the students. The Episcopal congregations of District 9 have committed to help the school reopen.

The school has 25 students in each class for a total of 200 students. Each chair-desk costs $25. So our district goal for 2015 is to raise $5,000 ($500 per congregation) with any additional funds raised going to outfitting each classroom with chalkboards, bulletin boards and flooring. A longer term goal is to build and start a first aid clinic and secondary school.

During Lent, please bring your spare coins, or make a special gift on Mothering Sunday, the fourth Sunday of Lent, March 15.

Upcoming Baptisms
April 4, 2015, Holy Saturday

The next opportunity for any child or adult to receive the Sacrament of Holy Baptism will be at the Great Vigil of Easter, April 4, 2015, 7pm.

Young Adult Breakfast
February 21, 10:30am in the Conference Room

All Young Adults, those aged 18-30, are invited to join together for breakfast and discussion with Fr. Bill Allport and Kai Alston as we discern next steps for building our fellowship, ministry, and incorporation of young adults.

Stewardship Update

| Total pledges made | 91 |
| Financial pledges made | 87 |
| New pledges | 14 |
| Returning pledges: did not pledge in 2014 | 7 |
| Increased pledges | 29 |
| Total financial pledged | $145,925 |
| Average 2015 pledge | $1677 |

Join in making a commitment to God and God’s Transformation through St Paul’s!

More Music at St Paul’s
February 22, 4pm. The Divine One: The Art of Sarah Vaughan

Beverly Owens, soprano, with the St Paul’s Choir School, celebrates the life and art of American jazz singer Sarah Vaughan in a program honoring Black History Month.

picture, clockwise from top right: Karol Steadman offers song from her childhood; Andrew Darling sings; members from St Paul’s three choirs; Andy Kim, St Paul’s Organ Scholar, accompanied with Gary Norden; the Music Team of the Englewood Church of God of Prophecy; concert organizer & chorister, Mary Johnson sings.
Opportunities to Grow

Parish Quiet Day
February 14, 9 AM-3 PM
Valentine Quiet Day
“God as Love”

You are invited to spend some time reflecting on the love of God in scripture and on the more contemporary thoughts of Henri Nouwen, a well-loved spiritual teacher. There will be time for personal reflection and sharing (please bring a bible). The day begins at 9am in the Vestry Room before moving to the Chapel. If you would prefer to sit quietly by yourself that is fine. Come for whatever you need! Bring a brown bag lunch; beverages will be provided. The day will begin at 9 am and end with Eucharist at 3 pm.

Lenten Evening Series
Wednesdays in Lent in the Reception Room with Soup & Salad Supper, 7PM

Join our own resident biblical scholar, Dr. Stewart Moore for an engaging discussion and exploration for the Lenten Evening Series. The study and discussion begins at 7 pm with light supper of soup and bread following the Wednesday evening service of Holy Eucharist and Healing Prayers. The Evening Series gathers in the Reception Room on the evenings of February 25, March 4, 11, 18, 25, and April 1.

In the Morning
a prayer

This is another day,
O Lord. I know not
what it will bring
forth, but make me
ready, Lord, for
whatever it may be.
If I am to stand up,
help me to stand
bravely. If I am to
sit still, help me to
sit quietly. If I am to
lie low, help me
to do it patiently.
And if I am to do
nothing, let me do
it gallantly. Make
these words more
than words, and
give me the Spirit
of Jesus. Amen.


Looking Ahead to March

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>March 14</td>
<td>Parish Work Day</td>
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<td>March 29</td>
<td>Palm Sunday</td>
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<td>March 30-31</td>
<td>Holy Week</td>
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<td>April 3</td>
<td>Good Friday</td>
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<td>April 4</td>
<td>Holy Saturday</td>
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<td>April 5</td>
<td>Easter Sunday</td>
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Pictured below: The original St Paul’s Sanctuary and Rector, circa 1870. The interior of the first St Paul’s, with pipe organ and Payne Window (now in the Bell tower).
Our Christmas Offerings

Thank you to all that made special gifts during the Christmastide

In Memorial

Gifts were made in memorial for the following individuals

Kenneth Barrow
Mamie H. Gill
Dot Bullough
Oscar & Myrtle Hammond
Scalia & Dolores Burr
Uthran Bills
Forothby & John Sloan
Carl & Anna vonLengerk
Joe McCarthy
Ernie Bent
Cecil Alston
Laura Gmerek
Ruth Owens
Robert Abner
Gogo
Edythe Pope O’Dood
Abdul Oood
Mabel Pope

Gifts for Poinsettia

Gifts were made for the Christmas Poinsettia by the following individuals

Meta Barrow
Kay & Douglas Hammond
Robert Burr
Sylvia Osborne
Karlan McCarthy
Naomi Bent
Lena Ford

Gifts for Special Music

Gifts were made for the Christmas Music by the following individuals

Rosemary & Ken Burr
Meta Barrow
Kay & Douglas Hammond
Sylvia Osborne
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Lena Ford
Pam Abner
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A National Historic Landmark

Did you know that St Paul’s is a designated a historic place according to National Register of Historic Places?

St. Paul’s Episcopal Church was founded in 1865 in Englewood, NJ. The Sunday school building (now chapel) late Victorian revival in style and the church late English Gothic in style. Both buildings were designed by Thornton Floyd Turner, a former parishioner and well-respected New York City architect. He initially practiced on his own and then joined George Hill CE after 1865 and practiced as Hill & Turner. The firm completed several important landmark buildings in New York City, including Euclid Hall on Broadway.

St. Paul’s Episcopal Church houses exceptional examples of stained glass, designed by three master stained glass studios -Louis Comfort Tiffany, John La Farge, and the J & R Lamb Studios with designs by Frederick S. Lamb and Katherine Lamb Tait.

The Parish House designed by Master Architect Aymar Embury II was completed in 1916 in the Tudor revival style with half-timbered walls and stone gables. Aymar Embury II designed several important buildings in New York City including Jones Beach State Park on Long Island, and New York City Parks and Recreation Central Park facilities, and was also the chief architect for the design and construction of the Verrazano Bridge, Bronx-Whitestone Bridge and Lincoln Tunnel.

In 1922 a small addition was added on the east side of the parish house designed by architect Charles Wesson Hoadley of the New York firm Hays and Hoadley. Both Hoadley and Embury were very influential in the design of classical and Tudor revival houses in Englewood.

The National Register of Historic Places is the official list of the Nation’s historic places worthy of preservation. Authorized by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, the National Park Service’s National Register of Historic Places is part of a national program to coordinate and support public and private efforts to identify, evaluate, and protect America’s historic and archeological resources.


Middle School Retreat: Great Expectations

The theme for our 2015 Middle School Retreat for youth in grades 6-8 is "Great Expectations." We’ll explore the impact that the expectations of parents, coaches, teachers, friends and others have on youth. We’ll also play games, enjoy time making new friends and eat great food during this fun-filled weekend!

This retreat will take place at Cross Roads Camp & Retreat Center in Port Murray, NJ from 7 p.m. on Friday, March 20 to 12 noon on Sunday, March 22, 2015.

Cost: $120 received by the February 20. $138 for registrations received by the March 6. Scholarships are available.

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In Review

Pictures from Christmas, Epiphany, & our Celebration of Renewal of Ministry and the Installation of our Rector

Christmas at St Paul’s & a Spontaneous Christmas Pageant

picture, clockwise from top right: Children share in the Spontaneous Pageant; the Historic Sanctuary prepared for Christmastide; Shepherds wait for their part; Angels ready to make holy noise; combined choir schools for Epiphany Evensong; burning the greens on Epiphany; Reading a lesson at Epiphany Evensong; the magi arrive during the 10:30am Pop-Up Pageant; the Magi wandering; King Herod and Cronies; Even 8am shared a Pop-Up Pageant; Youth read the Christmas Narrative.

Epiphany & a Pop-Up Pageant
Renewal of Ministry & Institution of the Thirteen Rector

On January 25th, the Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul, members of the City Council, Board of Education, our Ecumenical Partners, Clergy of the Diocese, and guests from across Bergen County, joined in a service of Renewal of Ministry (for our 150th Year) and Installation of a new Rector, presided by our Bishop, the Rt. Rev Mark Beckwith. Symbols of ministry were shared by ministries of the Parish and community leaders to highlight the vitality of St Paul’s ministries and connections with the larger community.

*picture, clockwise from top right:* the Canon to the Ordinary reads the Bishop's Letter of Institution; Fr Bill's homiletic science experiment; Pastoral Care ministries present symbols of our caring ministries; Vestry presents a gift of a cross; the family of the Rector is welcomed (officially); the celebrations continued in the Parish Hall; the Rector's daughter gives ball (to remember time with the family); Altar Guild directors present a gift of a pottery communion set; the Stewardship Ministry presents a pot "to help us use our gifts to serve God and God's people;" Coptic priest Dunden & Korean Presbyterian Pastor Chung present water (as a symbol of our common baptism).
From the Diocese
Fr. Allport was elected by District 9 as representative to the Diocesan Council.

Dcn O’Neill was appointed by Bishop Beckwith to serve on the Committee on the Diaconate of the Commission on Ministry.

Lay Conversation with the Bishop
Tuesday, March 3, 2015, 7:00pm - 8:30pm, Grace Church, Rutherford

During the 2014-2015 program year, there will be four opportunities around the diocese for interested lay people to engage with Bishop Mark Beckwith in Bible study and a conversation about discipleship and mission. The second of these Lay Conversations will be held Tuesday, March 3, 2015 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at Grace Church in Rutherford.

The 29th Annual Bergen County Interfaith Brotherhood-Sisterhood Committee Breakfast
Monday, February 16, 10 am – 12:30 pm. Hosted each year by a different faith group, this year by our Jewish brothers and sisters. Guest speaker: Rabbi David Rosen, International Director of Interreligious Affairs of the American Jewish Committee, speaking on “Building Interfaith Bridges and Breaking Down Walls.”

Prayers, children’s choir, presentations, breakfast. Includes a buffet hot brunch (vegetarian). $30/adult, $15/12 & under

Contact Lynne Weber (rector@atonement-tenafly.org) for tickets, more info ASAP; or send a check to: Rev. Peggy Niederer, 171 Fulton Street, New Milford, NJ 07646.

From Englewood
Fr. Allport will participate in a panel & discussion at the

CLERGY & COPS
Working Together
Community Forum

PARTNERSHIP FOR A BETTER COMMUNITY

Join us at the Ebenezer Baptist Church of Englewood
FEBRUARY 26, 2015 @7:00pm
EBENEZER BAPTIST CHURCH, REV. JOVAN T. DAVIS, HINST PASTOR
716 Fourth Street, Englewood, NJ 07631 | Contact: 201.569.4156

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