

Report of the Senior Pastor 2009

It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of Light, it was the season of Darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair, we had everything before us, we had nothing before us...

--Charles Dickens, *A Tale of Two Cities*

On the one hand. On the other hand. Whether or not we use those precise phrases, that is the way Lutherans tend to speak. We see both sides of things. We are saints and sinners at the same time. We see our faults and shortcomings and glimpse the saving grace of God. Although some might claim that it is a bit melodramatic, Dickens employs a similar approach with his famous opening lines to *A Tale of Two Cities*.

While I believe this two-sided, apparently opposite, paradoxical understanding of things is true to a large degree every year, it seems particularly apt for Atonement this year.

On the one hand, we continue to worship with respect to the history and tradition of the church and with a clear vision of current issues and realities. We plan carefully and well. Music is well chosen and executed. Sermons are biblically grounded, theologically sound, true to real life, preached to the glory of God, and offered for the nourishment of God's people. The sacrament of the altar is celebrated weekly. Statistically, we added a few more people than we lost. *On the other hand*, worship attendance slipped some this year. Weather was a factor. It could be that in the less than ideal transition in the finance office, which tracks these numbers, our numbers might not be as accurate as in the past. Unfortunately, faithful members continue to die and others have become homebound. We are a church of the older and the younger but the middle is a little shaky.

On the one hand, we have celebrated our 100th anniversary with verve and a marvelous beehive of activity: the Fourth of July parade, the return of former pastors and an educator, with more to come, an especially strong CROP walk response (we had the most walkers and raised the most money), the history timeline in the education wing, a wonderful birthday party. And there are exciting things still to come. The congregation responded to a special Hope for the Future 100th Anniversary Campaign with pledges and gifts of \$120,000 so far. God has blessed us by the gracious generosity of strong stewards in our midst. I am tempted to say and most of me believes that if the economy was humming along as it was a few years ago, we would be too. We sit on what has been valued as \$12 million worth of property, have an endowment worth more than half a million dollars and have no outstanding debts. Many businesses, I suspect, would be ecstatic at such a position. *On the other hand*, the economy has been difficult for some time and fears have hardly subsided. Pledged giving was down and even our first-class preschool had fewer students for the first time in many years. (The numbers are coming back stronger for 2010.) If it wasn't for the anniversary campaign, our cash position—the bottom line—would have been significantly weakened. As it is, our balance sheet is in pretty good shape, but we are going to have to watch like hawks.

On the one hand, we now have a strong financial secretary, Matt Simmons, in place, along with a new finance chairperson in Ed Kern. We have moved from a modified cash basis of accounting to an accrual method that our auditors think is best. Matt has brought payroll back in-house, which will save us a significant amount of money. Once we grow accustomed to the new approach, I think everyone will understand more clearly. *On the other hand*, the transition happened right at the beginning of the year,

with 2008 not even closed properly. It dragged on too long and we flew blind in an economy in which you want to know everything. I am most grateful to Dana Lee for her help in paying bills in the interim. Unfortunately, this unexpected transition also caused me to spend much more time in the financial arena than I would have preferred. I did payroll for several months, for crying out loud! I learned an awful lot, which will serve in the future, but I am eager to get back to being the senior pastor.

This is an appropriate place to thank Debbie Blaha, whose term as finance chair has come to an end, for her many years of dedicated service in this arena. Also, thanks to Kathy Kleppinger for her many years of service as our assistant treasurer. Her job consisted of coming on her lunch hour each week to sign the plethora of checks that issue forth from this place. It is a behind the scenes but critically important job, and we are grateful that she has taken so much time from her busy schedule to serve the church in this way. And thanks as well to Betty Weik, Rich Tetley, Dorothy DeLong and Erika Rist, who have completed their terms on council.

On the one hand, with a strong strategic plan in place, we have used the particular talents of our outstanding staff and lay volunteers to start and continue new ministries. Seventeen people served for a week in Logan, West Virginia, working to make two homes there warmer, safer and drier as part of the Appalachian Service Project. All of our lives were changed for the better in some way because of that trip. Our 2010 group is being formed as I write. In conjunction with Trinity, Reading, we continue to serve Family Promise by hosting homeless families for a week at a time several times a year. This takes a tremendous amount of communication and coordination. I am grateful to all who volunteer at Opportunity House. Common Ground is a brand-new outreach ministry with the 12-step recovery community that has taken off beyond our wildest expectations. The speaker series, co-sponsored with Caron Treatment Centers, has drawn an average of over 250 people. God is leading us into an exciting new arena and we will try to respond faithfully and energetically. The new League of Lutherans (LOL), a youth ministry for 4th to 6th graders, has jumped off to a great start. Our relationship with Incarnation, Reading, via our shared intern, Mark Rigg, who has done nothing short of an incredible job, has gone well. It is not yet clear what will develop once Mark's internship concludes in May. Teachers are recruited and trained, curriculum is discovered and implemented, there are opportunities for learning for children age 3 through high school. Spiritual formation groups and book studies have deepened the faith of all who have participated. Our sick and homebound members and those in special need are visited and cared for faithfully and effectively. We care for the spiritual and physical health of our members as well and assist them in negotiating the complex health care system. After much work and drafting, we adopted a fresh constitution in the fall. Tom Gresh and Mick Bryan care for our extensive property in ways that stretch meager dollars beyond belief. The gift of our facilities for many community groups is a ministry in and of itself. All in all, I think it is safe and accurate to say that we offer the most comprehensive ministry of any Lutheran congregation in Berks County. *On the other hand*, all of this ministry depends on our talented and professional staff to develop and implement and carry out, to recruit and train volunteers, to tie up all the loose ends, and to communicate effectively. That staff is working at 2008 salaries and, if the proposed budget is adopted as it is presented, the staff will shrink yet again (we cut the staff secretary position in 2009) by cutting the position of visitation pastor, which has been carried out so well by Pastor Art Wyse. That means that those trained in pastoral care, Pastor Lee, Christine Summy and I, already with full schedules or more, will have to find time to care for our homebound members as well. At some point, push will come to shove. If we are to continue to be the kind of congregation I believe we wish to be and, more importantly, I believe God is calling us to be, we are going to have to find ways to respond so that we can support our ministry.

To this end, I am calling for us to engage in a year of discernment as a congregation. Please see the February newsletter for details or, if you would like another copy, please let me know. You will be hearing more about this in the weeks and months ahead.

I am grateful to lead a staff that is second to none, in my humble opinion. Thanks to Pastor Lee, Tom Yenser, Christine Summy, Kathy Yenser, Cynthia Bickley, Jo Sturgis, Tom Gresh, and Mick Bryan. Our Congregation Council, strongly and faithfully led by President Betty Weik, did good, hard work this year. Facing difficult issues brought out the best in all of the members, and our good discussions led to good decisions. I look forward to working with those who are returning and to those who will be joining us. Thanks to those who served on the Executive Committee: Betty Weik, Dave Swartz, Rich Tetley, Daral Woerle and Debbie Blaha.

And thanks to all of you members of Atonement who worshiped, learned and served this year. We respond to God's love in Jesus Christ in many and various ways and I am most grateful for that. We also have plenty of room to grow—in our own spirits and in our service. That will give us something to do for many years to come!

It has been a year of “on the one hand, on the other hand.” In this life, that's the way it goes. However, this can and must be said without condition: God will not abandon us. Nothing can separate us from God's love. God continues to bless and call, challenge and provide. God continues to provide grace that we might respond graciously toward one another, toward our community, and toward the world that God has made.

And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

--Philippians 1:9-11

Respectfully submitted,
Rick Summy
Senior Pastor

Associate Pastor's Report

2009 was a year where Atonement went beyond its traditional boundaries in many ways. The Appalachia Service Project and Common Ground are just two examples which I am sure will be covered by others in their reports. I, though, would like to speak to an event in particular that dominated the first half of my year in terms of planning and fund raising. This event was a big piece of the lives for nine youth of this congregation. This event, of course, was the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans this past July.

I am thankful that this was a part of our lives – our lives as participants and our lives as a congregation. For the youth (and for Dana and me), this was a wonderful experience. We gathered with 30,000+ other Lutherans from across the country. We worshiped together. We learned together. We served the people of New Orleans together. It was a time where we as a group from Wyomissing, PA were able to bond with each other and meet new friends. We shared stories, we laughed, we played four square. What a great time!

And for us as a congregation, we were able to send these youth on this trip – something they will remember for the rest of their lives – at minimal cost to themselves. You are wonderful stewards; you knew this trip was important. Through our collective gifts, we as a congregation said that some things are more important than money – even in difficult times. It is important to experience life outside the comforts of our own homes and town, to serve those who do not have, and to be in fellowship with other Christians.

In this time away we were fed spiritually and formed in relationship with God and with each other. This trip could not be replicated. So thank you for being good stewards of what you have been given. Thank you for giving so that others may be encountered in new, exciting, and spiritual ways.

In this year ahead, I hope we as a congregation hold on to our sense of what is important. Programs are being transformed, and have been for a few years. New programs are springing up, including the League of Lutherans (LOL, for short), a 4th through 6th grade youth group. In a year where we were cutting back financially, we knew that some things were still important.

I look forward to 2010 where we can continue to move out with ministry even though the world around us seems to be drawing in on itself. Blessings to you in this year, and thank you for a wonderful and memorable 2009.

Respectfully submitted,
Pastor Jason Lee

Director of Music Report

Last evening twenty people, including myself and our two pastors, gathered in worship to commemorate the life and ministry of Martin Luther King, Jr. After hearing stirring excerpts from some of King's sermons and speeches, we sang together the old spiritual that became the anthem of the civil rights movement in the 1960's, "We Shall Overcome," and, as so often happens to me in worship, I was deeply moved. I was moved as we sang because I remembered the struggle that those men and women faced half a century ago, I remembered how far we have come as a nation, I remembered how far we have to go, and I realized that even though we are not African Americans suffering and yearning to be free, as fellow worshiper Irene Cook put it so simply and profoundly, "We can all relate to those words."

This, then, is the essence of worship. We are moved out of our everyday existence into the presence of God, where we remember both our human failings and God's mighty deeds of the past, where we are nourished by His word and sacraments to serve in the present, and where we glimpse a vision of a hope-filled future.

Many thanks to all who help to make our worship together possible. Thanks to my colleagues, the professional leaders whom I have the privilege of working with each day. Thanks to all of the volunteers who serve as assisting ministers, communion assistants, lectors, ushers, greeters, sound room technicians and more. Thanks to the cantors and instrumentalists who offer their musical gifts, for their courage to stand before us in the assembly, and for their striving to improve their art in order to give their very best to God. Thanks to adult choir members who carve out time in busy schedules and who come to rehearsals week after week with enthusiasm and good humor in order to sing and ring in worship. Thanks to youth who buck the trend of what is cool and decide that being in church choir is worth the

time and energy it takes. Thanks to the children of Treble Choir, Laudate Choir, and Youth Bell Choir, and to their parents, who braved slippery, snowy roads and achieved perfect attendance in spite of the weather on Sunday, December 20, in order to inspire us with their beautiful Christmas music. Thanks to all of you, the congregation of Atonement, for your openness to many kinds of music, for your patience as we try out new ideas, for the times when you praise and sing with wild abandon or when you fall into hushed, awe-filled silence, and, finally, for your constant support and encouragement of me and my ministry here. Is it any wonder that I am so often moved?

Respectfully submitted,
Tom Yenser

Director of Adult Ministries Report

Sunday Mornings: The Adult Bible Study, Social Justice Sundays and Spirit Whispers have all had a bit of an uneven schedule. This is because we have invited esteemed former colleagues to come and join us in our centennial anniversary. However each offering of learning has been steadily attended. Pastor Summy and I have plans to merge the ongoing Bible Study and Spirit Whispers, which will offer two different kinds of learning and knowing. This merger will invite people to linger in the reading, wander around in it, listen for the movement of God in their daily life and in this community, and listen for God's hope for the future, not just our own personal preferences. In so doing, we will be distinguishing the various levels of things over which we agree or disagree. It will be so much a part of the 'year of discernment' you will hear Pastor Summy talk about. Over time this dwelling in the Word will shape our imagination because the word will go to work in us as we listen each other into speech and response, and we will be creating community as we share our stories and ourselves and our experiences.

Stephen Ministry: This is a small ministry in number perhaps, but I cannot praise the Stephen Ministry caregivers enough for the huge blessings they offer to those they companion in the daily trials and blessings and transitions of their lives. You may never have need of a Stephen Minister, but if you ever do, you will be loved, prayed, companioned and compassioned through whatever circumstance you find yourself in. If you are longing for a way to serve, if you love people and love to listen and care, if you are ready for an intimate experience of serving your neighbor in need, contact any of the leaders, Ray Warmkessel, Dr. Dan Kimball, Chris Summy, or Lois Hein, and we will arrange a training in the fall.

Volunteer Ministry Initiative: Thanks to Susan Wambaugh for her attention to this tedious project which will involve creating a 'job' description for every kind of volunteer ministry in our work together at Atonement, from Council President to newsletter stuffer. In this way we will improve the way we invite people to share in the work of this community, with lots of information about what is involved, how much time is needed and how long a term will be necessary. This organization through all levels of our ministry will create a foundation for volunteering that expects regular turnover, and invites as many people as possible into the ministry of Atonement.

Spiritual Formation: The Spiritual Formation groups have invited, over time, 40 people into a contemplative space to notice the presence of God in their everyday, and a warm and comfortable environment to share with others about the movement of God in their lives. Scripture readings, sacred poetry, Lectio Divina, meditation, journaling and other spiritual practices are explored and experimented with and shared about. It has been so moving to hear the stories of praise and thanksgiving, to companion people through times when they felt God was not present, to pray together, and to listen each other into speech about how we have noticed God at work. If this sounds like an invitation to you, note that the next

Spiritual Formation Group begins February 23 and will continue through Lent, into May. The scripture readings for these 12 weeks will follow Jesus through his ministry, to the Cross, into resurrection and into the gifts of the spirit.

Wednesday Evenings: The Atonement Cookie Shop was a huge success, raising about \$800 for the Appalachian Service Project, with which, in addition to a week of service, we hope to present someone in Appalachia with their first septic system. Many families gathered together to bake cookies, make candy, dip pretzels, decorate and eat a little cookie dough! Please consider the invitation to be a part of our Lenten Wednesdays.

Spiritual Direction: My training in spiritual direction continues. I will complete the requirement for certification in May, and will begin to offer direction here at Atonement immediately upon certification. Many thanks to the congregation for your support of this training, which has given me many gifts to share! Many, many thanks to the people with whom I meet, who volunteered themselves to share their journeys with me and help me learn!

Family Promise: “When you did it to the least of these...” Our Family Promise guests are not the least among us. We have been richly blessed with the opportunity to provide hospitality to people who are journeying through homelessness for the first time. Many of them are homeless because they lost their jobs in this economic downturn. They are people who previously got up, went to work and school, came home and made dinner, watched TV together, paid their bills, played board games, but who now find themselves without a dwelling or a job to support them. We have learned what the homeless look like and who they are, and they have taught us hospitality and compassion. Each host week is an invitation for up to 70 people to ‘be’ hospitality. If this sounds like an invitation to you, the next host week is May 16-22.

ASP ~ One Church, One Project: We learned so much from our new friends in Logan, West Virginia! What a sacred exchange as we made their homes warmer, safer and drier, and they taught us the difference between want and need, curses and blessings, as they taught about simplicity and faith in God. It’s not too late to join us on our second pilgrimage to West Virginia, June 27 through July 3.

CROP Walk: How fun was that!?! By way of celebrating our centennial, we threw a party with the Praise Band, created a little spirited competition among the staff, and raised more than \$4,500 for world hunger. Way to go Atonement!

Common Ground: Common Ground has grown from a simple offering of space to 12-step groups to a phenomenal hint of what God is up to at Atonement and in the world. Our first invitation, the four-part speaker series, has taken us all by surprise. Christopher Kennedy Lawford drew a large crowd of 240 when we only expected about 40. Ann Smith drew 260 in attendance, and Jack Abel, Director of Spiritual Services at Caron, a whopping 285. Many people who are less familiar in a church setting or who have had negative or wounding experiences in the church, yet are starving to understand God, have heard something in these presentations. Hopefully we will listen carefully and respond with who we have learned God to be ~ grace, comfort, loving, forgiving and healing ~ in a way that feels like an invitation into relationship, conversation and spirituality that is, Common Ground.

Be God’s!
Respectfully submitted,
Christine Summy

Report of the Director of Children's Ministries

"Let the little children come to me," Jesus told his disciples. While Jesus made this statement at a time when society did not place the same importance on children as we do today, it is still pertinent for us now in the midst of our hurried lifestyle. Atonement Church takes Jesus' words seriously by structuring the work of the congregation so that children's ministries continue to be a main focus. I feel privileged to be directing this area that provides roads for our youngest members to come more fully to Christ.

This past year we have been blessed by the number of people who have nourished our children's faith and helped them grow in their relationship with Christ. First, there were the members of the Children's Ministries Committee who met monthly to plan all of the events described in Sue Koch's report as chairperson of the committee. Through the dedication of the committee members, the children experienced God's Word not only through story but also through art, song, movement, and re-enactment. The committee members continued to keep knowledge of the Bible at the forefront of Christian Education. This year they selected a new Sunday school curriculum, *SPARK*, which introduces children from age 3 through Kindergarten to key Bible stories and enables our first through sixth graders the opportunity to explore one of the lessons from worship each Sunday.

Our staff of 28 Sunday school teachers, many who are also committee members, worked diligently this year to teach our children and nourish them on their faith journeys. Each week these volunteers spent considerable time preparing a lesson that helped our children know more fully what it means to be a child of God. Through Bible stories, prayer, a variety of classroom activities, and the sharing of their own faith, our teachers have helped children see God in our midst more clearly. Like the shepherd who leaves the flock to find the one lost sheep, I have watched teachers reach out to a single child to help him/her connect with the other children as well as experience God's love. What wonderful examples our teachers were as they exemplified the richness of God's grace!

The excitement of Vacation Bible School week would not have been possible this year without the 57 adult and teen leaders who brought Discovery Canyon to life. By building relationships with the children, these volunteers helped them experience Atonement as a safe, inviting, and fun place to grow in God's love. In addition to the morning VBS staff, we had 16 volunteers who turned VBS week into a day camp experience for 19 children by assisting with early morning and late afternoon activities as well as chaperoning a daily afternoon outing. With our volunteers giving of themselves and their time, the children experienced a week of life in Christian community.

The number of people who nourished our children's faith in 2009 does not stop here. We have been blessed by many other people:

- Those who helped staff the various special Sunday school events throughout the year,
- Those who administered our cradle roll so that families with children under age 3 received information by mail to nourish the faith of the youngest of God's children,
- Those who cared for the children in nursery during worship and Sunday school, and
- The parents and other primary caregivers for children's faith. These parental figures made decisions to bring their children to Sunday school and worship, provided transportation to church, and shared their own faith with their children at home. Without your care, the work of Atonement would be in vain.

I close with a challenge for the congregation of Atonement. Remember Christ's words in even the most casual of situations: "Let the little children come to me." The children are God's children. As the body

of Christ, we are all responsible for helping them to experience God's never-ending love. We are all responsible for helping them to experience their worth as God's children. We are all responsible for helping them feel like an integral part of the church. Reach out to the children of Atonement. Select one or two children whom you don't know well and begin to develop a relationship with them through conversation, a smile, expressing your joy at their presence. By paving the way for the children to come to Jesus, we too will experience God's presence more fully.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy Yenser

Congregational Health Advocate Report

Standing on the threshold looking forward to 2010 with a vision, hope, and prayer, then turning to look back over the fields tended in 2009, I am humbled by the blessings I have received in serving as your Congregational Health Advocate. The health of all is impacted by the health of one. We are called to walk together in this community of faith, in our families, in our communities and in the world. The way we walk, the paths we choose, determine the overall health of each and all of us.

Choosing to wear a pedometer each day gives us a sense of how far we travel. 2000 to 2500 steps equal a mile. Yet what is the measure of those steps and where have they taken us? From my perspective at Atonement, many steps are taken traveling in the spaces between the narthex, nave, privacy room, parlor, kitchenette, offices, library, classrooms, Lundin Hall, kitchen, stairwell, preschool, choir room, Sunday school rooms, and the gym. Did I forget the closets for buckets and mops, the sacristy for robing and communion preparation, or the medical equipment exchange room? What of the steps taken to the columbarium with grief-laden shoulders and eyes washed with tears? Who goes there? Who is walking?

Maybe you are ambitious and have walked over to the Parish Center and entered those rooms for catechetics, scouts, recovery groups, and literacy programs. On your walk in the church yard did you notice the colorful benches constructed by the team in preparation for the Appalachian Service Project? While walking on the sidewalk did you notice the tended garden beds and arrangements alongside the entry door? Who goes there? Who is walking?

I have a wonderful office at Atonement with a table and fairly comfortable bucket chairs. Some of you have walked in for counsel, venting, resources, planning, and praying. Some have spent the night on a cot serving the families who live with us during Family Promise week. From time to time, I witness the ministry of Atonement in the hallway outside my door where moms, dads, and grandparents escort the little ones, the impressionable ones, and we are invited into the dialogue of laughter, questions, wonder and tears. I can usually distinguish the older from the younger by the sound of their step. I have learned that the older are more apt to pop their heads in for a short or a longer hello. Some of the walkers carry large unseen burdens, and our offices offer a place to lay down burdens for a time or seek some assistance to lighten the burden. We walk as a team. Who goes there? Who is walking?

Standing on the threshold of a homebound member's door, we enter into the loneliness, the pain and suffering, the hope for healing and a better tomorrow. With ears to hear and eyes to see, we behold the mystery of aging and catch a glimpse of what yesterday was. Hard questions are asked; sometimes there are answers, sometimes not. We learn of Stephen Ministry visits, flowers and bulletins delivered, phone calls, and cards. We witness hope, thanksgiving and love in eyes grown weary over time. Who goes there? Who is walking?

It is a long walk down the hospital corridor. Entering into the room and sitting alongside the bed, we notice the flowers. They look like the ones from the altar. There is much to be learned here at the bedside. Advocacy is needed in a fractured health care delivery system. There is much to do with premature discharges to unprepared homes, family members working and living far away, resource identification, provision with limited choices for alternative residences, coordination of care, and comfort to be offered. Who goes there? Who is walking?

In the community there are senior residences, but all who live there are not necessarily seniors. All the residences are not equipped alike. A walk down the corridor and entry into the room reveals one of our members who once did the walking, but can now no longer walk. We come alongside, sometimes in prayerful silence, sometimes engaging in planning for new transitions. Sometimes there is heartfelt questioning. "How far is the journey? Am I traveling well? How much longer? What is going on at the church?" They have not forgotten us. Have we forgotten them? Who goes there? Who is walking?

Walking into the parlor, he sits and apologizes as he crosses his legs and notices through tear-filled eyes that his shoe uppers are shiny, yet mud encompasses the soles and encroaches upon the leather. He shares that he has just been to the cemetery to visit the gravesite of his beloved life partner and the ground was wet from rain. His cheeks are wet from tears. Together we walk through fields of remembrance, mountainous lands of adaptation, and valleys deep with fear, anxiety and grief; we catch glimpses of hope and a land with a future. Not many steps measure up on the pedometer, yet we take an abundance of steps in our hearts, minds, and spirits. All of our walking is not measurable. The importance is in the journey. The way we walk and the paths we choose will determine the health of each and all of us.

This is a glimpse into my walk as your Congregational Health Advocate. I am especially thankful for the staff of Atonement who helps me walk. I am thankful for the leadership, insight, and prayerfulness of the pastoral care team. In particular, I give thanks to our visitation pastor, Art Wyse, for his wisdom and faithfulness in his ministry to our homebound. Thanks to you who go there and who are walking.

I give thanks to those who share the chair at your bedside and allow us to enter in. I give thanks for those who now walk in greener pastures, but allowed us to walk with them for a time. I look forward with a vision, hope, and a prayer for more walkers. There is much to be done. With God's help we continue.

With thanksgiving,
Lois Hein

President's Report for 2009

The 2009 year began a little bumpy with the need to replace our financial secretary. We were happy to secure Matt Simmons in the spring of 2009. Matt's effort's have helped Atonement improve its financial recording and reporting. We are fortunate to have him as a member of the staff.

Atonement is blessed to have dedicated pastors and staff: Rick Summy, Cynthia Bickley, Jason Lee, Chris Summy, Tom Yenser, Tom Gresh, Kathy Yenser, Mick Bryan, Jo Sturgis, Lois Hein, Matt Simmons.

Through the dedication and leadership of this team, Atonement has much to be proud of: Preschool, Family Promise, multiple music programs, Sunday School/VBS, rxpanding youth programs, an advocate to help members navigate the complex medical landscape, and much, much more. Our hope is to meet

the needs of all Atonement members. Please let one of the pastors or a member of your Congregation Council know if you have a question, concern or suggestion regarding your needs.

Your Council committed to approving and implementing a revised Constitution. This was accomplished in September, 2009. Following the direction of the new constitution, Debbie Blaha, Chair of Finance, and Kathy Kleppinger, Assistant Treasurer, transitioned out of those offices. We thank them for their many years of faithful service.

In addition, we entered the year in a difficult financial position, which proved more challenging as the year progressed. Responding to these difficult conditions, your council found it necessary to rescind the budgeted salary increases as well as to cut the overall program budget by 10%. These were difficult but necessary decisions. It is important to note that Atonement paid its full commitment budgeted for benevolence in 2009. Atonement has always been committed to its benevolence promise.

A few noteworthy achievements during 2009: Common Ground, launching of the 100th Anniversary Celebration, Innovative Stewardship Program, just to name a few.

The congregation owes many thanks to Rich Tetley, Dorothy DeLong and Erika Rist for their years of dedicated service on the council. The nominees for new Council terms are: Jace Wandrisco, Rachel Gambone and Joe Bialek. Also we thank those members who continue to serve our Congregation Council.

I thank you for the opportunity to serve this wonderful congregation this past year. It has been an honor and a privilege.

Respectfully submitted,
Betty L. Weik

Atonement Christian Preschool 2009 Annual Report

I am happy to send you this report of the preschool's staff, board, and activities in 2009.

Staff: Cynthia Bickley, Nancy Brossman, Donna Egan, Sue Harenza, Melissa Hazlett, Debra Hoffman, Dawn Koppenhofer, Amy Miller, Cathy Schmehl, Theresa Williams, Amy Sharkey, Diane Baldwin, Janine Busak, Regina Doyle, Michelle Endy, Sharon Janiszewski, Robin Searle, Tama McConnell.
Preschool Board: Jen Asplen, Joelle Benedict, Jesse Gallen, Megan Maher.

Once again we had a joyful year of sharing social, emotional, physical and intellectual growth in a strong Christian setting. Pastor Summy, Pastor Lee, and Mr. Yenser led us in Bible stories and music during bi-monthly Chapel Services.

Enrollment was down slightly to 192. Teachers were trained in Kindergarten readiness during a "Language and Literacy" workshop in August. New curriculum was successfully implemented in September.

Here is our year in review: January - teacher conferences; February - Valentines, Jump for Heart, Kids Show; March - Dad's Day, planetarium; April - Easter, Two of a Kind; May - Mother's Day tea, Happy Hollow family picnic; July - Creative Kids Camp; September - orientation, making friends; October - Halloween parties, Weaver's Orchard; November - Opportunity House (Catherine Lentz organized

healthy snacks for 100 children), Thanksgiving feasts, screenings; December - Christmas chapel, carols and cookies, Sheerlund Forest, Angel Tree.

I would like to thank WOA for their scholarships which allowed three children to experience our wonderful preschool.

Respectfully submitted,
Cynthia Bickley

2009 Arts Committee Report

In 2009, the Atonement Arts Committee continued its efforts to provide a wide range of events for both our members and our community. Major 2009 Arts events included: family percussion event with Frank Kumor, Berks Classical Children's Chorus, Donna Danielski concert, Ellen Bryan and Betty Weik concert, and Wheatland Chorale

Upon Congregation Council approval, the Celebration of the Arts weekend was placed on a one-year hiatus in 2009 to allow time to adjust its focus and recruit additional volunteers that will be necessary to successfully execute the event in the future.

Arts Committee members include: Tom Yenser (Director of Music), Sean McCrae (Council Liaison), Scott Boyer, Betty Hottenstein, Ray Warmkessel, and Kim Woerle.

Respectfully submitted,
Sean McCrae

Children's Ministries Committee

The Children's Ministries Committee was very active this year in planning and executing a number of programs for our SCS children. Among the special programs held in 2009 were:

Treasures of the Church Year Seasons – On February 22, we held an interactive Sunday school event for children ages 3 through grade 6 to learn about the rhythm of the church year. This program opened in the nave with an overview of the church year seasons including the focus of each season, the length, and the color, all reinforced both visually and through a rap called the *Church Year Cheer*. The children then rotated through three stations where they learned in more detail about the individual seasons by participating in games and other hands-on activities.

Walk through Holy Week – Our Lenten event was held during the Sunday school hour on March 29. Children experienced the events of Holy Week through a series of stations set up in the gym. We began with a palm parade to hail Jesus' arrival into Jerusalem, then moved on to Jesus' Last Supper, the betrayal in the Garden of Gethsemane, the trial, the crucifixion, the burial of Jesus' body, and, to complete the picture, the joy of the resurrection.

Pentecost Event – On May 31, SCS children age 3 through grade 6 participated in the 11:00 a.m. Pentecost service by waving red streamers as they processed into the nave, by singing, and by providing a

dramatic reading of the coming of the Holy Spirit to the disciples on that first Pentecost. Rehearsal was held during the SCS hour just prior to the service along with making a craft and enjoying a snack.

VBS Preview – We closed out the SCS year with a Vacation Bible School preview where children learned new VBS songs in the nave and made crafts that were used to decorate the church during VBS week.

Rally Day – This fall we kicked off the new Sunday school year by joining forces with the staff and the Anniversary Committee to host Rally Day on September 13. To celebrate our 100th anniversary, our theme for the event was *Looking Back 100 Years, at Today, and into the Future*. This was an intergenerational event which included stations where children and adults could experience the change in music, toys, games, clothing styles, and ministry across the past 100 years.

My First Bible! –A 3-week Sunday school series for parents of third graders began in late September and was led by Pastor Summy, Pastor Lee and Christine Summy. The program was designed to provide parents an overview of the Bible to prepare them to interact with their children as they receive their first New Revised Standard Version of the Bible. Following this program, the third grade Sunday school class spent 8 weeks learning how to use their new Bibles and exploring the various books and stories.

Sunday School Christmas Program – Held on January 3, 2010, this event included a retelling of the Christmas story in the nave through narration, congregational singing, and our eight Sunday school classes coming together to form the nativity scene. The program ended with fellowship and refreshments in Lundin Hall.

In addition to these special events, twenty-one children from second through fourth grade received First Communion on May 17. Both children and parents participated in three weeks of classes, followed by a rehearsal and dinner the evening before. Also, 100 children, age three through grade 4, participated in our *Discovery Canyon* Vacation Bible School during June 22-26. Thanks to all of the 57 adult and teen leaders who gave of their time and talents to contribute to the success of Vacation Bible School. For the second year we offered an afternoon camp for children following the morning VBS session. Nineteen children from kindergarten through grade 6 participated in a week filled with fun activities, including games at the church, picnic table painting, swimming, trips to Daniel Boone Homestead and Ontelaunee Orchards, and bowling at Berks Lanes. Both events were a great success judging by participation and positive feedback. As part of the VBS service project, we collected \$700 to support the Appalachian Service Project.

My sincere thanks to our 28 dedicated SCS teachers and the Children's Ministries Committee members (Joelle Benedict, Cynthia Bickley, Christie Botterbusch, Jen Crocona, Jen Dauber, Michelle Geddio, Melissa Hazlett, Lori McGovern, Amy Sharkey, Crystal Shirk; Melissa Wandrisco) for their time, dedication, and hard work.

Respectfully submitted,
Sue Koch, Chairperson

Endowment Committee Report

Our Mission Endowment Fund enables Atonement to extend our Christian benevolence beyond what our budget will afford. The by-laws for the fund provide the formula for determining the amount available

for ministry grants each year. That formula is a fixed percentage (4%) of the average of the fund value as of December 31 for the previous three years. So growth of the fund through bequests, planned gifts, and contributions enhance our opportunities to show the light of Jesus and our church in meaningful ways - a gift in perpetuity.

In 2009, \$12,292 from estates and contributions were added to the fund.

The funds available for grants in 2009 were \$33,668. The following ministries were recommended for funding by the committee and approved by Council:

- Continuing support for Vicar Mark Rigg's pastoral service to Incarnation Lutheran Church as well as Atonement and for his further pastoral development.
- The Appalachia Service Project, creating warmer, safer houses to the depressed region. Twenty of our members and clergy made critical home repairs while building wonderful relationship with the residents and each other.
- Support for our fellow parishioner, Tom Scornavacchi, now a seminarian at the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Philadelphia
- As in 2008, support for our Parish Center in this troubled economy. As noted in our 2008 report, the annual cost of operating the Parish Center, an Atonement ministry outreach to the community, is about \$30,000. Donations received from the service groups who use the center are a small fraction of this cost. So the committee resolved to fund the difference (not to exceed \$15,000) in 2008 and 2009 with any grant funds still available at year end. \$7,000 was still available and granted at the end of 2009.

Our committee expanded in 2009 with the addition of Martha Hafer, Dave Reeser, and Tom Ziemer to help in our objectives of seeking and evaluating ministries to support and of encouraging members to consider the fund in their estate planning, as a legacy of care and a memorial to our place of worship.

Respectfully submitted,
Don van Roden

Evangelism Committee Report

The Evangelism Committee is charged with creating opportunities to reach out to persons and communities outside of our congregation in order to share the good news of God's love and to welcome and invite others to worship, learn and serve with us so that we may grow closer to God together. Because of Atonement's longstanding commitment to support persons in recovery from the effects of compulsive or addictive behaviors (primarily through the donation of the Parish Center for the use of hundreds of 12-step participants each week), we identified the "recovery" or "12-step" community as a group with which we wanted to try to build new relationships.

What a thrilling year we have had! We formed a fabulous subcommittee of Atonement members with personal or professional experience or interest in recovery. We established an identity for our ministry by naming our group "Common Ground." We developed a vision statement for Common Ground that reads: "Common Ground is an emerging gathering of people connected to 12-step recovery and all who seek wholeness in their lives. Our hope is to engage in honest conversation, build strong relationships, and explore our spirituality for the sake of body, mind and spirit." With the help of talented Atonement

member Pam Barby, we developed a beautiful, blue logo for Common Ground that includes the words, “Conversation – Relationship – Spirituality.”

Next, we created a four-part monthly lecture series entitled, “The Healing Power of Spirituality.” With the invaluable assistance of members Doug Tieman and Drew Rothermel, Caron Treatment Centers graciously co-sponsored the lecture series with us and provided us with three of our four speakers (including Christopher Kennedy Lawford) and excellent publicity support.

Through God’s good grace, each of the first three lectures has drawn 240 or more people! Many of those were Atonement members, but the majority were persons from the recovery community who were warm, kind, attentive and very thankful. The speakers have been insightful, open and thought-provoking. Each speaker had much to offer persons who are not in recovery, covering topics like personal growth and healthy relationships. We learned that our two communities do indeed have much in common.

Several guests personally thanked Pastor Summy for Atonement’s donation of the Parish Center for 12-step meetings, saying that their lives had literally been saved by the work done by the 12-step community in our building. Many guests chose to remain after the lectures to enjoy food and coffee provided by the gracious members of the Fellowship Committee and to share fellowship with each other.

More than 200 guests completed surveys and provided us with an idea of their needs and their email addresses. That list of email addresses will enable us to continue to reach out efficiently to an entire group of people who we did not know before October. Requests for future Common Ground events were simply overwhelming. More than 70 percent of the respondents asked for a recovery worship service. More than half asked for book discussion groups, movie nights, recovery coffeehouses and more lectures. Many respondents indicated that wanted each thing that we suggested.

We look forward to welcoming Atonement’s own, Tom Scornavacchi, as the last speaker in the series on Wednesday, February 3. Please don’t miss his compelling story. We are working on beginning a monthly recovery worship service and will soon make plans for more Common Ground events.

Chris Summy supported the ministry in many ways, especially by conducting a book discussion group on Gerald May’s book, “Addiction and Grace,” which was very meaningful to the Atonement members in attendance. She plans to offer a similar book discussion group to members in the recovery community.

Many thanks to the wonderful, supportive and hard-working members of the Common Ground subcommittee who each have a true heart for persons in recovery: Marge Boehmler, Ken Gill, Eve Kimball, Barbara Leinbach, Chris O’Reilly, Drew and Amy Rothermel, Tom and Tina Scornavacchi, and Rick and Chris Summy. Thanks to Rick Summy for being available to recognize the exciting possibilities of this ministry. For those of us who have had the privilege of experiencing these successes, it seems like God’s hand is on this work. May God continue to bless this ministry of Atonement and may our work continue to glorify him.

Respectfully submitted,
Kate Harenza

Fellowship Committee Report

Our committee prepares and serves food, as well as decorates, for a variety of congregational occasions. This year we prepared lunch and served it following four funerals. In January we served lunch at the Annual Congregational meeting. During Lent we provided soup and bread for a Wednesday supper prior to the evening worship service. On Tuesday of Holy Week we served a delicious breakfast prepared by Cloud Nine. The speaker for the morning was Pastor Carol Kehler. There were receptions in the narthex in June and October for new members. In September we cooked and served the Candidacy Dinner for twenty-five people from the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia. We served refreshments following the well-attended Common Ground programs featuring Christopher Kennedy Lawford in October and Ann Smith in November. Finally, we participated in the Stewardship Sunday Safari event, which was very enjoyable for everyone who attended.

We appreciate having a dependable group of women who are willing to serve at these events. Our sincere thanks goes to the committee under the leadership of Betty Shirk. Also, thank you to those members of the congregation who willingly bake the wonderful goodies that we serve at some of our events.

Respectfully submitted,
Gail Hoch

Hospitality Committee Report

Members: Brad Eastman, Bob Eisenbrown, Pat Gernert, Lois Kissinger, Joanne Kramer, and Judy Wentzel

This committee is responsible for providing hospitality of all kinds to all members and visitors at worship and other events that the congregation may hold.

The 2009 Hospitality Committee focused on the following projects:

- Coffee machines continued to be available for the coffee hour before and after church services.
- New members were matched with a shepherd (sponsor) during the new members orientation get-togethers. Each shepherd was asked to make friendly phone calls to remind the new member of upcoming activities.
- There was a third greeter scheduled at each Sunday church service. One greeter will always be available to answer questions and escort members or visitors around the church when needed. Judy Wentzel has volunteered to become the new Greeter Coordinator.
- Acted as hosts/hostesses, providing soup, bread and children's meal during the Lenten meals Wednesday nights.
- Ideas for new visitors packets will be made available.

A special thank you to all the committee members and church staff who helped make the accomplishment of these projects possible.

Respectfully submitted,
Judy Wentzel

Property Committee Report

The Property Committee was able to maintain the integrity and functional use of all the buildings and property of Atonement while keeping under budget this year.

A number of projects were delayed as we reallocated funds to repair and maintain essential items. Tom Gresh continues to add great value to the church by applying his many talents to these efforts. By keeping some of this work in-house, we have saved a considerable amount of money.

While we were able to postpone many projects, ultimately this work will need to be done. You may not have noticed, but close examination of our buildings would reveal the need for many repairs. We will monitor these issues and perform any work as necessary. The budget approved for this year should provide for funding to complete some of these delayed projects, but the number of projects we can completed will be affected by any unforeseen repair work that may occur during the year.

Council has already approved the use of the major repair fund to replace the heating and cooling systems in the main parsonage. These systems are beyond repair and require replacement. This project will significantly deplete the current balance of the major repair fund.

I want to thank all the members of the property committee, Hans Meinig, Alf Pettit, Tom Shirk, and Bob Keith, who have contributed greatly to the committee.

Respectfully submitted,
Daral A. Woerle

Social Ministry Annual Report

The social ministry's areas of concern run the spectrum of needs. Several of the areas run extremely efficiently and are really committees in and of themselves, such as Atonement's support of Opportunity House chaired by Sue Harenza, the Food Pantry donations (thank you to Tom and Betty Shirk for delivering the food), and Peace Place after school program, held at St. Mark's Lutheran Church and chaired by Jan Knudsen. These long-established programs continue to be strong parts of the social ministry vision of Atonement.

Four additional programs this year directly involved the congregation as a whole by means of participation and contributions. The first of these was Operation Book Bag, chaired by Kathy Yenser. Operation Book Bag is a collection of school supplies for elementary and middle school students. This program is coordinated by the Western Berks Mission District and provides children with new back-to-school items, from book bags to erasers. Thanks to your generosity, we collected the following items for children in need in the Reading schools: 18 backpacks, 138 one-subject notebooks, 21 three or five-subject notebooks, 38 packs of notebook paper, 7 primer tablets, 4 packs of construction paper, 8 calculators, 23 pencil boxes, 17 scissors, 48 rulers, 14 pencil sharpeners, 86 packs of #2 pencils, 49 packs of erasers, 34 packs of pens, 24 packs of highlighters, 49 boxes of crayons, 31 packs of glue sticks, 13 packs of tissues, and \$75 to be used for additional supplies.

The second program was a joint venture with Incarnation Lutheran Church and Atonement, and it was a clothing drive. Clothing, ranging from infants to adults, was collected and delivered to Incarnation Church for distribution to those who use their food pantry. This was a huge success, and "tons" of much-needed clothing were delivered and sorted. We hope to make this an annual event at Atonement.

The next program offered by the Social Ministry Committee was the CROP Walk. This event was chaired by Marge Boehmler. CROP Walk is a program of Church World Service and helps to eliminate hunger on a local and world-wide basis. The response by our congregation was spectacular. We won the "Golden Sneakers" award, which is given to the church with the most participants, and our total donations were over \$4,500.00. A little friendly competition help us reach this lofty goal, and Tom Yenser and the Praise Band were a great addition to the event.

The last of our programs was the Angel Tree. Working with the Pregnant and Parenting Teen Program of the Berks County Intermediate Unit, paper angels were put on a Christmas tree, and the congregation had an opportunity to pick an angel and provide a gift for a child in need. We had 96 angels, and each one received a much-needed gift.

Respectfully submitted,
Patty Keisel

Stewardship Committee Report

As in previous years, the stewardship committee's primary activities in 2009 revolved around our annual fall campaign. The intent of the campaign is to encourage Atonement members to evaluate their giving in a prayerful and thoughtful way.

The campaign included several components this year, reflecting the commitment, creativity, and spirituality of many of our members:

In temple talks, Sue Zierner related her experiences with the pastoral care ministry, and Eve Kimball poetically shared her personal stewardship story.

With pop quizzes during worship announcements, weekly bulletins, emails, and website postings, Pastors Summy and Lee highlighted the work of the pastoral care team and the efforts supported by the Parish Center and Common Ground, and reminded us that while the church is a spiritual home, it is also a physical structure that requires maintenance, utilities, and ultimately, money for its operation.

Dozens of our own members along with a handful of visitors prepared and presented thirty mission stories to the congregation in the Stewardship Safari, a ministry fair designed to celebrate and interpret many of the good works of Atonement. The fair engendered an impressive attendance and proved a fantastic fellowship opportunity as well.

Packets reviewing the principles of Christian stewardship and inviting members to make or renew a financial commitment to the church were assembled and sent to each member household.

Bishop Samuel Zeiser capped the campaign, delivering the sermon and soliciting pledges at worship services on Stewardship Sunday.

Following the campaign, members of council and the stewardship committee made courtesy calls to congregants who had pledged in previous years but had not yet submitted their pledge for this year.

The congregation responded to the campaign with 338 giving units pledging \$673,404, for an average commitment of \$1,992. The previous year, 411 units pledged \$679,005, an average commitment of \$1,652. Thus, while fewer giving units were able to commit to a pledge this year, those who did commit increased their pledge by an average of 20%. We are grateful for this gracious and generous response.

Stewardship concerns our human gifts in addition to our financial blessings, and our committee has also initiated a discussion concerning how to better track and engage the considerable and varied talents and interests of our congregation. Look for more information about an updated time-and-talent database that will help connect church leaders to members, and members to one another.

Thank you to the many generous and capable individuals involved in our stewardship efforts this past year. Special thanks to Pastor Summy for his tireless work and invaluable guidance; to committee members Matt Shirk, Carl Botterbusch, Steph Flanagan, Greg DeLapp, and Fran Tieman; to Gail Hoch for advice; and to Matt Simmons and Jo Sturgis for their assistance throughout the campaign. Thank you to the Atonement community for the many gifts you bring to our church.

Respectfully submitted,
Bryan Wang

Women of Atonement Report

Our circles are the backbone of Women of Atonement. Mary and Esther Circles have merged into one group, led by Sue Harenza and myself, and Hannah Circle is lead by Gail Hoch and Vicki Espinoza. Thank you, ladies, for all your hard work. We continue to participate in church activities and reach out to the community. We support Children and Youth, Motivated Moms, Church Women United, Family Promise, Opportunity House, and Women in Crisis.

In the church community we prepare banners for baptisms, cover the flower delivery containers, keep the kitchen running smoothly, and aid the Prayer Shawl Ministry. We also enjoyed participating in the Stewardship Fair. On the district level we attend the fall and spring district meetings. Our study this year is *To God's Beloved: Paul's Letter to the Romans*, and it has been enlightening.

We have a fall breakfast to start our year of study and will end with a spring luncheon. Our speaker for the breakfast was Jan Keeney, who manages Nosegay Florist. She allayed our horticultural fears with her informative presentation. The speaker for the spring luncheon, scheduled for May 15, will be announced.

We continue with our main fundraiser, which is our plant sale. Again it is in conjunction with Earth Day and will be held Saturday, April 24, at Sue Harenza's barn. This activity is not only a fundraiser but also a fun community event.

We are open to all women of Atonement, and we thank you for the opportunity to serve.

Respectfully submitted,
Eva Eisenbrown

Worship and Music Committee Report 2009

The primary goal of Atonement's Worship and Music Committee is to enrich the worship experience and thereby deepen the faith of the congregation. Volunteers assist in these efforts through work on various committees.

Special thanks go to the heads of these various subcommittees: Altar - Janis Longlott and Kristina Smith; Lay Readers - Oscar Weber; Choir Cabinet - Carol Lusch; Ushers - Mick Bryan; Communion Assistants - Judy Stoudt; Flowers and Decorations - Carol Lubitz, and Assisting Ministers - Sharon Calder.

Worship and Music meetings are being held on an as needed basis. The committee met in October to plan for Christmas and the rest of 2009 and almost all members of the committee attended. We also met in February to plan for Easter and Pentecost. We feel that this set up will bring members together and accomplish our mission in an efficient manner. Because the members of the Worship and Music Committee are all experienced volunteers, they are skilled at carrying out their respective jobs in a timely manner. Their efforts are appreciated and noticed.

The staff and the Worship and Music committee voted to spend a minimum of money on Christmas decorations this year due to present economic conditions. We agreed not to have the brass on Christmas Eve, and we were grateful to have a tree donated by Freymoyer's Christmas tree farm. We also ordered fewer poinsettias (75) and smaller plants. Carol Lubitz and Judy Stoudt generously spent many hours putting together numerous wreaths, using materials we had on hand. While the church was not as elaborately decorated this year, what we did put in place added a nice touch of Christmas to the inside areas. Sue Harenza even found some beautiful white ornaments that had been made by the Women of Atonement some forty years previously. They made a nice addition to the artificial tree in the narthex. Overall response from the congregation was generally positive, and it looks as if we will handle Christmas decorating similarly next year. Physically decorating the church in December also went smoothly thanks to the many experienced and good-humored volunteers. Taking the decorations down at the beginning of January went quickly and was a lot of fun too. All in all the spirit of Christmas was felt strongly at Atonement in December of 2009, not because of the amount of outward decorations but because of the worship that took place.

This committee could not operate as smoothly without the many people who donate their time throughout the year. We especially acknowledge the outstanding staff who oversees our worship and music activities, and especially Tom Yenser, who continues to give guidance and time on various issues emanating from church and committee business. I especially appreciate his sense of humor and his ability to concentrate on the important and discard the insignificant. Our committee functioned smoothly this year with each member fulfilling his/her function with experience and responsibility.

The Worship and Music Committee encourages anyone with suggestions relating to our worship experience to contact me or a staff member. We are always anxious to hear new ideas, even though not all suggestions can be implemented. We wish to maintain tradition in worship while adding new ideas to keep the experience fresh and interesting.

Respectfully submitted,
Sue Ziemer

Youth Committee Report

We hope that the multifaceted youth program has provided each youth with at least one opportunity through which he or she connected with someone new and practiced Christianity in action.

Youth from Atonement and the community exercised by participating in winter basketball and soccer programs for non-competitive play. The twelfth annual Kids' Show celebration of the arts invited youth from schools from all over Berks County to share their talents. The ski trip challenged youth to conquer the slopes. On Sunday mornings there were opportunities for fellowship and discussion.

Nine youth and two adults attended the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans, and five youth were part of Atonement's seventeen-person Appalachian Service Project team that worked for a week in West Virginia.

The Youth Committee thanks the many volunteers that served our youth, without whom these programs would not be possible.

Respectfully submitted,
Dorothy DeLong

2009 MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS

	2007	2008	2009
Baptisms	0 adults 27 children	0 adults 21 children	2 adults 15 children
Funerals members	7 non-members 21 members	4 non-members 19 members	7 non- 18 members
Members received:			
Transfers (Lutheran)	60	27	20
Transfers (Non-Lutheran)	14	2	7
Profession of Faith	22	12	25
Adult Baptism	0	0	2
Infant Baptism	27	21	15
Reinstated	7	3	2
Associate	1	0	0
Total Accessions	130	65	71
Baptized members confirmed	13	16	13
Members removed: _____			
Deaths	21	19	18
Removed at own request	11	11	12
Transfers (Lutheran)	23	29	24
Transfers (Non-Lutheran)	1	1	5
Removed from rolls	2	0	6
Total Losses	55	58	65

Attendance Report

	2007	2008	2009
Sunday School	4,980	5,085	3,416
Worship, 8:30/8:15 a.m.	7,589	7,635	6,966
Worship, 11:00/10:00 a.m.	11,508	11,259	10,190
Wednesdays	1,991	1,788	987
Maundy Thursday	131	143	137
Good Friday	183	209	188
Christmas Eve	1,198	1,138	981
Christmas Day	43	55	41
Fine Arts	196	423	320
Common Ground			495
Totals	26,578	27,735	23,226

Atonement Lutheran Church
Balance Sheet
 As of December 31, 2009

	<u>Dec 31, 09</u>
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
10000 · Commerce Checking	53,466.58
10030 · Savings-Anniversary Cash Reserv	<u>86,827.77</u>
Total Checking/Savings	140,294.35
Other Current Assets	
10060 · Smith-Barney Lanscaping	<u>67,718.11</u>
Total Other Current Assets	<u>67,718.11</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>208,012.46</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>208,012.46</u>
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	
20000 · Accounts Payable	<u>15,412.68</u>
Total Accounts Payable	15,412.68
Other Current Liabilities	
25000 · Advance Preschool Tuition	20,911.50
25001 · Advance Pledge	<u>16,700.00</u>
Total Other Current Liabilities	<u>37,611.50</u>
Total Current Liabilities	<u>53,024.18</u>
Total Liabilities	53,024.18
Equity	
30100 · Major Fund Repair	13,703.14
30110 · Thanks/Memorial	43,218.89
30160 · Childrens Ministries	500.00
30200 · Health Ministry Fund	0.00
30210 · Music Fund	3,867.39
30220 · Youth Fund	2,551.88
30225 · Arts Fund	4,768.44
30235 · Flowers	839.81
30255 · Pastor Discretionary Fund	349.53
30280 · Endowment	1,296.95
30285 · Dinners/Luncheons	0.00
30295 · Activities Committee	0.00
30300 · Landscape Trust	67,718.11
30320 · Continuing Education	1,897.74
30340 · Capital Improvements	12,500.00
30345 · Columbarium	16,856.47
31000 · Special/Miscellaneous Fund	47.00
32000 · Unrestricted Net Assets	28,169.63
Net Income	<u>-43,296.70</u>
Total Equity	<u>154,988.28</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	<u>208,012.46</u>

10:27 AM
01/07/10
Accrual Basis

Atonement Lutheran Church
Designated Fund Activity Summary YTD
December 2009

	Beg. Balance 01/01/09	002 Dedicated Income	003 Dedicated Expense	TOTAL
Equity				
30100 · Major Fund Repair	6,728.14	6,975.00	0.00	13,703.14
30110 · Thanks/Memorial	29,006.39	20,764.32	-6,551.82	43,218.89
30160 · Childrens Ministries	0.00	500.00	0.00	500.00
30200 · Health Ministry Fund	-599.57	599.57	0.00	0.00
30210 · Music Fund	3,269.79	1,086.00	-488.40	3,867.39
30220 · Youth Fund	981.62	21,199.25	-19,628.99	2,551.88
30225 · Arts Fund	6,682.76	2,924.00	-4,838.32	4,768.44
30235 · Flowers	-2,031.04	7,709.00	-4,838.15	839.81
30255 · Pastor Discretionary Fund	201.22	275.00	-126.69	349.53
30280 · Endowment	3,260.35	32,163.54	-34,126.94	1,296.95
30285 · Dinners/Luncheons	36.00	-36.00	0.00	0.00
30295 · Activities Committee	-367.95	367.95	0.00	0.00
30300 · Landscape Trust	63,024.94	7,618.17	-2,925.00	67,718.11
30320 · Continuing Education	-800.00	3,797.74	-1,100.00	1,897.74
30340 · Capital Improvements	12,500.00	0.00	0.00	12,500.00
30345 · Columbarium	16,856.47	0.00	0.00	16,856.47
30350 · 2007 Paid 2005/2006	4,420.05	-4,420.05	0.00	0.00
31000 · Special/Miscellaneous Fund	-2,073.90	8,447.10	-6,326.20	47.00

Atonement Lutheran Church
Statement of Income Expense
Budget 2010
Council Meeting

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	Actual 2009	Budget 2009	Budget 2010	2009	2010
<u>Receipts</u>					
42000 · Pledges	709,574.23	762,000.00	720,000.00	10%	7%
42010 · Offerings-Plate	14,133.99	14,496.00	14,000.00		
42020 · Offerings-Church School	2,087.14	2,300.00	2,300.00		
42030 · Room Donations	18,981.00	21,000.00	21,000.00		
42065 · Anniversary	72,446.25		50,000.00		
42070 · Interest Income	8,376.30	3,800.00	1,500.00		
42080 · Offerings-Miscellaneous	26,675.00	28,500.00	25,000.00		7k From Schwab/Endowment
42085 · Offerings-Special Days	14,290.00		13,000.00		
42100 · Preschool Tuition	202,126.05	292,227.00	229,800.00		add 10K anticipate to come in
42110 · Preschool Other	1,969.96		1,500.00		
42200 · Miscellaneous Income	4,202.53		3,500.00		
Total Income	1,074,862.45	1,124,323.00	1,081,600.00		
<u>Personnel Disbursements</u>					
60000 · Employee Salaries	369,962.17	381,804.00	355,128.00		
60050 · Sextons	10,511.48		7,800.00		
60100 · Building Monitors	3,892.15		500.00		
60150 · Benefits	121,795.30	132,644.00	122,520.00		
60200 · Social Security	20,010.54	19,092.00	25,181.00		
60250 · Social Security Allowanc	8,369.07	11,798.00	8,400.00		
60300 · Housing Equity Allowanc	8,000.16	8,000.00	8,000.00		
60350 · Auto Allowance	5,717.49	5,000.00	5,000.00		
60400 · Continuing Education Ex	3,308.24	1,300.00	2,000.00		
60450 · Guest Preachers	100.00	500.00	500.00		
	551,666.60	560,138.00	536,029.00		
<u>Committee Disbursements</u>					
61000 · Christian Education	12,770.99	21,075.00	15,605.00		
61100 · Congregational Fellowsh	693.68	2,000.00	1,728.00		
61150 · Hospitality	2,083.53	1,500.00	1,170.00		
61200 · Stewardship Supplies	1,184.93	1,500.00	1,200.00		
61250 · Worship/Music	14,064.39	17,200.00	15,600.00		
61300 · Youth	1,051.61	2,000.00	1,500.00		
61350 · Preschool	226,223.98	237,230.00	203,712.00		
62450 · Evangelism	-	-	500.00		
	258,073.11	282,505.00	241,015.00		
<u>Administrative Disbursements</u>					
62000 · Administration	29,813.85	38,400.00	32,196.00		
62050 · Conference/Workshops	1,039.52	2,200.00	1,200.00		
62100 · Miscellaneous	1,081.29	4,400.00	500.00		
62150 · Safe Sanctuary	329.50	500.00	500.00		
63400 · Interest Expense	76.83	-	-		
63410 · Bank Fees	511.25	-	100.00		Deactivate
66010 · Payroll Taxes	45.25	-	-		Deactivate
66000 · Payroll Expenses-ADP	4,387.74	-	-		Deactivate
66700 · Professional Fees	8,595.74	-	8,500.00		
68000 · Miscellaneous In/Out	159.49	-	-		Deactivate
80000 · Accountant	410.37	-	-		Deactivate
	46,450.83	45,500.00	42,996.00		

Atonement Lutheran Church
Statement of Income Expense
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	Actual 2009	Budget 2009	Budget 2010
<u>Property Disbursements</u>			
62200 · Utilities	84,881.71	70,000.00	90,000.00
62250 · Maintenance/Repairs	66,339.49	76,000.00	69,750.00
62300 · Insurance	22,852.18	23,740.00	23,700.00
63500 · Property Taxes	11,752.23	12,150.00	12,150.00
	<u>185,825.61</u>	<u>181,890.00</u>	<u>195,600.00</u>
<u>62400 · Benevolence</u>			
Synod/ELCA	56,743.00	56,000.00	50,400.00
Social Ministry	980.00	1,000.00	-
W.B. Mission District	2,000.00	2,000.00	1,800.00
Diakon	2,000.00	2,000.00	1,800.00
World Missions	4,850.00	4,850.00	4,365.00
Council of Churches	500.00	500.00	450.00
Habitat for Humanity	852.00	850.00	765.00
Opportunity House	2,000.00	2,000.00	1,800.00
Greater Berks Food Bank	1,300.00	1,300.00	1,170.00
Philadelphia Seminary	4,400.00	4,400.00	3,960.00
Inst. For Jewish Understanding	500.00	500.00	450.00
	<u>76,125.00</u>	<u>75,400.00</u>	<u>66,960.00</u>
Total Expense	1,118,141.15	1,145,433.00	1,081,600.00
Net Surplus/(Deficit)	<u>(43,278.70)</u>	<u>(21,110.00)</u>	<u>-</u>

