



St. Peter's Church
IN THE GREAT VALLEY

✠
1700

The Beacon

*In thy light shall we see light.
Psalm 36:9*

April 2017



FROM THE RECTOR . . .

Unbelievable?

by Abigail Crozier Nestlehutt

In my family it is customary to save a copy of the newspaper from the day a child is born. So The New York Times gets tucked away in a safe place along with other keepsakes of the occasion. It is touching to look back and revisit the hospital bracelet and first baby cap, but it is more interesting to be reminded of what was going on in the world however many years ago. Similarly, as a new priest I was trained to file a copy of the leaflet with announcements of the day along with the manuscript of my sermon so that, should I look back at what I had preached, I would be reminded of what was going on in the parish at the time. Context matters and things that are important may or may not be as crucial years later as they seem to be right now. Or in time they might take on even greater significance than they seemed to have at first.

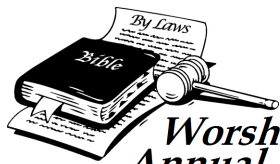
As you may know, about sixteen St. Peter's people have taken on the challenge of reading the Bible in one year. Not surprisingly, there is an app for it that gives you the chapters assigned each day and the choice to read them or to have them read to you. It is faster for me to read on my own, but sometimes when I am cooking, driving, or otherwise occupied, I select the "listen" option, which is quite fascinating because of the dramatic way in which it is presented. Rather than one skilled reader there are several, each taking on a different character and there are animal noises and other sound effects as needed. Sometimes the drama of it sounds a little silly, but it has given me a whole new perspective on the stories I know so well. Hearing the joy, urgency, or despair of each character reminds me that real people experienced the things about which we read in scripture. Then I am able to appreciate most fully the importance of the stories in their ancient context as well as in my own.

This month we encounter the most important part of the story of Jesus' life and ministry. The secular world would have us think that Christianity is all about Christmas, but that is wrong. It is all because of Easter. The incredible, hard-to-believe journey from table fellowship on Maundy Thursday to the cross on Good Friday and then to the empty tomb on Easter Day is an amazing love story. It is the detailed account of just how much God is willing to do for us—not just for you and me, but for everyone. It is not an easy story, but the best stories are never easy. It is a story that mattered then and it is one that matters now. We must pay attention.

In the pages that follow you will find information about the services of Holy Week and Easter Day. I encourage you to make a point of joining us. I am confident that you will be glad you did. As always, I look forward to seeing you.

St. Peter's Annual Meeting

This year's annual meeting will take place on Sunday morning, **April 30**, following that day's **single 9 A.M. parishwide service**. During the meeting, we will elect four new vestry members. The by-laws stipulate that A nominating committee consisting of the four out-going vestry members (Pat Harvey, Joe Herbst,




Worship and Annual Meeting April 30, 9 & 10 A.M.

Paige Infortuna, and Steve Ockenden) and four at-large members (Jason Hacker, Debi Lynch, Tom Rice, and Dave Tatum) will publish the slate of nominees once it is finalized. A brief biography of each nominee will be published this month in the Sunday leaflets. According to our by-laws, "All confirmed persons of the age of fourteen years or upwards who shall have been worshipers in this Church as their usual place of worship for at least once a year" are eligible to vote. If you are unsure about your eligibility, contact our parish administrator, Susan House. Please note

that you must be present at the annual meeting to vote unless you requested an absentee ballot in advance of the meeting.

Please mark this important event in our parish life your calendar and plan to be at St. Peter's at 9 a.m. for worship and stay for the meeting immediately thereafter . . . **and for the brunch that follows both???** We have much good news to celebrate!



Nina Drumwright

Her funeral takes place at 2 P.M. on
April 8 in Bryn Mawr.



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The Beacon is produced monthly by St. Peter's Church in the Great Valley
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Walking into Easter

by Melissa Shaner

The two Sunday morning adult formation sessions in April lead us into the season of Easter. On **April 2**, Abigail Nestlehutt will guide us through the Holy Week services, exploring how participation in them shapes our experience of Easter Sunday. Then on **April 23**, Shannon Mannon will facilitate a meditative labyrinth walk, for which she advises wearing footwear appropriate for grass and gravel.



Both of our evening Lenten series conclude during the first week of April. The 6 P.M. showing of *Quartet* (2013, PG-13) in the barn on **April 2** concludes "Popcorn Theology," and the soup suppers come full circle at 6 P.M. in the parish hall on **April 5**, when we revisit the idea that began the series, the way stories help us live our faith.

All voices are welcome in our conversations, and we encourage you to join us and add yours.



Help Make Palm Crosses This Year

Why not join us on **Saturday, April 8**, and make the palm crosses for Palm Sunday? No prior experience is required, and besides, many of us need refresher tips because we don't remember from year to year anyway! Coffee, tea, juice, fruit, pastries, instructions, and a good time are all supplied. If you have a favorite pair of garden/flower clippers or kitchen scissors, please bring them, but be sure to label them with your name.

This workshop is a wonderful opportunity to meet new people, both men and women, of all ages. Although very small children tend to find making the service crosses frustrating, they have fun creating their own versions from the surplus palms that we always have!

The more people, the less time it will take to do the work, leaving us more time to get to know each other better. There are sign-up sheets in each building, but walk-ins are always enthusiastically welcomed.

Maundy Thursday Agape Meal

At 6:30, before the Maundy Thursday service on **April 13**, we will sit down together at one table in the parish hall to share a traditional *agape* meal of simple finger foods. The meal will include both liturgy and time for conversations, and when it ends we will proceed directly into the church for the service at 7:30.

We ask attendees to sign up (in either gathering space) to bring one of the following foods, already *plated and table-ready*:

- figs, dates, or dried apricots
- fish (smoked salmon or sardines)
- hard-boiled eggs
- sliced or cubed cheese
- olives
- nuts
- wine

We encourage everyone to participate in this traditional Holy Week meal at 6:30 and the worship service at 7:30.

Palm Sunday Choral Evensong

On Palm Sunday, **April 9**, the St. Peter's Chamber Choir will offer choral evensong at 4 p.m. in the church. They will sing service music by the great English composer of Renaissance music, William Byrd (1543-1623), including his *Short Service*, and his *Preces* and *Responses*. Following the service, the choir will perform his *Mass for Four Voices*.

All are invited to begin Holy Week with this time of prayer and sung music, and to join the singers and guests at the reception that follows.



Maundy Thursday Watch

Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, "Sit here while I go over there and pray." [Matthew 26:36]

At the end of the Maundy Thursday liturgy, all visible signs of Christ's presence will be removed or covered, leaving the church empty and barren like a tomb until the moment of Easter. We will also move the reserved sacrament—consecrated bread and wine—and set up an altar of repose outside the altar area.

The church will again remain open after the service enabling parishioners to keep vigil, as Jesus commanded the disciples to do while he prayed in the garden of Gethsemane. Everyone is invited to take a one-hour turn (or more) between 9 P.M. Thursday and noon on Good Friday to sit, pray, or even fall asleep, while contemplating this part of the journey. For safety's sake, security will be present during the overnight hours.

If you would like to keep watch in the church for an hour between 9 P.M. on Maundy Thursday and noon on Good Friday, please sign up on the sheets in the gathering spaces of the church and barn. For more information please contact Abigail (abigail@stpetersgv.org).

OUTREACH: ST. PETER'S FOOD MINISTRY

May Darby Dinner

The St. Peter's food ministry team, led by coordinators Holly Hardester and Becky Dempsey, is preparing for its third experience on **Tuesday, May 2**, with the joyful, appreciative community at the Darby mission. In keeping with the date of the dinner, they are planning to serve a *Cinco de Mayo* themed meal. So far, about twenty parishioners have participated both directly and indirectly with meal preparations for these dinners. If you enjoy cooking for others, chatting with friends old and new, and sharing life stories with new acquaintances, you are heartily invited to join this ministry!

For more information about any of these food ministries or to sign up, please contact Eileen Klein (eileenklein@live.com or 484-875-0122).

Feeding the Hungry in Phoenixville

We cannot control much of what happens in the world, like earthquakes, droughts, and socio-political conflicts, but we can alleviate some problems that exist, especially when we know where hunger and homelessness exist in communities near us. Some of your fellow parishioners have begun to do just that, helping the hungry and homeless locally! You are invited to join our food ministry team as it "learns by doing" – by working with St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Phoenixville, which regularly serves dinner (with help from other churches) from their certified kitchen to their local brothers and sisters. We are learning the ins and outs of preparing meals at such a site, and ask you to join us as we explore this rewarding experience of serving those who are homeless, underemployed, or afflicted with physical and mental disabilities.

Interfaith Hospitality Network of the Main Line

Our food ministry team has begun to explore the possibility of joining neighboring churches in the Interfaith Hospitality Network of the Main Line, a non-profit committed to helping homeless families and single women in Montgomery County. Through the IHN ministry, area congregations have been working together for decades to provide safe, temporary housing in their church buildings. We want to learn how we can most effectively add to the

IHN ministry – whether by volunteering to cook and serve meals, to play and read to the homeless children, or to help the families feel safe and loved while being cared for by IHN. To learn more about participating in IHN, we have committed to providing one or two trial meals at Wayne Presbyterian Church later this spring. Watch for details in the Sunday leaflets and the *May Beacon*.

Will You Help the Easter Bunny?

Our lovely lawn is the perfect setting for our second annual Easter egg hunt following the 9 o'clock service on Easter Day. But the "Easter bunny" could use some help from volunteers – before, during or after this joyful event. If you are interested in helping, please contact Suzanne Casey (szcasey@verizon.net or 484-883-9637).



Youth Mission Trip Update

The mission trip is a "go"! The dates are set – June 25 through June 30; our accommodations are reserved at Christ Church in Harvard Square, Cambridge; our work project at Epiphany School in Dorchester is in place. Now all we need is your input on fun activities, as well as your commitment to be a part of this great experience.

To assist us in planning, we ask parents to please let us know by **May 1** if their child will be joining us for the trip. For more information or to indicate your child's intention to participate, please contact Abigail (abigail@stpetersgv.org).





HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Holy Week is an important devotional and liturgical occasion for Episcopalians.
Join us during this holiest of weeks; if you are traveling, please worship at a church wherever you are.

April 9

The Sunday of the Passion: Palm Sunday

Holy Eucharist

7:45 A.M. (church)

Holy Eucharist

9 A.M. (barn)

(no Christian formation)

Holy Eucharist

11:15 A.M. (church)

Choral Evensong

with music by William Byrd

4 P.M. (church)

April 13

Maundy Thursday

Agape meal (parish hall)

6:30 P.M.

Holy Eucharist, foot-washing, and stripping of the altar

7:30 p.m. (church)

Maundy Thursday Watch begins

9 P.M.

April 14

Good Friday

Maundy Thursday Watch ends

Stations of the Cross

12 NOON (church)

Good Friday Liturgy

7:30 P.M. (church)

April 16

Easter Day

The Great Vigil of Easter (church)
by breakfast by the Omelet King following

6 A.M.

Festal Easter family Eucharist

with brass and tympani

Easter egg hunt following

9 A.M.

Festal Easter Eucharist

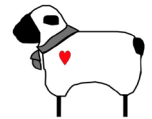
with brass and tympani

11:15 A.M.

14 Years Old and Still Going Strong: The Needlework (Formerly "Prayer Shawl") Ministry

For fourteen years, a crafty group of men and women of all ages have been busy knitting, crocheting, and sewing to manifest God's love to people experiencing rough times in life. On March 4, an anniversary celebration marked the founding of our group, which still includes some of the original members. Abigail joined us to bless our creations, and one member surprised everyone with a lovely rose. We reflected on our blessings and on the many meaningful activities that have deepened our friendships and connected our congregation to people living way beyond our sixteen acres.

While our name changed this year to reflect the many ways we have expanded our mission to provide hope and comfort, our mission has remained the same. Initially, we focused on knitting shawls or lap blankets to comfort the seriously ill and grieving; our best estimate is that in fourteen years we have given away more than 500 shawls, along with a booklet of prayers and a small cloth gift bag that can be used as a small pillow. Recipients include friends, family, co-workers, hospitalized veterans, senior residents of Church Housing Corporation, hospice patients at Riddle Memorial Hospital, homeowners helped by our Good Works team, and the Amish families who lost children in the Nickel Mines school shooting.



As we grew, we started knitting cheery chemo caps to provide warmth and comfort to cancer patients, both personal acquaintances and those being treated at Chester County Hospital and in Kennett Square and New Mexico. We then branched out and began knitting scarves and hats in their school colors for St. Peter's college freshmen, and more recently, for students entering St. James School; watch caps for the seamen at Seaman's Church Institute; and hats and scarves for Church Housing and Home of the Sparrow residents as well as caps for newborns at Chester County Hospital. Our newest project is making christening blankets for the families of babies on their baptismal day.

While our projects vary each year depending on needs and requests, what remains constant is that we encourage members to use their creativity in their projects and to pray while working on them.. Our members usually fund their own projects, but we gratefully receive donations, which enable us to buy additional yarn for prolific fixed-income knitters and material for the gift bags. If you would like to help us extend our reach with a donation, you can send St. Peter's a check to St. Peter's designated for the needlework ministry.

We want to keep growing, so we are extending a special invitation to community members, as well parishioners, to our meeting at 10 A.M. on May 6. We welcome all comers, whether experienced or total novices (we give on-the-job training) who join us on the first Saturday of the month in the parish hall. We are also flexible about attendance (come a few times or come monthly, as your schedule allows). After we put down our needles and yarn, we continue our fellowship over a light pot-luck lunch.

Whether you decide to give us a try or not, we encourage you to take our handiwork--either for yourself or for someone who would benefit from being literally touched by God's love. (Prayer squares are in a basket on the welcome tables, shawls and chemo caps in the coat closets.)

- Mark Clark, Bud Coleman and Dave Tatum, for shoveling the heavy snow and ice from St. Peter's walkways after the March storm;
- The parishioners who signed up to assist with the pre-school rummage sale—the Bad Boys and Girls for Jesus, Joe Franz, Jim Fulton, Trudi Graves, Holly Hardester, Mike & Michelle Harman, Joe Herbst, Paige Infortuna, Doug Jones, Larry and Gail Malcolm and niece Jennifer, Dave and Mary Ann Tatum—and the anonymous parishioners who pitched in “on the spot” and preschool director Stacy Warkentine who coordinated the whole event;
- Linda Holden and Helen Ockenden for organizing game night;
- Mark Nestlehutt for leading the five weeks of “Popcorn Theology.”
- Jason Hacker, Pat Harvey, Joe Herbst, Paige Infortuna, Debi Lynch, Steve Ockenden, Tom Rice, and Dave Tatum, for serving on the nominating committee for the next vestry class.





April 1
 Spruce-up day
 9 A.M.
 Needlework ministry
 10 A.M.

April 2
 "Popcorn Theology"
 6 P.M.

April 5
 Lenten soup supper
 6 P.M.

April 8
 Kairos Outside
 9:30 A.M.
 Palm cross making
 9 A.M.

April 9
Palm Sunday
 Choral Evensong
 4 P.M.

April 13
Maundy Thursday
 Agape meal
 6:30 P.M.
 Maundy Thursday liturgy
 7:30 P.M.
 Vigil begins
 9 P.M.

April 14
Good Friday
 Stations of the Cross
 12 NOON
 Good Friday Liturgy
 7:30 P.M.

April 16
Easter Day
 The Great Vigil of Easter*
 6 A.M. (church)
 Festal Choral Eucharist*
 9 and 11:15 A.M. (barn)
 * See details on pp. 3 & 5

April 22
 Women on the Hill at Chanticleer
 Time TBA

April 30
 Holy Eucharist (one service only)
 9 a.m. (barn)
 Annual meeting
 10:15 A.M. (barn)

Fly High with the History Nerds

Plan to join St. Peter's "history nerds" on June 10, when they travel to the Smithsonian Air & Space Museum at Dulles International Airport outside Washington D.C. This large space enables visitors to experience America's aviation history on a grand scale. We plan to leave St. Peter's in a 56-passenger coach at 7:30 A.M. and return around 6 P.M. Watch for details this month. To sign up early, email Rip Tilden (rip.tilden@gmail.com) or Bill Armstrong (jobiarmst@verizon.net).

February Financial Snapshot

	February 2017	Year to Date February	Year-end Projection	Budget 2017
Parishioner Contributions	\$ 34,534	\$108,171	\$456,087	\$454,350
Total Income	38,232	124,225	641,892	642,932
Total Expense	50,358	101,375	638,383	642,932
Surplus/ (Deficit)	21,081	22,850	3,509	0
<i>Mortgage Payment</i>	\$ 1,488			
<i>Interest</i>	691			
<i>Principal</i>	797			
<i>Mortgage Balance</i>	213,078			

At the end of February, St. Peter's expenses exceeded income by \$12,126. This outcome is part of our usual pattern of expenses outpacing income for much of the year, and we forecast that, as normally happens, income receipts will catch up with expenses in the early fall. For the month of February, both income and expenses tracked the budget as planned leading us to anticipate a balanced budget at the end of the year. We thank all parishioners for the generous contributions you make to the vibrant life at St. Peter's. — Tammy Kraig for the Finance Commission



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The Rev. Abigail Crozier Nestlehutt, Rector
 Dr. Bruce Glenny, Organist/Choirmaster
 Susan House, Parish Administrator
 Stacy Warkentine, Preschool Director
 Gail Malcolm, Marketing and Event Manager
 Elizabeth Dwyer, Parish Secretary
 Liam Reid, Weekend Facilities Manager

*Our Mission:
 by the power of the Holy Spirit,
 to nurture people of all ages in the
 knowledge and love of God in Jesus Christ,
 and to make Him known
 in the wider community*

The deadline for the
 April Beacon
 is **APRIL 10.**

Every Week at St. Peter's

Sunday

8 A.M. Holy Eucharist, Rite I*
 9 A.M. Holy Eucharist, Rite II**
 10:15 A.M. Christian formation, all ages**
 11:15 A.M. Holy Eucharist, Rite II*
 (Nursery care available at 9 and 11:15**)

Tuesday

7 P.M. 11th Step*

Wednesday

10 A.M. Bible Study & Prayer*

Thursday

10:30 A.M. Intercessory Prayer Group ****

Friday

7 A.M. Gathering of Men***
 12 NOON Parish office closes

* Church
 ** Barn
 *** Parish House
 **** Bellingham



- ❖ Located on the St. Peter's Church campus in Malvern, PA
- ❖ Reasonably priced
- ❖ Serene natural setting on 16 acres
- ❖ Easily accessible to 202 & PA Turnpike
- ❖ Major hotel chains within 10 minutes
- ❖ Choice of event space accommodating 20 to 200 or more - weekdays and weekends
- ❖ Banquet hall, classrooms, outdoor patio
- ❖ Wedding receptions, retreats, meetings, social events, conferences, showers, funeral receptions

Contact Gail to discuss open dates & time for a tour -
gail@thehighpointgv.com or 484-354-6514

www.thehighpointgv.com