



St. Peter's Church
IN THE GREAT VALLEY

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1700

The Beacon

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

July ~ August 2017

Entertaining Angels

by the Rev. Abigail Crozier Nestlehutt

Hebrews 13:2 is one of my favorite biblical admonitions, "Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it." Abraham's encounter with the three men at the oaks of Mamre in Genesis 18, which we heard about in the first lesson on June 18, is its reference point. I love the reminder that offering kindness so often ends up blessing the host as much as the guest. It helps me to err on the side of generosity whenever I am feeling tempted to be less than hospitable.

At a basic level we think of hospitality in terms offering food, drink, and even shelter to someone in need. Long before Courtyard by Marriott or fast food franchises appeared on every corner, travelers relied on the kindness of strangers along a journey. These days, a friend stops by for a visit, and we offer something like a cool drink or a cup of coffee.

The Greek word for hospitality combines the concepts of love and stranger and points us to the meaning of biblical hospitality, which has to do with making strangers into guests and making outsiders feel as if they belong. In this way, to be hospitable means not only to provide for material needs but also to offer an openness of heart that provides a space for people to enter in and be at home.

In general summer is a natural time for basic hospitality. Summer entertaining is simple. Cold lemonade and hot dogs on the grill become a feast on a sunny afternoon with family and friends. Schedules tend to be less hectic in July and August than they are in September or December. This summer at St. Peter's we have ample opportunity to entertain angels. You might participate in one of our "summer suppers" or "foyer dinners." You might enjoy a BBQ cookout or a camp-out.

In addition to the hospitality basics, we have the opportunity to practice hospitality in the fuller sense of the biblical intention. We are now becoming a neighborhood church for the first time: the homes to our west are almost completed, and soon there will be a beautifully landscaped path between St. Peter's and the Atwater development. I suggest that, either on your own or as part of one of the walks I am leading this summer, you take the time to explore that community in preparation for welcoming new residents to the area. Whatever we do to familiarize ourselves with Atwater will help us to understand our neighbors and be most hospitable. Soon you will see building to our east as the Sage Senior Living community begins to take shape. Again, this will be an opportunity for us to welcome the stranger in an open and inviting fashion.

Also this summer, we welcome the Rev. Dr. Kyle Babin among us as assistant rector. Kyle comes to us from the Diocese of Washington, D.C., as a newly ordained priest. His ministry will enliven us even further, and his arrival gives us the opportunity to practice hospitality in a particular way. I invite you to introduce yourselves and create the space for his story to enter into the story of St. Peter's.

I hope that your summer is full of unexpectedly delightful encounters with angels.



Let mutual
love continue.
*Do not neglect to
show hospitality to
strangers, for by
doing that some
have entertained
angels without
knowing it.*

Hebrews 13:1-2

Rambling with the Rector: Holy Hiking, Worshipful Walks...

Join Abigail in exploring the hiking trails adjacent to campus as well as the new neighborhood next door on **July 19 and August 27**. Grab a hat and some sunscreen, put on comfortable shoes and clothes, and join us in getting to know the area around us! Email Abigail (abigail@stpetersgv.org) to let her know that you plan to participate or if you have any questions.

Coming Sat., July 29 to Sun., July 30

A summer camp-out at St. Peter's!



**Watch for details
in Sunday leaflets, Keynotes, & Facebook,
and plan to join the fun!**



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The Beacon is produced monthly by St. Peter's Church in the Great Valley
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St. Peter's 4th of July Celebration

Do plan to join us at a festive 4th of July barbeque following the 10 A.M. worship service (with trumpeter Peter Neu) on **July 2!** We will provide grilled offerings, beverages, and dessert, and only ask that you bring a side dish to share. We hope you can be with us then as we celebrate our nation's birthday and welcome our new assistant rector to St. Peter's!



**Celebrate
Independence Day!**

Introducing Our New Assistant Rector!

The Rev. Dr. Kyle J. Babin, a native of Texas, served as director of music and organist in a number of parishes before responding to a call to ordained ministry. He was ordained deacon at Washington National Cathedral in November 2016 and also ordained priest there in June 2017. Kyle earned a Bachelor of Music degree *summa cum laude* from Rice University, a Master of Music degree from Yale University, with a certificate from the Institute of Sacred Music, and a Doctor of Musical Arts degree from Manhattan School of Music. He recently completed a Master in Divinity degree *cum laude* at Virginia Theological Seminary, where he was co-recipient of the Charles and Janet Harris award for demonstrated academic excellence and leadership ability. While there, Kyle also served as an administrative assistant for the Center for Liturgy and Music, coordinated weekly Evensongs, and founded and conducted the seminary Schola.

Prior to seminary, Kyle was active in adult Christian formation, evangelism, and parish communications at his sponsoring parish. He has a deep passion for Christian formation and teaching, is particularly interested in the inseparable connection between liturgy and active participation in God's mission in the world, and is a member of the Association of Anglican Musicians.

He lives in Philadelphia with his husband Robert McCormick, organist and choirmaster at St. Mark's Church, Locust Street, and their American cocker spaniel Lana. He loves reading, traveling, learning about historic buildings, cooking, and photography.

Summer Suppers Reminder

Our summer suppers, hosted by the vestry, began last month, and will continue through August. If you haven't yet responded to your invitation, please RSVP to Sarah Tellefsen, either by email (stellefsenpa@comcast.net) or by phone (610-644-5035 – please leave a message if you don't reach her), to help us finalize the plans for each supper. Please also let Sarah know if the date on your invitation does not work for you – she will be happy to move you to a day that does fit your schedule.



Come One, Come All, to Fall Fest!

It's time to start thinking about our annual fall fest--this year's gathering will take place on **Friday, September 8**, from 6 to 8:30 P.M. **Everyone** is invited! Whether you're new to St. Peter's or have been here for many years, we hope you'll come out for this "parish favorite" evening of fun and fellowship that kicks off the new program year.

We also hope you'll bring the whole family to exchange stories of summer adventures as well as begin preparing for the many exciting events coming up at St. Peter's this fall. Families are asked to please bring an *hors d'oeuvre* for eight to ten to add to our food tables; we provide the beverages. Help us plan by letting us know at your earliest convenience how many will attend, either by email (RSVP@stpetersgv.org) or by a call to the church office (610-644-2261).



In mid-August the planning committee will officially ask for volunteers to help with family fall fest, but Paige Infortuna (pinfortuna@msn.com, 610-608-2093) and Gail Guthridge (guthgirl60@gmail.com, 610-688-1986) would love to hear from you now if you are ready to volunteer! They are also the people to contact if you have a question.

We are looking forward to a great turnout on September 8, so please put this not-to-be-missed event on your calendar now. See you on the lawn in front of the historic church (or indoors, should the weather not cooperate)!

- Sarah and Roger Tellefsen for hosting the May vestry retreat dinner;
- The Rev. Elizabeth Eisenstadt Evans for leading worship on May 14;
- Everyone who provides fellowship after Sunday services throughout the year;
- Shannon Mannon for leading the adult formation session on the labyrinth;
- Pat Harvey and Jason Hacker for coordinating the luncheon after the annual meeting;
- The preschool staff for giving the children in their care another wonderful year of learning and fun;
- All who gave their time and talent to children's Christian formation this year as teachers, helpers, substitutes, and snack providers;
- Jason Hacker and family for planning the June 4th pig roast and all who provided side dishes, Beth Hacker for introducing us to square and circle dancing afterwards in anticipation of the October barn dance, and Bruce Glenny and the choirs for the choral evensong that began the evening;
- Susan Dovey for arranging the sheep shearing, and all the shepherds for the extra care they gave to ease the discomfort of the ailing member of the flock;
- Everyone who worked so hard to bring our new assistant rector to St. Peter's, and everyone who so generously gave or pledged more than we needed to supplement the bishop's donation towards two years of the assistant's salary;
- The Pew Foundation for granting us \$25,000 to bring public water and sewer lines onto our campus from its border with the surrounding properties, Katharine Campbell for sharing her grant-writing expertise with us as we applied for the grant, and Paige Infortuna for diligently overseeing the lengthy, successful application process;
- The BB4J for so faithfully and cheerfully putting in lots of "overtime" to keep the campus looking beautiful this growing time of year!



Barn Dance by Paige Infortuna



Plan to join us on Saturday, October 28, for our first ever community barn dance—appropriately enough, to be held in the bank barn! This event is designed as an opportunity for us to invite friends, neighbors, and the surrounding community to come together for an evening of dancing, conversation, dining and good old-fashioned fun. The barn dance committee, which has been planning this event since January, is committed to the idea that it will be fun for guests of all ages.

At 5 P.M., when the barn dance begins, experienced callers Chloe and Rick Mohr will first give everyone some instruction before launching us into reel, square, and circle dances. After the dancing ends and everyone is ready for a meal, a supper of pulled pork, chicken and appropriate sides, provided by Jimmy's BBQ, will slake our hunger. Throughout the evening there will be both a silent and a live auction, and the event will conclude with a bonfire and s'mores. Tickets for the barn dance are \$20 per person or \$50 for a family.

The only way this event will be successful is with the help of the entire parish. "But how can I help?" you wonder. We thank you for asking and happily list some of the ways each of us can make this night a success:

- *We need to invite our families, friends and neighbors to join us on October 28, and encourage them to bring others.*
- *We need your help in publicizing the event.* We hope you will help distribute printed postcards detailing the event to individuals who may be interested in joining us that evening or to businesses or other establishments you are connected to.
- *We need to acquire auction items for our silent and live auctions.* Do you have extra gift cards stashed in a drawer? We can use those to create baskets. Do you have a vacation property, a favorite restaurant, shop, or entertainment venue? Do you belong to a local country club where you can treat someone to a round of golf? Credit card points and cash donations are certainly helpful too..
- Do you enjoy baking? *We will ask parishioners to supply desserts for the party* (pumpkin bars, brownies, Rice Krispy treats and cookies).
- *If you would like donate a case of beer or some wine, that would be great!*
- *Will you join our committee by contacting Paige Infortuna (610-608-2093 or pinfortuna@msn.com)?*

This community barn dance is a great opportunity to work together and to welcome visitors to our campus. We anticipate hosting approximately 250 guests for dancing and dinner, and the funds we raise will support St. Peter's and the local community through our outreach ministries and maintenance of our park-like setting, among other things.

October will be here before we know it, so please start thinking now about how you would like to be involved in this parish-wide event. Paige Infortuna (pinfortuna@msn.com or 610-608-2093) will be happy to answer any questions you have and of course to sign you up. We cannot carry this off without your help! Thank you in advance for making this evening an opportunity to come together in community!

WHAT'S COOKIN' IN THE FOOD OUTREACH MINISTRY

Wanted: Grocery Packers

Our food ministry group has the opportunity to help alleviate hunger close to home by packing sacks of groceries for families whose children have been identified by the Phoenixville School District as eligible for free or reduced-cost school lunches. Teams of volunteers pack the food, which is then distributed to these families during the school year to provide them with weekend nourishment.

The logistics are simple. We do the packing at St. John's Lutheran Church, Phoenixville, on about six Thursday afternoons from October through May. Each team chooses its own start time between 3:30 and 6:30; packing sixty sacks takes less than an hour.

What we need now is a team of five volunteers (adults or a combination of adults and young people) for this important but simple ministry. Please let Eileen Klein know (eileenklein@live.com) if you will join the team. Our hope is to bring this ministry to St. Peter's if there is sufficient interest.

Upcoming Darby Dinners: August 1 and September 5

Queenie Northrop and Eileen Klein are coordinating the August Darby dinner on **August 1**, and invite you to come along to celebrate the bounty of area produce as well as enjoy time with our friends at the Darby Borough Rec Center. David and Kristin Eddy are the coordinators of the harvest meal in Darby on **September 5**.

Our presence makes a difference for everyone, and we offer many ways to support this outreach project—planning the meals, shopping, baking and cooking beforehand (including in your own home if you prefer), as well as serving the meal and spending time enjoying the company of this appreciative group of friends. Do plan to join us in creating or providing this meal on either (or both) of these dates, and be sure to let Eileen Klein (eileenklein@live.com) in what way you will participate.

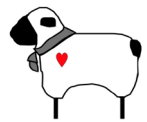
Wanted: Eucharistic Bread Bakers

Over the years many volunteers have prayerfully created the Eucharistic bread we use at St. Peter's. Partaking of this meaningfully created bread each week encourages in all of us a deeper connection with the original Upper Room experience.

Will you be one of the volunteers who help bake this bread? With a robust number of bakers, we can form rotating teams that, ideally, would have to bake only once or twice a year. (Each baking session takes a bit over an hour from start to finish.) We will arrange a demonstration to ensure that there will be consistency in the size and scoring of the loaves. If you would like to be part of this ministry, please contact Eileen Klein (eileenklein@live.com). Thank you!

Listening with Our Hearts

It's summer! The pace and routines of our lives change, hopefully slowing down at least a little. Summer gives us opportunities for *al fresco* meals, afternoons at the beach, and walks in the mountains or in our neighborhood. Summer gives us opportunities to be with friends and family in more relaxed settings than at other times of the year. Summer gives us opportunities to have real conversations, to listen to others' stories, to see where God is evidenced in our lives.



Such opportunities surround us; we need only to be open to them and take the time to listen. Listening with our hearts is how we are there for one another. This is pastoral care!

MORE OUTREACH NEWS AND NOTES

Camp Get-Along—Be Part of It!

It's not too late to get in on the Camp Get-Along fun on **Wednesday, July 12!** You can still volunteer to help lead the activities, bring food for lunch, serve lunch, or clean up afterwards. You can sign up on the sheet in the common room on Sundays, or you can let Gail Guthridge (guthgirl60@gmail.com) know that you will help with the activities or Pat Harvey if you'd like to help some way with lunch (pmharvey8@comcast.net). We thank you, and assure you that you won't regret getting involved in this fun-filled day!

Thank You for the Protein

Thank you to everyone who generously donated all the protein-packed foods last month to restock the Clinic's pantry for the summer. The patients and staff are most grateful for your gifts.

Chester Children's Chorus

The Chester Children's Chorus wraps up its summer learning program with several public events at Swarthmore College, beginning July 27 with an 11 A.M. science fair in the Science Center and a 2 P.M. choral concert in Lang Music Building. The chorus will also perform at 7:30 P.M. on July 28 and 29, in Lang; doors will open at 6:45, and seating is limited to 425 guests. CCC will also give a performance of modern, hip-hop, and African dance at 2 P.M. on August 2 in Lang. Art, photography, and other final projects will be on display during all events.

And remember to reserve Saturday evening, November 18, on your calendars. That's when the CCC returns to sing at St. Peter's after too long an absence!

Backpack Alert

We are again planning to collect basic school supplies for children who would be hard pressed to acquire essential learning items without our help. Please watch for information about this project in Keynotes and the Sunday leaflets in the coming weeks.

Women's Weekend Reservations Are Now Open!

For the eighth year, the women's weekend will be being held at the Temenos Retreat Center, West Chester, from October 13 to October 15. We encourage you to sign up now. This year's program is based on the book *Everything I Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten*. Going back to our childhood and bringing those lessons into our adult life will help us learn to ease the stresses we face and to have fun doing so.



For those who haven't joined us in the past, this is a weekend of laughter, getting to know each other better, and good eating, and we hope you will consider joining us this year. For those who have attended in the past, we look forward to seeing you again. Temenos can accommodate only 20 overnight attendees but can also accommodate Saturday-only attendees. Our hope is that some of the women who cannot commit to the whole weekend will join us for the day at this nearby facility.

As in the past, scholarships are available as well as funds for a babysitting voucher. The \$200 cost for the weekend includes three meals on Saturday and breakfast on Sunday; the \$90 cost for Saturday only includes 3 meals. Dinner will not be served on Friday evening, but as in the past, everyone is invited to bring some munchies and a beverage of choice (alcohol is permitted at Temenos).

To sign up and ask any questions you may have, please contact Lynn Mander (lsmander@gmail.com or 610-613-5358).

July 1
Needlework ministry
10 A.M.

July 2
Independence Day worship service
with trumpeter Peter Neu
10 A.M.
Parishwide BBQ follows the service

July 12
Camp Get-Along
9:30 A.M. to 1 P.M.

July 16
Newcomer "Meet, Greet, Eat" event
5 to 7 P.M.



July 19
Neighborhood ramble with Abigail
Time TBA

July 29 to 30
Camp-out at St. Peter's

August 5
Needlework ministry
10 A.M.

August 27
Neighborhood ramble with Abigail
after the 10 A.M. service

Calling All Photographers!

If you're at a St. Peter's event and snap a shot or two of it with your iPhone, please think about sharing it with us, so that we can use such candid photos in our publications and our social media sites. If you are willing to help us document the vibrant life of our parish this way, just send your photo in a jpeg file to Steve Ockenden (steveock@verizon.net). If you would like to be added to a list of parish photographers willing to "cover" particular events (like the barn dance and Christmas pageant, for example), please let Steve know as well.



Adult Christian Formation Notes

You still have time to fill out the online adult formation survey and share your thoughts about this year's offerings and ideas about future sessions you would like to see! You can access the survey directly from your browser (www.surveymonkey.com/r/3CQGM23) or by using the link provided in Keynotes.

Please plan to join us next program year after the 9 A.M. service as we stretch our understanding of our faith and practice. Stop by the adult formation table at the ministries fair coming up on September 10 to learn about the Sunday morning and weekday offerings for the fall, which include highlights like a visit from Canon Wamsley and the executive director of El Hogar, an orphanage in Honduras, as well as a book study.



May Financial Snapshot

	May 2017	Year to Date May	Year-end Projection	Budget 2017
Parishioner Contributions	\$ 25,357	\$ 187,457	\$448,239	\$454,350
Total Income	40,980	246,474	626,401	642,932
Total Expense	53,516	268,432	625,546	642,932
Surplus/(Deficit)	(12,536)	(21,958)	855	0
Mortgage Payment	\$ 1,488			
Interest	662			
Principal	826			
Mortgage Balance	210,579			

Note: This summary was reviewed by the finance commission. Please direct any questions you have to its chair, Joe Herbst, or any other member.



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The Rev. Abigail Crozier Nestlehutt, Rector
 The Rev. Dr. Kyle J. Babin, Assistant 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
 September Beacon
 is **August 10.**

***Every Summer Week
 at St. Peter's***

Sunday

8 A.M. *Holy Eucharist, Rite I**
 10 A.M. *Holy Eucharist, Rite II**
*(Nursery care available**)*

Wednesday

10 A.M. *Morning Prayer & Bible Study**

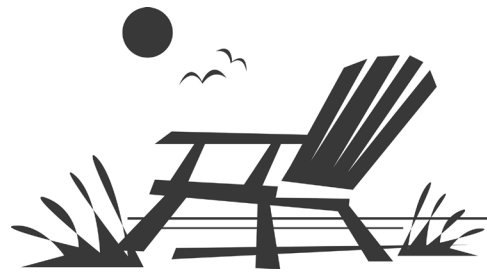
Thursday

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

Friday

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

* Church
 ** Parish House
 *** Bellingham



*Please keep your pledge current
 during the summer. While we go
 away and enjoy a well-deserved
 vacation break, church expenses
 don't take a summer vacation!*