



St. Peter's Church
IN THE GREAT VALLEY

✠
1700

The Beacon

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

June 2017

Sacred Spaciousness

by the Rev. Abigail Crozier Nestlehutt

Once upon a time, June was when everyone either graduated or got married. These days those rites of passage tend to happen in May (commencements) and September (weddings). Still, June remains a transition sort of month because summer begins, and that makes a difference in Pennsylvania. Warmer weather and longer days create a sense of spaciousness. So what shall we do with that gift? I realize that it is not as if you have gobs of extra time just because it is summer, but this time of year is different from the rest, and you and I should take note. What is God going to do with us this summer?

The vestry and commissions of St. Peter's regularly ask what God is calling us to do and how God wants us to be. This is why the outreach commission is so thoroughly researching food ministry and wondering how St. Peter's can contribute to the community of which we are a part. This is why the youth group is journeying to Boston, from June 25 until June 30. This is why the worship commission is exploring fresh approaches to liturgy, including partnering with neighboring parishes for seasonal offerings, to offer just a few examples.

So what is God going to do with St. Peter's this summer? I wonder. In this issue of *The Beacon* you will read about the festivities of Pentecost, the introduction of "Summer Suppers," opportunities to be a part of outreach efforts, and more. Our pace will be a bit slower than during the program year. On Sundays we will have two services instead of three and Christian formation will be on summer recess, but worship will continue in beautiful and meaningful ways. The spaciousness of summer will give us time to enjoy our beautiful sixteen acres with cook-outs and camp-outs. As construction continues to our west and begins to our east, we will start to experience what it is like to be a *neighborhood* church. Together with God we have made plans for this summer, and together with God we will discover what God will do with us.

What will your summer be like? Will it be harder than ever because of a big project at work, or do you have special vacation plans? Are you wondering what your children will do until September, or will you be working on your golf game, training for a race, or learning how to sail? Are you hoping to lose a few pounds or looking forward to eating ice cream on the boardwalk? Will you be recuperating quietly at home, or striving to respond to the needs of the world at a time when the world seems to be particularly full of need? Wherever you are, what do you hope God is going to do with you this summer?

I hope these weeks bring you refreshment and surprising delights. I hope these weeks bring you opportunities to make a difference, big or small. I hope these weeks bring you to St. Peter's and offer you sacred spaciousness to live into who God is calling you to be.

Pentecost Is June 4!

Be sure to wear something red and join us for particularly spirit-filled worship in the morning. And then come back again at 4 P.M. for choral evensong and the annual pig roast afterwards. (See p. 2 for more on these.)

WEAR RED FOR
Pentecost

Acolyte Training for New and Continuing Acolytes

All young people, rising 4th graders and older, are invited and encouraged to join the acolyte guild. To prepare for our summer worship in the historic church, we will hold a training session for all acolytes on **Sunday, June 4**, after the 10 A.M. service. The ministry of our acolytes is so important, and we hope to welcome new acolytes to our ranks! Thank you for your service!

Evensong and Pig Roast, June 4 *by Trudi Graves*

On Pentecost, **Sunday, June 4**, St. Peter's choirs will offer choral evensong in the barn at 4 P.M., giving us a preview of some of the music they will perform during their residency at Westminster Abbey in August 2018. So come in summery clothes (shorts and flip-flops are fine), and join us in the church for this service of choral music and scripture.

Then stay on for our annual pig roast, featuring delicious barbecue and all the fixin's! Bring a dish to share at this family-friendly meal that starts right after evensong, around 5 P.M. This is a wonderful way for all of us to celebrate the end of our program year and the beginning of summer with fun and fellowship!



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2475 St. Peter's Road, Malvern, PA 19355
Phone: 610-644-2261 Fax: 610-644-7967
E-mail: parishoffice@stpetersgv.org
Web site: www.stpetersgv.org
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Our Boston-bound Youth

On June 25, seven members of our youth group, accompanied by three adult chaperones, will travel to Massachusetts, where they will be through June 30. Their home for the week will be the classroom spaces of Christ Church, right in Harvard Square, Cambridge, and they will work at The Epiphany School in Dorchester, the model for Philadelphia's St. James School. After lessons in leadership, as well as fundraising efforts including the Feast for the Future and selling Humankind Water®, the group is prepared and excited.

Many thanks to the parish for all the support offered to our young people. Please join us in sending them off with a special prayer at the 10 A.M. service on June 25.

Sunday School Thank You *by Holly Hardester, Coordinator*

Do you remember your Sunday school teachers? I do. They were the women and men who taught me their love of Jesus; they told me the stories of the Bible and taught me how to read the Bible. They shared songs I've never forgotten and helped me to memorize verses of scripture. They taught me service and gratitude. They helped me to grow into my own love of Jesus and to be formed as a Christian. I have always been thankful for them.

This year the children in our Sunday school have had experiences like the ones I remember. I offer a rousing THANK YOU to their teachers: Katie Franz, Beth Hacker, Sharon Holt, Paige Infortuna, Mary Kreek, David Lockner, Gail Malcolm, Bonnie Michael, Eric Stoltz and Kristin Swager. These men and women created lively and enthusiastic classes. I also say THANK YOU to Ryan Battin who opens each Sunday school with singing and has formed a children's choir. THANK YOU also to Susan Dovey, Dan Houston and Dave Tatum, who showed the children the sheep, the bees, and the historic church, and to Christmas pageant director Mary Ann Morgan.

I believe that you, the parents of these children, have seen the evidence of what they have been taught, the experiences they have had, and the strong friendships that are forming among St. Peter's youngest. Thanks be to God.



Exciting Breaking News for St. Peter's – All Good!

As you know, St. Peter's is a vibrant, healthy, welcoming parish. Our worship is lively and meaningful, our outreach makes a difference, our formation is interesting and expansive, our pastoral care is prayerful and thoughtful, our fellowship is without compare, and the way we take care of all that is entrusted to us by God is exemplary. Bishop Gutierrez is interested in supporting strong parishes like ours so that they can live most fully into the ministry to which they are called by God. Recognizing the strengths of our parish, the bishop reached out and offered us significant support to make it possible for us to call a ¾-time assistant rector. This person will have responsibility for Christian formation for children and youth and will assist in worship and pastoral care.

The diocese has graciously committed \$60,000 over two years; to cover all expenses for 24 months we need to provide \$56,000. With \$20,000 in matching grants already committed, we now need to raise an additional \$36,000. Please consider making a contribution through a one-time gift or a pledge payable over the next 24 months. We make this request in response to the wonderful opportunity that Bishop Gutierrez offered St. Peter's, and we hope that many people will contribute whatever amount is right for them. If you wish to do so, you may send checks payable to St. Peter's Church in the Great Valley with "assistant" in the memo; complete a contribution card indicating your intentions; or speak with Abigail. Additionally, the wardens and vestry are happy to answer any questions you might have. Thank you for all that you do for St. Peter's.

Hats Off to Our 2017 Graduates!

This year produced a bumper crop of newly minted degree holders at all levels, from high school to graduate school. We salute them all, and wish them well in their future undertakings.



HIGH SCHOOL

- **Emily Fabius**, Phoenixville Area HS, will study applied psychology and human development as well as computer science at Boston College.
- **Molly Lynch**, Westtown School, is heading to the College of William and Mary.
- **Lucy Sumner** (Sian Myshko's daughter), West Chester East, will attend UPenn's Wharton School.
- **Charlotte Tellefsen**, Conestoga HS, will study at Duke's Trinity College of Arts and Sciences.
- **Alexander Weir**, Archmere Academy, will major in international business and minor in vocal performance at Northeastern U, and plans to spend his first semester at McGill U (Montreal).

COLLEGE

- **Stephen Cross** earned a B. S. degree from Bloomsburg U, where he majored in digital forensics.
- **Peter Zibinski** graduated from Ithaca College, where he was a Serling Scholar and majored in integrated marketing communications.

GRADUATE SCHOOL

- **Alexandra Mannix** received her M.F.A. in Lighting Design from NYU's Tisch School of the Arts.
- **Elizabeth (née Smith) Campana** received her L.L.M. in Taxation from Villanova Law School.

In addition, some parish grandparents beamed with pride at their grandchildren's ceremonies!

- **Mary Jane and Tony Morris** attended granddaughter Jessica's graduation from Valley Forge Baptist Academy and grandson Kyle's from Bob Jones U (SC).
- **Doris Mortimer** watched three granddaughters graduate from three area high schools: Danielle, Great Valley; Kirsten, Central Bucks East; and Savannah, Methacton.

OUTREACH AT ST. PETER'S

***Pack Some Protein and Grains
for The Clinic***

Each summer, the food pantry shelves at The Clinic are pretty bare. Without your help in restocking them, the medical staff cannot offer needy patients foods that are heart-healthy and high in the protein that they need to recover and remain healthy. So the staff is requesting donations of the following items: peanut butter, legumes, canned stews, meats, tuna, and salmon (fish can be canned or in foil), whole grains (e.g., wild rice, oatmeal).

Supporting this vital ministry is easy! On Sunday June 4 and June 11, please bring the requested items to church to help the patients of The Clinic. To ensure that we cover all the needed types of food, we devised this alphabetical plan based on last names:

- A to C---2 jars of peanut butter
- D to G---3 cans of legumes
- H to K---3 cans of stews or meats
- L to M---3 cans (or foil packs) of tuna or salmon
- N to Z---1 or 2 boxes of whole grain (wild rice, barley, oatmeal, etc.)

Collection boxes will be conveniently located in the common room of the church, and in the parish house for weekday drop-offs. The Clinic's patients and staff thank you!

Revving up for Camp Get-Along!

On Wednesday, July 12, St. Peter's will once again welcome the children of Camp Get-Along and lead them in a day of outdoor fun on our green hill. A year-round day camp for 3- to 12-year-olds sponsored by St. John the Evangelist and St. Peter's Episcopal Churches in Philadelphia, Camp Get-Along offers field trips as part of the summer program, including a visit to our holy hill. For the past several years we have hosted the campers for a day of fun that includes water games, circle games, and the ever popular "Moon Bounce" waterslide, which our Sunday schoolers fund through their May carwash. The day ends with a shared picnic lunch in the common room, special dessert treats, and a return to refreshing water play outside.

There are several ways to join in this annual fun-filled outreach adventure. We need volunteers of all ages to lead and participate in the outdoor activities, provide sandwiches for lunch, and help serve the meal. Please contact Gail Guthridge (610-688-1986, guthgirl60@gmail.com) or Holly Hardester (hahardester@gmail.com) if you would like to participate in this once-a-year outreach opportunity. Sign-up sheets for food items will be available in the common room later this month.

Some Future CCC Concert Dates for Your Calendar

Chester Children's Chorus will offer three performances in July at Lang Concert Hall, Swarthmore College: on July 27 at 2 P.M., and on July 28 and 29 at 7:30 P.M. Doors open for the evening concerts at 6:45.

And on Saturday, November 18, the Chester Children's Chorus will return to St. Peter's to present a 7 P.M. concert in the barn. Before they perform, in good St. Peter's fashion, we will share food and fellowship, getting to know our guests at a potluck dinner.

April Financial Snapshot

	April 2017	Year to Date April	Year-end Projection	Budget 2017
Parishioner Contributions	\$ 29,588	\$ 162,100	\$455,891	\$454,350
Total Income	49,285	205,459	633,554	642,932
Total Expense	54,857	214,464	632,257	642,932
Surplus/ (Deficit)	(5,572)	(9,005)	1,297	0
<i>Mortgage Payment</i>	<i>\$ 1,488</i>			
<i>Interest</i>	<i>685</i>			
<i>Principal</i>	<i>803</i>			
<i>Mortgage Balance</i>	<i>211,408</i>			

Note: The Finance Commission has reviewed this summary. If you have questions about these figures, please contact Joe Herbst, chair, or any commission member.

WHAT'S COOKIN' IN THE FOOD OUTREACH MINISTRY

A Dos de Mayo Darby Dinner

The smiles of our “three amigos” say it all On May 2, over 115 Darby Borough residents experienced a joyous *Cinco de Mayo*-themed dinner prepared and served by sixteen of our food ministry volunteers—Becky Dempsey, Jenny Disque, Kristin Eddy, Gail Guthridge, Jason Hacker, Holly Hardester, Linda Huggler, Eileen and Randy Klein, Molly Kulp, Char Mark, Queenie and Dixie Northrup, Mary Ann Tatum, Cathy Terlescki, and our rector.

The guests immediately noticed the festive tissue paper flowers crafted by our Sunday school and preschool children guests, before sitting down to a much appreciated delicious meal of tacos filled with spicy beef and all the fixings, accompanied, of course, by beans, rice, and corn salad and topped off by Mexican brownies. Each guest later took home some Mexican wedding cookies—baked, bagged, and tagged by St. Peter’s preschoolers.



Another Way to Serve—Monday Dinners at St. Peter’s, Phoenixville

On Monday, May 15, nine of our food ministry volunteers served a Mexican taco dinner to about 35 appreciative beneficiaries of the weekly food ministry at St. Peter’s, Phoenixville. Serving this “trial” meal gave us the opportunity to experience preparing and serving a meal under certified kitchen procedures before adopting this as part of our food outreach.

The guests welcomed our meal enthusiastically, gave lots of positive feedback, and genuinely appreciated the freshly prepared corn tacos with all the fixings, rice, refried beans, and fresh corn salad. Mexican brownies, coffee, iced tea, and lemonade accompanied the meal, which always includes tunafish and peanut-butter-and-jelly sandwiches for the guests to take with them. Joy and laughter characterized the evening’s atmosphere.

Our volunteers (Jenny Disque, Gail Guthridge, Holly Hardester, Eileen and Randy Klein, Martha Nelson, Queenie and Jack Northrop, Mary Ann Tatum) all agreed that this is a vital ministry, that these Phoenixville residents are a special group of people, and that we want to include this among our outreach food ministries. Will you join us? If you do, you will have fun and experience the joy of engaging with pleasant but unlucky people who have interesting stories. We can offer you several different options that you may find attractive. Join the food prep/cooking team (3 to 4:30 P.M.) Help serve and chat with residents (4:30 to 6). If you have afternoon commitments, come at 5 P.M., to help serve and clean up until 6:30. If you would like to give this service opportunity a try, contact Eileen Klein (eileenklein@live.com or 484-875-0122).

Calling All Parish Photographers!

If you take a good picture at a St. Peter’s event and are willing to let us use it for publicity purposes, please email it in a jpeg file to Steve Ockenden (steveock@verizon.net), chair of the communications commission.

The commission is also building a list of people willing to photograph particular events, so that we can better document the vibrant life of our parish. If you would like to be on this list, please let Steve know as well.



Summer Reading

by the Rev. Abigail Crozier Nestlehutt

Growing up, I was rarely without a book. Summer mornings I would lie in bed reading and summer afternoons I would continue reading on the porch. On family road trips my parents would implore me to put down my book and appreciate the historically important or naturally beautiful sights. As an adult, my schedule does not permit such luxurious time with books, but each summer I commit to a few, and these are three that I plan to read this year. (The summaries appear as book descriptions at Amazon.com.)

The Benedict Option, Rod Dreher

“Already the most discussed and most important religious book of the decade,” says David Brooks. In this controversial bestseller, Rod Dreher calls on American Christians to prepare for the coming Dark Age by embracing an ancient Christian way of life. He argues that the way forward is actually the way back—all the way to St. Benedict of Nursia. This sixth-century monk, horrified by the moral chaos following Rome’s fall, retreated to the forest and created a new way of life for Christians. He built enduring communities based on principles of order, hospitality, stability, and prayer. His spiritual centers of hope were strongholds of light throughout the Dark Ages, and saved not just Christianity but Western civilization.

The Namesake, Jhumpa Lahiri

The Namesake takes the Ganguli family from their tradition-bound life in Calcutta through their fraught transformation into Americans. On the heels of their arranged wedding, Ashoke and Ashima Ganguli settle together in Cambridge, Massachusetts. An engineer by training, Ashoke adapts far less warily than his wife, who resists all things American and pines for her family. When their son is born, the task of naming him betrays the vexed results of bringing old ways to the new world. Named for a Russian writer by his Indian parents in memory of a catastrophe years before, Gogol Ganguli knows only that he suffers the burden of his heritage as well as his odd name. Jhumpa Lahiri brings great empathy to Gogol as he stumbles along the first-generation path, strewn with conflicting loyalties, comic detours, and wrenching love affairs. With penetrating insight, she reveals not only the defining power of the names and expectations bestowed upon us by our parents, but also the means by which we slowly, sometimes painfully, come to define ourselves. *The New York Times* has praised Lahiri as “a writer of uncommon elegance and poise.” *The Namesake* is a fine-tuned, intimate, and deeply felt novel of identity.

Gratitude, Oliver Sacks

No writer has succeeded in capturing the medical and human drama of illness as honestly and as eloquently as Oliver Sacks. During the last few months of his life, he wrote a set of essays in which he movingly explored his feelings about completing a life and coming to terms with his own death. “It is the fate of every human being,” Sacks writes, “to be a unique individual, to find his own path, to live his own life, to die his own death.” Together, these four essays form an ode to the uniqueness of each human being and to gratitude for the gift of life.

In the Works for July . . .

We’re working out the logistics for both a cookout and also a camp-out for all ages! We’re looking at Wednesday, July 19, for the cookout and Saturday, July 29, for the camp-out. If you’d like to help with either or both, please let Abigail know (abigail@stpetersgv.org). Stay tuned for details.

Attention, Women of the Parish

Coming **October 13 to 15**
Our annual women’s weekend
at Temenos, West Chester

Save the dates *now* so you can be part of it!

Summer Suppers – You’re Invited

by Sarah Tellefsen

From time to time at St. Peter’s we have arranged a round of smallish get-togethers for a potluck meal. The groups are structured to “mix it up” and allow people to connect with other parishioners on an informal basis – to talk to people who may not be part of their usual routine here at St. Peter’s. Since summertime, when family schedules are typically less complex, is particularly ideal for these meals, the vestry has decided to reprise this practice this summer.

A vestry member will host each of this summer’s get-togethers, either in his or her home or at the church. We are now putting together a schedule of these suppers, and will soon invite every St. Peter’s member and family to one of them and ask everyone to bring a particular component of the meal. (And, yes, we will facilitate switching of dates, should we have invited people for a day that conflicts with other commitments!)

We encourage you to come out for these events and

- enjoy the casual summer atmosphere of a potluck supper
- connect with other parishioners you may not know very well, or even at all
- learn more about opportunities to participate in activities at St. Peter’s in areas that interest you the most.

Watch for your invitation. All of us on the vestry look forward to seeing you at one of these summer suppers!

“Open Me Up” at St. Peter’s

“Open Me Up” invites all who are in the throes or wake of any addiction or on any 12-step path of recovery to reflect and discuss Christian spiritual practices and disciplines. The group explores avenues of scripture, Christian tradition, and contemporary spiritual thought to expand personal resources and enrich individual prayer and meditation. The group meets in the barn at 7 P.M. on Tuesdays,

The 12 Steps espouse spiritual fitness as the foundation of long-term recovery from addictions; therefore, spiritual exercise through prayer and meditation (Step 11) is essential. “Open Me Up” seeks to demystify, regenerate, and enliven Jesus’ compassion for human suffering, exploring Christianity as a gateway toward a liberating “faith that works.” Rather than enforce dogmatic dead-ends, true Christianity embraces uncertainty, ambiguity and human frailty—all of which are reasons wounded souls need God’s grace, and reasons God lavishes His love.

If you have questions, contact thisdaysgrace@gmail.com.

The Joy in Community Prayer

The most personal experience each of us has with God is in our prayers. Prayer is where we can open our hearts with honesty. As personal as prayer is, it is also where we hold community, pray in joy and thanksgiving for family and friends, and pray for our concerns about them. It is so good to know we are held by others in their prayers.



St. Peter’s maintains a prayer list that is updated weekly and inserted in the service leaflets. We often leave our service leaflets behind each Sunday so the paper can be recycled, which is a good thing. But please remove the prayer list first, take it home, and put it on your kitchen table, nightstand, or wherever you will see it regularly. When you see it, stop, read each name slowly, and discover the joy in sharing prayers.

If you would like to be added to the prayer list or to add someone to it, contact Abigail (abigail@stpetersgv.org, or 610-644-2261) or Mary Ann Tatum (maryanntatum5@gmail.com, or 610-644-1549).

Adult Christian Formation Survey

Please share your thoughts about this year’s adult formation offerings, along with any thoughts you might have about the future, as we continue to nourish this important part of our life together. You can respond using our anonymous survey at www.surveymonkey.com/r/3C (which you can also access via a link on Keynotes) or by speaking with Abigail or Melissa Shaner. However you respond, we welcome your feedback.



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 2475 St. Peter's Road, Malvern, PA 19355
 Telephone: 610-644-2261 Fax: 610-644-7967
 E-mail: parishoffice@stpetersgv.org Web site: www.stpetersgv.org

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
 July-August *Beacon*
 is **June 15.**

**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



June 3

Needlework ministry
 10 A.M.

June 4

Pentecost

Choral evensong (church)
 4 P.M.
 Annual pig roast on the lawn
 following evensong

June 10

"History nerds" trip
 leaves from Matthews Rd. Park&Ride lot
 7:30 A.M.

June 25 to 30

Youth mission trip to Boston