



St. Peter's Church
IN THE GREAT VALLEY

✦
1700

The Beacon

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

March 2017

FROM THE RECTOR . . .

Abundant Life through Lent

For a long time, one of those sort-of-inspirational magazine clippings about growing older and wiser was taped inside one of my kitchen cabinets. It was lost in our move and I cannot recall each line of the short poem. What I do remember is that the reader is supposed to understand that a young woman is asking an older woman how she came to be so wise. The older woman says something like, "By making right decisions. "When the young woman asks how she knew which decisions were right, the older one answers, "By making wrong decisions." We do not like to dwell on our mistakes, but the fact of the matter is that if we learn from them they become essential and positive elements in shaping who we are.

I find the Ash Wednesday liturgy to be humbling in a helpful way. Right from the start we acknowledge before God our wretchedness as we pray the collect that opens the service. Later in the Litany of Penitence we recite all the ways in which we have fallen short, made mistakes. It is a uniquely complete recitation of our sins, but, of course, it ends with the words of absolution. God desires life for us. Abundant life made possible by acknowledging our shortcomings and turning toward God.

In the days and weeks to come the natural world will awaken and signs of abundance will begin to appear around us. Most beautifully, the ground will become blanketed by those beautiful yellow flowers that push away the drab grays and browns of late winter. I believe they are weeds technically, but to me there is something breathtaking about them, and they seem to come at just the right time.

Most things have an ebb and flow—the seasons of the earth, the seasons of the church year, and the seasons of life. We move both around and also forward in a pattern that is not quite entirely predictable or regular. To live most fully into who God is calling us to be and the ways in which God is calling us to make a difference, we must be mindful and aware of our actions and their consequences. It sounds like a cliché, but the world is a complicated and difficult place. Grounding ourselves as individuals and as a community in the knowledge of God's love for us and for everyone, truly everyone, is crucial.

The community of St. Peter's Church in the Great Valley is characterized by an openness and acceptance that are very valuable and by a genuine desire to reach out to people in need. We are individuals who come together to worship God and be strengthened for Christian service in the world. We are people who have both made mistakes and had great successes. We are people who care and sometimes need to be cared for. This Lent I invite you to engage in how you have grown, and how you can grow, wiser and into deeper relationship with God, and in how we as a community can do the same. I strongly encourage you to attend our Lenten programs.

Sunday evenings in the barn, we will offer a Lenten "Popcorn Theology" series with the theme of "Communities: Lost and Found." Wednesday evenings in the parish hall, we will offer our Lenten "Soup Supper" program with the theme of "Community Connections, Community Growth." (See page 3 for details about both.) Take this holy season seriously and see how it leads to abundant life.

Another Year, Another Rummage Sale!

by Stacy Warkentine

The preschool rummage sale is happening on **March 11**, from 8 A.M. to 12 NOON! We would appreciate any help you can offer during the whirlwind week of the sale! We need helpers the week before the sale to sort and price items, during the event to help sell items, and after the sale to help clear things out and clean up. Please contact Stacy Warkentine (preschool@stpetersgv.org) if you are able to assist in any way!



We also hope you have been saving your treasures for us to sell. Please remember that donations will be accepted from 11 A.M. to 1 P.M. on Sunday, **March 5**, and then from Monday through Thursday that week (**March 6 through 9**) between 9 A.M. and 1 P.M. Thank you, thank you, thank you, for all of your support!

Also, please remember that registration for the 2017-18 school year is now in full swing! Please invite any families with small children in your neighborhood to give us a look. You are our best marketing tool—historically, we get most of our students simply by word of mouth. Our 2-day class is nearly full, but we still have openings in the 3-day and pre-K groups. Spread the word!



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The Beacon is produced monthly by St. Peter's Church in the Great Valley
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March 1

*Ash Wednesday Liturgy
in the historic church
at 12 NOON and 7:30 P.M.*

"It Takes a Village . . ."

Have you ever uttered those words? They have come out of my mouth on many occasions when I have felt swamped and in need of tangible help or maybe just simple advice. This was especially true when my children were younger, but still I know the value of mutual support and of the sharing of wisdom as I continue to navigate the realities of parenthood. Having spoken with many of you, I know that you have had similar experiences.

If there is interest, I will organize and facilitate a group of parish parents for the purpose of mutual support and fellowship. I envision a casual but intentional gathering that benefits both individuals as well as the larger community of St. Peter's. If this is of interest to you, please call me (610-644-2261) or email me (abigail@stpetersgv.org). I will make plans according to your feedback. Thank you!

Please Welcome Our New Parish Secretary

The St. Peter's staff is pleased to welcome Elizabeth Dwyer as our part-time parish secretary. In this role she will take on some of the responsibilities formerly assigned to the parish coordinator and the event coordinator.

Beginning March 6, Elizabeth will be in the parish office every day from 9 A.M. to NOON. Until then, she will be in the office for a few hours each week. Please stop by and help us welcome Elizabeth to the St. Peter's community!

Lenten Offerings

This month, we are offering two very different evening tracks of Lenten fellowship and conversation: both our traditional Wednesday evening soup suppers and a new Sunday evening series. Read on to learn more about each, and then please join us for both, or for as many of either as you can!



Wednesday Evening Soup Suppers, led by Abigail Nestlehutt

March 8, 15, 29, and April 5 – 6 to 8 P.M.

“Community Connections, Community Growth” is our theme as we take on the topic of evangelism at our Lenten soup supper series and also look seriously at our call to serve. Reaching out to others begins by being grounded in who we are and whose we are. Using stories, scripture and conversation, we will consider what it is to be in relationship with God and deepen our understanding of how faith guides our decisions, informs our interactions with people around us, and inspires us to share the Good News. Now more than ever it is important for us to be strong in the knowledge of God’s unconditional love and to build connections in new and different ways. Join us on Wednesday evenings during Lent.



Sign-up sheets are available in the gathering spaces for you to indicate what part of our simple supper you would like to provide. If you have questions, please contact Melissa Shaner (myshaner@verizon.net).

Lenten Quiet Evening

Wednesday, March 22 – 6 to 8 P.M.

In this mid-Lent week, we will share our soup and bread supper as usual, and then will move into the church, where Holly Hardester will lead a guided meditation and time for peaceful reflection.

Sunday Evening Popcorn Theology, led by Mark Nestlehutt

March 5 to April 2, 6 to 9 P.M.

On the five Sunday evenings in Lent, Mark Nestlehutt will present a series of films that examine relationships both lost and found, in which the protagonist loses a significant supportive individual or community but ultimately gains a new one. Mark will then lead us in a discussion of the experience of loss and discovery in each film. Please note that this series is intended and structured for adults and that no meal will be served, although everyone is invited to bring a snack to share.

March 5 – *The Perks of Being a Wallflower*, PG-13, 2012

March 12 – *Lars and the Real Girl*, PG-13, 2007

March 19 – *Intouchables*, R, 2011

March 26 – *The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel*, PG-13, 2011

April 2 – *Quartet*, PG-13, 2012



POPCORN
THEOLOGY
LENTEN SERIES

The Women of the Bible Speak: Adult Forums in March

by Melissa Shaner

This month, Melissa Shaner will facilitate a ChurchNext video course entitled *Let the Women Speak* during adult formation. As the course description points out, “Women in the Bible don’t speak much, but when they do, they are bold, bright, and brilliant. Lindsay Hardin Freeman [author of *Bible Women: All Their Words and Why They Matter*] examines every passage of women speaking in the Bible teaching us how to know God and ourselves better, and invites us into a sacred circle of inspiring voices.” Each week after viewing a short video, we will explore questions that focus on the women in different parts of scripture: **March 5**, the Bible as a whole; **March 12**, the Old Testament, **March 17**, the Apocrypha; and **March 26**, the New Testament.



Join us at 10:20 for coffee and conversation in the barn.

OUTREACH AT ST. PETER'S

Thank You for the Cheerful Gesundheit Bags

This year, the children of St. Peter's took the lead in preparing and packing *Gesundheit* Bags for The Clinic. Both our preschoolers and our Sunday-schoolers transformed fifty plain white paper bags into colorful, creative, cheerful totes, many with get well notes tucked inside.

Thank you to the many individuals and families who supplied the children with relief-giving items with which to put into the bags, gifts that will bring cheer and comfort relief to Clinic patients suffering with colds and flu. And special thanks from the outreach commission to all the children for making people's lives brighter and cheerier.



An Invitation to "Do" Good Works with Us

by Ken Fleischer

The mission of Good Works is "to extend the love of Jesus Christ to low-income homeowners by making their homes warmer, safer and drier." As a Good Works partner church for well over ten years, St. Peter's "adopts" a homeowner in the Phoenixville-Spring City area and plans and carries out a home repair plan for twelve to sixteen months. The work typically includes replacing leaky windows and storm doors for warmth and dryness and installing ground fault circuit interrupter outlets in bathrooms and kitchens for safety, but it also addresses needs specific to each home.

We heartily invite new volunteers to join us in good fellowship as we help "eliminate substandard housing in Chester County" and enable our adopted homeowners to experience the love of Jesus Christ. We are currently working at the Phoenixville home of Elwin, an ailing, elderly widower whose modest accommodations need upgrading for his safety and comfort; over the next few months we expect to replace his bathtub with a walk-in shower; install new bathroom and bedroom flooring after repairing the sub-flooring in both rooms; and complete a number of other "honey-do" tasks like replacing door knobs, repairing cabinet doors and water-damaged ceilings, and sealing and weatherproofing windows and doors.



No special skills are needed—we offer on-the-job training to all comers, and everyone is welcome to join us on the second Saturday of any month. A quick call to volunteer coordinator Mark Carkhuff (610-935-1623) will give you the details about our meeting place and ensure that we have a lunch for you when you come. Do consider joining us in this opportunity to serve our Chester County neighbors!

Chester Children's Chorus Spring Concert

COME HEAR US SING!



The Chester Children's Chorus will perform at 7 P.M. on Saturday, **March 25**, at United Church of Christ, East Goshen (at the intersection of Route 352 and Greenhill Road). The program includes classical and sacred selections ranging from Mozart to spirituals arranged by founder and artistic director Dr. John Alston. A free-will donation will be taken to support the program.

Get Your Game On!

by Linda Holden

Guess Who!® is back, hosting the sixth [almost] annual Game Night! After going *Back and 4th*® over the date, the fellowship commission picked **March 25** for us to gather in the common room at 5 P.M. *What Do You Meme*®, you don't know what game night is? It's an evening of fun that begins with a light supper and culminates in playing some of our favorite board and card games. While there's a *Myth*® out there that game night is competitive, that's just *Balderdash*®. We simply get together to laugh and learn about each other, which means everyone wins.



For supper we offer soup, sandwiches, and dessert. *Too Many Cooks*® cannot spoil *this* broth, so if you can provide a crockpot of soup, please contact Helen Ockenden (helenock@verizon.net) or just sign up on the clipboards during coffee hour. If you can stay afterwards, cleaning up will be a *Piece o' Cake*®. If you have questions, email Linda Holden (holdendubc@gmail.com).

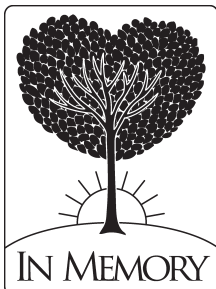
Notice of St. Peter's Annual Meeting April 30, 2017

According to our by-laws, "The annual meeting of the Corporation and the annual election of vestry persons shall be held in the Church edifice or such adjacent building of the Corporation at the discretion of the Vestry within thirty days after Easter Sunday each year." This year's annual meeting will take place on Sunday morning, **April 30**, following the single 9 A.M. parishwide service.

During the annual meeting, we will hold elections to fill four seats on the vestry. The by-laws stipulate that "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.

A nominating committee assists in the vestry election process. This committee consists of the four outgoing vestry members (Pat Harvey, Joe Herbst, Paige Infortuna, and Steve Ockenden) as well as four at-large members of the congregation (Jason Hacker, Debi Lynch, Tom Rice, and Dave Tatum), appointed by the vestry in consultation with the rector. If you are interested in serving on the vestry, please speak to any member of the nominating committee. **Any member of the congregation wishing to nominate someone not on the slate designated by the committee may do so by submitting to the committee a petition signed by at least ten eligible voting members no later than March 27.**

Our parish leadership welcomes active participation in discerning God's call for mission and ministry, and motions from the congregation are part of this discernment process. Please note that according to the by-laws "no formal motion may be made at the Annual Meeting involving new business unless such motion is delivered to the Secretary of the Vestry, Mrs. Susy Baum, 30 days prior to the Annual Meeting." Please mark your calendar for this important event in our parish life. There is much good news to celebrate!

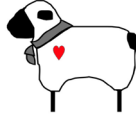


Russell Wilson, a St. Peter's parishioner for more than four decades, passed away last month and will be laid to rest at Arlington National Cemetery on Tuesday, April 4. He is survived by **Nancy Cunningham Wilson**, to whom he was married at St. Peter's by the late Rev. Jim Birney; Russell's first wife, Bessie, died in 2000.

On February 25, we celebrated the life of **Peter Duncan**, whose connection to St. Peter's dates back to his youth. He leaves behind his wife of almost 57 years, **Jean Duncan**, and their children and grandchildren. A faithful and committed parishioner, Pete served in many capacities over the years at St. Peter's, until ill health curtailed his activities.

Pastoral Care Corner

On many Sundays, after we share in the Eucharist at St. Peter's, we also send out a Eucharistic visitor to share the gifts of bread and wine with someone who cannot make the trip to St. Peter's. As one of these visitors commented, "When we bring communion to fellow parishioners, there is a moment that stops them every time. Just as we give them communion, there is a moment of quiet contemplation. Neither of us says anything for a few moments. I can feel God's presence with us and I know the person I am visiting has been touched. It is very sweet and quite beautiful."



Eucharistic visits can be arranged by contacting Susan House at the church office (610-644-2261), Mary Ann Tatum (maryanntatum5@gmail.com or 610-644-1549), or the rector (abigail@stpetersgv.org or 610-644-2261).

The History Nerds to Soar on June 10!

On June 10, St. Peter's "history nerds" will hit the road again! This year we are heading to the Smithsonian Air & Space Museum at Dulles International Airport in northern Virginia, to experience the unique look at our nation's aviation history that this museum offers. We anticipate a 7:30 A.M. departure from St. Peter's and a 6 P.M. return; our coach will accommodate 53 passengers. Details will appear after Easter. If you would like to express your interest in the trip now, just email either Rip Tilden (rip.tilden@gmail.com) or Bill Armstrong (jobiarmst@verizon.net).

Happy April Spruce-up Day!

Come join fellow parishioners on this spring's "spruce-up day," Saturday, April 1. This is not an April Fool's joke—we will polish, dust, paint, wash windows, and do whatever needs doing, with plenty of jobs to go around. Our focus will be the interior of the barn and church, but if you want to do a bit of gardening, then bring your favorite garden tool.

Spruce-up Day



If you have questions, please contact coordinators Sandy Mannix (sdamannix@aol.com) and Gail Guthridge (610-688-1986).



A Preview of Holy Week at St. Peter's

April 9

The Sunday of the Passion: Palm Sunday

Holy Eucharist
7:45, 9, and 11:15 A.M.
Choral Evensong
4 P.M.

April 13

Maundy Thursday

Agape meal
6:30 P.M.
Holy Eucharist, foot-washing and stripping of the altar
7:30 P.M.
Maundy Thursday Watch begins
9 P.M.

April 14

Good Friday

Maundy Thursday Watch ends
Stations of the Cross
12 NOON
Good Friday Liturgy
7:30 P.M.

April 16

Easter Day

The Great Vigil of Easter
Brunch by the Omelet King following
6 A.M.
Festal Easter Family Eucharist
Easter egg hunt following
9 A.M.
Festal Easter Eucharist
11 A.M.

MARCH

March 1
Ash Wednesday
 Holy Eucharist
 & Imposition of Ashes
 12 Noon and 7:30 P.M.

March 4
 Needlework ministry
 10 A.M.

March 5
 Rummage sale drop-off
 11 A.M. to 1 P.M.
 Popcorn Theology
 6 to 9 P.M.

March 6-9
 Rummage sale drop off
 9 A.M. to 1 P.M.

March 8
 Lenten soup supper
 6 to 8 P.M.

March 11
 Rummage sale
 8 A.M. to 12 Noon
 Kairos Outside
 9:30 A.M.

March 12
 Popcorn Theology
 6 to 9 P.M.

March 15
 Lenten soup supper
 6 to 8 P.M.

March 19
 Popcorn Theology
 6 to 9 P.M.

March 22
 Lenten soup supper and
 Quiet Evening
 6 to 8 P.M.

March 25
 Game Night
 5 P.M.

March 26
 Popcorn Theology
 6 to 9 P.M.

March 29
 Lenten soup supper
 6 to 8 P.M.

- The Rev. Bob Tate for facilitating the Mutual Ministry Review for the rector and vestry;
- Lynn Mander for organizing the foyer dinners;
- Bishop Gutierrez for joining us for supper and Compline on February 12, Alexander Weir for playing the violin at Compline, and everyone who helped make the service and dinner that evening so meaningful;
- David Kasievich of St. James School for preaching here last month and the students who joined us at all three services;
- The children's choir, their leader Ryan Battin, and their parents, as well as the hand bell choir, for their musical offerings at 9 A.M. on February 19;
- The Sunday school and preschool children for decorating and filling *Gesundheit* bags for the Clinic, and Holly Hardester for organizing the project;
- Chef Peter Gilmore and his wife Sue and Deby Harrison, who planned and staged the sumptuous Feast for the Future to benefit the youth group's Boston mission trip in June, and assisting chefs Lynn Lindquist & David Clouser and the ten young people who helped make the dinner a delicious and elegant experience;
- The winter session Sunday school teachers: Beth Hacker, Sharon Holt, Mary Kreek, Gail Malcolm, and Bonnie Michael.



January Financial Snapshot

	January 2017	Budget 2017
Parishioner Contributions	\$ 73,637	\$454,350
Total Income	85,993	665,863
Total Expense	51,017	642,932
Surplus/ (Deficit)	34,976	0
<i>Mortgage Payment</i>	<i>\$ 1,488</i>	
<i>Interest</i>	<i>693</i>	
<i>Principal</i>	<i>795</i>	
<i>Mortgage Balance</i>	<i>213,876</i>	

The vestry-approved budget for 2017 allocates \$642,932 in income to cover expenses. While income sources include event rentals, fundraisers, and endowment earnings distributions, 75.6% of our expected income comes from parishioners' pledges and gifts. The generosity of St. Peter's parishioners has created a solid budget that will allow us to continue our good work, welcome new members, and expand our programs. We are off to a wonderful start, beginning the first month of the new budget year with a surplus of \$34,976, thanks to strong pledge payments. – 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 **March 15.**

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



**This Month's
 Scripture Readings**

March 1

Ash Wednesday
 Isaiah 58:1-12
 Psalm 103
 2 Corinthians 5:20b – 6:10
 Matthew 6:1-6,16-21

March 5

1st Sunday in Lent
 Genesis 2:15-17,3:1-7
 Psalm 32
 Romans 5:12-19
 Matthew 4:1-11

March 12

2nd Sunday in Lent
 Genesis 12:1-4a
 Psalm 121
 Romans 4:1-5, 13-17
 John 3:1-17

March 19

3rd Sunday in Lent
 Exodus 17:1-7
 Psalm 95
 Romans 5:1-11
 John 4:5-42

March 26

4th Sunday in Lent
 1 Samuel 16:1-13
 Psalm 23
 Ephesians 5:8-14
 John 9:1-41

April 2

5th Sunday in Lent
 Ezekiel 37:1-14
 Psalm 130
 Romans 8:6-11
 John 11:1-45