



St. Peter's Church
IN THE GREAT VALLEY

✠
1700

The Beacon

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

October 2017

"Shine On, Harvest Moon"

by the Rev. Abigail Crozer Nestlehutt

The harvest moon is the full moon closest to the autumnal equinox. Often it occurs in September, but this year it falls in October, October 5 to be precise. Rising at sunset and lighting up the night sky, the full harvest moon extends the time a farmer can be in the field. Even better, while the moon normally rises about fifty minutes later each day, at the fall equinox that time is shortened and for several nights in a row the moon appears to be full. I am not sure that I have ever purposely watched a moonrise, but many times I have come upon it serendipitously. Once while putting crew shells back into the boathouse after a race. A few times while running through fields and along creeks, straining to keep my eye on the orange orb. Often while driving – and it makes me want to roll down my window to alert the people in the vehicles around me. The harvest moon at sunset simply takes my breath away. To me it is so spectacular that it deserves my full attention.

I believe the studies that suggest that no one is good at multi-tasking. My unscientific perspective is that when I attempt to do several things at once, I end up feeling flustered and ineffective. When I allow myself time to focus, I feel grounded, productive, and aware. And so, in an age of constant distractions I appreciate moments when my busyness is interrupted and my attention demanded. Those moments might be triggered by the natural beauty of the morning light filtering through the trees in the churchyard or turning the white of the historic church nearly pink. They might be triggered by music that somehow goes from my ears to my heart to a smile within seconds. Or a particularly kind word spoken at just the right moment, or assistance offered when it is least expected.

St. Peter's is a place where simply spectacular things happen. The beauty of God's creation and the ministry of God's people come together here in a particularly special way. That has been my experience and I have heard so many of you articulate the same. Here we have many "harvest moon" moments. Moments when we feel our feet firmly on the ground and our hearts lightly in our chests. St. Peter's is a meaningfully active parish, and each month there are opportunities to serve, worship, learn, and build relationships, thanks to the leadership and enthusiasm of so many people. I encourage you to read your October *Beacon* carefully to learn about them.

Also, St. Peter's is a place that cares. Recent weeks have brought natural disasters at an alarming rate and with them many breathtakingly difficult images of destruction that interrupt our busy lives and demand our attention. These images call God's people to respond and cooperate with God's creation in new ways. Our outreach commission has directed funds to both Episcopal Relief and Development and the Red Cross, and also will support hands-on efforts as those opportunities emerge.

Try to catch a glimpse of the harvest moon this month. Maybe you will be fortunate to come upon it by accident. Allow it to interrupt your busyness and to remind you of what needs your attention.

The Bishop Visits Us This Month



On **Sunday, October 22**, our diocesan bishop, the Right Reverend Daniel G.P. Gutiérrez will make his first official visitation to St. Peter's. We have been fortunate to welcome him twice before, for a fellowship event and for Compline. This time Bishop Gutiérrez will be with us on a Sunday morning to learn more about our parish, answer our questions, and, importantly to confirm, receive and lay hands on those who wish to reaffirm their baptismal promises.

We will have only two services on October 22, at 8 A.M. in the church and at 10 A.M. in the barn. Following the 10 A.M. service, the bishop will speak with us and answer questions at a festive brunch. The official visit of the bishop to a parish is very important, and I urge you to make every effort to join us on October 22.

Responding to Charlottesville and Racism: First Steps

In his post-Charlottesville letter, which we discussed during adult formation last month, Bishop Gutiérrez recommends four books that can serve our collective education, understanding, and awareness of race in America. As an action step coming out of our dialogue, we will host "book clubs" to learn from these books in the hope that they will help us develop a common point of reference, mutual trust, and a learning opportunity as we reckon collectively with how St. Peter's will respond to such issues. Since we can't be expected to discuss tough issues without sugar, there will be plenty of sweet (and other) refreshments on hand!

Our discussions will begin with Ta-Nehisi Coates' *Between the World and Me*, winner of the 2015 National Book Award and a Pulitzer Prize finalist, on **two** Monday evenings, October 2 and 16. Shannon Mannon will facilitate our discussions, which begin at 7 P.M. in the parish hall. Please RSVP by email (mannonshannon@yahoo.com). If you are interested in participating in future discussions but prefer to meet in the daytime, please let Shannon know that as well.

Publisher's Note about *Between the World and Me*:

". . . Coates offers a powerful new framework for understanding our nation's history and current crisis. Americans have built an empire on the idea of 'race,' a falsehood that damages us all but falls most heavily on the bodies of black women and men—bodies exploited through slavery and segregation, and, today, threatened, locked up, and murdered out of all proportion. What is it like to inhabit a black body and find a way to live within it? And how can we all honestly reckon with this fraught history and free ourselves from its burden?"

Between the World and Me is Coates's attempt to answer these questions in a letter to his adolescent son. Coates shares with his son—and readers—the story of his awakening to the truth about his place in the world through a series of revelatory experiences, from Howard University to Civil War battlefields, from the South Side of Chicago to Paris, from his childhood home to the living rooms of mothers whose children's lives were taken as American plunder. Beautifully woven from personal narrative, reimagined history, and fresh, emotionally charged reportage, [the book] illuminates the past, bracingly confronts our present, and offers a transcendent vision for a way forward."



The Beacon

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Community Barn Dance

by Lynn Mander

St. Peter's is pleased to announce our first community barn dance on **Saturday, October 28**, from 5 to 9 P.M. This event is an opportunity for us to invite friends, neighbors, family, and the surrounding community to come together for dancing, dining, and good old-fashioned fun. We are committed to the idea that this evening will be fun for guests of all ages, and we encourage *everyone*—singles, couples, and children—to come, with or without a partner.

Experienced callers, as well as live musicians, are joining us. Chloe and Rick Mohr will give us instruction on reel, square, and circle dances, and will pair up partners as needed. There will be a break for snacks, and when the dancing ends, we will serve a light supper of pulled pork and chicken, along with sides, provided by Jimmy's BBQ. There will also be both live and silent auction items, and to end the evening, a bonfire and s'mores.

The success of this event will depend on the help of the entire parish. Here are some of the ways you can help:

- **Invite family friends and neighbors to join us** on October 28 and encourage them to bring others.
- **Help us publicize the event.** In last month's *Beacon* mailing, you received a flyer that also gives details on its reverse about both sponsorship and ticket purchases. If you would like another copy, please visit www.stpetersgv.org for a printable poster and more information on tickets and sponsorship. We also have put postcards in both gathering spaces for you to give out as invitations.
- **Donate an item to the auction.** If you have something you could donate to the auction, silent or live, that would be a big help. Gift cards are also welcome. We can accept donations until October 11.
- **Help with the event.** We will need help setting up, cleaning up, serving food, and greeting guests when they arrive, as well as directing parking.

This event is a great opportunity to work together and welcome visitors to our campus. We expect to host 250 guests for dancing and dinner, and the funds raised will support St. Peter's and the local community through our outreach ministries and maintenance of our park-like setting.

This event is just a few weeks away, so if you haven't already bought your tickets at www.stpetersgv.org or volunteered to help with this parish-wide event, please contact Paige Infortuna (pinfortuna@msn.com or 610-608-2093), who will answer your questions and, of course, sign you up.

Thank you in advance for making this evening an opportunity to come together in community.



Women's Weekend Is Almost Here!

Time is running out to sign up for our eighth annual women's weekend at Temenos Retreat Center, West Chester, from **Friday, October 13, to Sunday, October 15**. So act now, and reserve a place at this fun weekend.

Katie Franz and Nancy Lauby have put together a program, based on the book *All I Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten*, which is sure to bring back memories and put us in touch with our "inner child." Bringing those lessons into our adult life can help us learn to ease the stresses we face and have fun doing so.

So whether you have attended this weekend of laughter, getting to know each other better, and good eating before, or are a veteran attendee, do plan to join us this year, either for the whole weekend (\$200, with 4 meals) or just on Saturday (\$90, with 3 meals) if that works better for your schedule. Funds are available for scholarships and for babysitting vouchers. To reserve your place or ask questions, contact Lynn Mander (lsmander@gmail.com, or 610-613-5358).

Moonlight Labyrinth Walk 2.0

We are praying it won't rain on **Wednesday, October 25**, when we make our second attempt to explore the contemplative power of the labyrinth on an autumn evening! As before, we plan to meet in the lower level of the barn at 7 P.M. and then move outside, where Shannon Mannon will lead the walk and reflections. Please dress comfortably and wear walking shoes.

“God Is in the Details”

by the Rev. Dr. Kyle Babin

The modernist architect Ludwig Mies van der Rohe (1886-1969) coined this phrase, which turns its sinister counterpart, “The devil is in the details,” on its head. God *is* in the details, and that phrase speaks to the importance and power of liturgical planning. Liturgy is not random; rather, it shapes us and forms us into new people, the people that God calls us to be as we live more and more into the image of Christ.

Perhaps you were surprised when you walked into the barn on September 10 and noticed that we began the program year with a new arrangement of the liturgical space at the 9 A.M. Holy Eucharist. This arrangement resulted after much thought among members of the worship commission, Abigail, and me. *God is in the details*. The arrangement of liturgical space says something theological, and it draws us in, as worshippers, to a new reality initiated by the reign of Christ.

The chairs are positioned in “choir,” or collegiate, style: the room is divided into two parallel sections of chairs that face inward. This type of seating is used in the chancels of many Episcopal parishes, where the choir sits at the front; it is also seen in monasteries, cathedrals, and in some college, school, and seminary chapels. This seating invites us, the people of God, to see God in each other, to see the image of Christ assembled all around us in worship.

All liturgical spaces have three primary liturgical foci around which major liturgical action occurs; each of these foci says something about why we are gathered in worship.

- The **FONT** is at the end of the barn from which the procession of clergy, choir, and acolytes enters for Holy Eucharist. The font is indeed the entrance to the church, for baptism marks one’s place in the Body of Christ in sacramental form, and it is therefore commonly placed near the entrances of churches. In some cases, people entering the church dip their hands in fonts filled with blessed water and make the sign of the cross as reminders of their baptism.
- The **AMBO** is the lectern from which the Word of God is proclaimed in scripture and sermon, which comprise the first major section of the service of Holy Eucharist in *The Book of Common Prayer*. We assemble together to hear God’s Word proclaimed in our midst.
- The **ALTAR or HOLY TABLE** is positioned at the opposite end of the barn, near the choir area. Having heard the Word of God proclaimed, the Body of Christ responds, gathering in communion in the context of a sacred meal, the second major section of the service of Holy Eucharist. At the altar, Christ meets us in the form of bread and wine. This is where the vertical, transcendent dimension of God’s presence intersects powerfully with the horizontal, immanent nature of God’s presence in the assembled people. For this reason, it is common practice for people to bow to the altar as a sign of respect for the place where God meets us in tangible form, which we eat and drink. The position of the choir behind the altar reinforces its role as a body of sacred ministers assisting in worship of God.

The main liturgical foci of the barn are all on the same axis. This arrangement reinforces the reality that all three liturgical actions—baptism, the proclamation of the Word, and the celebration of Holy Communion—are intimately connected. A seemingly ordinary arrangement of furniture in a worship space has rich theological meaning. Understanding this intentionality allows us to enter more fully into the sacred mysteries that we celebrate each time we gather in worship of God. *God is in the details!*

So That Our Sheep May Graze. and Drink . . .



Even though our sheep in the churchyard never take a vacation day, our parishioner shepherds do go on vacation occasionally! That’s why we are asking for volunteers who will fill in when our daily shepherds aren’t available to care for the sheep that keep our grounds in check. No prior shepherding experience is necessary; we provide the training. If you would like more information, please contact Susan Dovey (srdovey@verizon.net) for details.

Generous God † Grateful Giving

by Holly Hardester

So much has happened at St. Peter's in this year. Eight of our young people completed a mission trip to Boston. The Rev. Dr. Kyle Babin became our assistant rector. Elizabeth Dwyer joined our staff as a part-time secretary. We once again have a children's choir. New members have joined the Wednesday morning prayer group. The food ministry now collaborates with St. Peter's Church, Phoenixville, to provide meals to the disadvantaged. All of these roles and programs and several others have been strengthened by your financial contributions. Thank you. God has done good work in and through us, and God has more for us to do.

Soon it will be time for us to pledge for 2018. Before doing so, however, please take time to ask how you have experienced God at work in your life. Did you have a memorable summer experience, or an unforgettable experience years ago? Have you known God's presence in your professional life? Have your children told you about talking with God? Have you found God in one of life's low or darker places? Have you seen God in moments of joy? The stewardship commission would like to hear your stories, no matter how brief, and encourages you to write them down and pass them along to the commission, by placing them in the offering plate, mailing them to the church office (attention: stewardship), or emailing them to SPGVStewardship@gmail.com. Please identify yourself and provide contact information; your response will not be made public without your permission.

Grateful Giving is one of the ways we respond to our **Generous God**. St. Peter's pledge goal for 2018 is \$478,000. Meeting this pledge goal will both sustain current ministries and enable St. Peter's to reach the communities surrounding it. Please prayerfully consider increasing your pledge by 10% or more.

You will receive a pledge card through the mail by October 16. If you prefer to submit your pledge online, you can do so by clicking on "Giving" at www.stpetersgv.org. We will gather and bless all pledges at all three morning worship services on November 5.

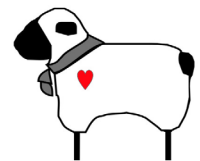
A Note for Seniors about the QCD Pledging Option

If you are over 70 ½ and receiving the Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) from a traditional IRA, you may be able to designate a portion of the RMD as a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) and have those funds contributed to St. Peter's Church to fulfill your pledge. We have therefore added QCD to the 2018 pledge card as a pledge payment option. Using a QCD to support St. Peter's may reduce tax liability for some, but it is important to consult a tax adviser to determine if this option is right for your particular circumstances.

Pastoral Care Corner: Wrapped in Prayers

Do you know someone who needs to be comforted? Someone who is experiencing an illness or recovering from an injury? Someone who has lost a family member or close friend or is struggling because of a job loss or family conflict? Prayer shawls are intended for such situations. The gift of a shawl is a symbolic way of wrapping someone in prayers and in the love of God; it is a tangible way of providing warmth and comfort

A continuous supply of prayer shawls, knitted and blessed by members of St. Peter's needlework ministry, can be found on the shelf above the coat rack in both the church and barn. They are there for the taking. Knitted for both men and women, they are intended to be used both by parishioners and also by others whom we know. Choose an appropriate shawl, record your selection in the notebook (also located on the shelf), and share God's love through the gift of a shawl.



Beginnings by Stacy Warkentine

It's beginning to feel a lot like fall. While we are sad to see summer end, we are happy to have our kiddos back at school. They have all settled in nicely and are learning the new routines. Our 2-day class loves their new "digs" in the barn, where the natural light and extra wiggle room make for a winning combination. We are blessed to be able to take advantage of such an amazing space!



We are excited about our new enrichment program that starts this month. The children can sign up to stay until 3 P.M. on Wednesdays and participate in this program, for which Mrs. Brown (our 3-day teacher) and Mrs. Furin (our 2-day teacher) have created an incredible curriculum involving fun-filled, hands-on activities. Each week they will rotate through topics like alphabet literacy, math and manipulatives, creative cooking, and science in this program, which is an extension of the current curriculum and philosophy. Eleven children are enrolled in the program, which we hope to continue in the future, perhaps eventually adding extra days.

We also want to take this opportunity to give a big shout out to the Bad Boys for Jesus, who worked extra hard to prepare our space for the start of school and continue to help maintain things now. Their smiling faces always appear just when we need them, so we couldn't be any luckier! St. Peter's is truly a great place to be!

Sign-ups for the photo directory continue after all services on **October 8 and 15!** Because most of the slots were taken on the very first day of sign-ups, we now have three more days of photo sittings, December 1, 2, and 3. Be sure to make an appointment, no matter how long you have been attending St. Peter's!



Foyers - Please Join Us

If you have been missing out on our Foyers groups, a fun way to get to know other parishioners, read on! To participate in Foyers, simply let Lynn Mander know (lsmander@gmail.com or 610-613-5358). She will then ask you to answer a few questions that will help us create groups according to needs and location.

Each group decides for itself whether to meet monthly for dinner, brunch, or lunch. Typically, the host serves the entrée and everyone else provides salad, dessert, or appetizer, plus a beverage of choice. Since we are now mixing up the groups instead of keeping each group together for the whole year, fall is a good time to join Foyers.

- All the parishioners who contributed to the "Back to School" drive for the students at St. James School;
- Gail Guthridge, Charlene Hanbury, and Sandy Mannix who made the eclipse party happen, and everyone who helped make it so much fun, including Judy Jones, J.P. Infortuna and friends, and Dave and Mary Ann Tatum;
- Holly Hardester and Beth Hacker for organizing the August Sunday school ice cream social;
- The more than forty parishioners who spruced up our buildings and grounds on Labor Day, and Char Mark who spent additional days cleaning the choir vesting room in the church;
- Eileen Klein for her dedication to all aspects of our expanding food ministries, and those who help make the meals happen;
- Jason and Beth Hacker, and Gail Guthridge for hosting Fall Fest, and everyone who brought food to the party;
- The fall term Sunday school teachers, and Holly Hardester, who oversees children's Christian formation;
- Debi Lynch who led children's chapel for many years before her recent move, and Dan Houston for taking her place;
- Ryan Battin and Katie Franz for orchestrating the ministries fair, and Liam Reid for setting up the tables;
- Gail Malcolm for all of her work with both High Point and parish events;
- The Bad Boys for repairing the churchyard and preschool stone walls;
- The two Girl Scouts who created five boxes to offer maps of our property to those who visit on foot.



Children's Formation

Sunday school is in full swing and runs through the end of the school year. All children aged four through sixth grade, whether their families are members of St. Peter's or not, are invited to come to the lower level of the barn on any Sunday morning between 10:20 and 11:05. The teachers understand that some activities unavoidably limit children's regular attendance, and invite them to attend as their schedules permit.

Weekly activities are designed to help each child grow in their love and knowledge of Jesus through singing, lessons, activities, games and special events. Each Sunday school day begins in the choir room, where Ryan Battin leads the children's choir in learning songs that it offers periodically in worship services. Lessons focus on the day's gospel reading: the scripture lesson is retold as a story the children can talk about, enact, or respond to in other ways. Occasionally the children visit the gardens, labyrinth, and sheep; this year they will also go on "field trips" to learn about the historic church and the barn. The children regularly participate in an outreach project that benefits St. Peter's ministries like The Clinic and Church Housing, while December brings opportunities to create Advent wreaths and participate in the Christmas Eve pageant.

Contact Holly Hardester (hahardester@gmail.com/484-319-6323) if you have questions or want more information about Sunday school.



CHRISTIAN FORMATION FOR ALL AGES

Youth Ministry

St. Peter's youth ministry is off to a vibrant start! In addition to weekly Sunday morning meetings to talk about our life in God—our experiences of the Holy, as well as our doubts and questions—we also have regular evening events for fun and fellowship. On the last Friday in September, a group assembled at Escape the Room in King of Prussia to attempt to unlock a mystery through teamwork and collegiality. Did the young people manage to get out of the room successfully? Ask one of them! On October 1, the youth assisted with the Blessing of Animals. And everyone is already looking ahead to the 7 P.M. churchyard/cemetery scavenger hunt on Friday, November 10, and to the hot cider, hot chocolate, and desserts after the hunt.

As always, all are welcome, at any time, to join the youth group, and no one needs to participate both on Sunday mornings and Friday evenings. And, if possible, please invite a friend! For more information, contact Kyle (kyle@stpetersgv.org).

October Adult Formation

Together, the people of St. Peter's grapple with issues, ideas, and inquiries to build community and grow in faith. If you haven't already picked up a brochure detailing the adult formation offerings through Advent, please do; they are available in the gathering spaces of both buildings.

Our three-part Sunday morning exploration of Henri Nouwen's *The Return of the Prodigal Son*, facilitated by Holly Hardester, continues through **October 8**. The book helps us experience Luke's familiar parable (15:11-32) through both Rembrandt's life story and depiction of the parable, and also the author's responses as a viewer of the masterpiece.

On **October 15 and 29**, parishioner Rodney Platt will lead a conversation about environmental

stewardship to guide us toward enlightened and sustainable attitudes and actions as individuals, as a parish, and as members of a community. Building on Martin McElroy's 2016 presentation on *Laudato Si' – On Care for Our Common Home* and on his own work in Phoenixville, Rod will explore with us what we are doing in our homes and at St. Peter's, and will offer suggestions about organizations with which we can connect to reduce our impact on the environment.

On **October 22**, Bishop Gutiérrez visits St. Peter's for confirmation and conversation. Plan to join us after the 10 A.M. service to hear about the state of the diocese and to bring up issues on our minds here at St. Peter's. (See page 2 for details about the morning.)

For more information about adult formation, contact Melissa Shaner (myshaner@verizon.net or 610-296-7621).

OUTREACH NEWS AND NOTES

Creating a Better Home and Lifted Spirits

by Randy Klein

Last month, our Good Works team held a simple, moving dedication ceremony marking the completion of their work at Elwin Yerger's mobile home in Phoenixville. It opened with thanks for "God's guidance and a lot of hard work by many volunteers over the past year and a half" and included a prayer that "our work serve as a witness to Elwin and this community of God's power and love."

The team also presented several gifts to Elwin: a copy of *Jesus Calling* to serve as "a daily conversation with Jesus, as you begin each day listening to his message of his never-ending love and concern for you," as Catherine Kerrison said; a hand-painted plaque prepared especially for him as a reminder of the time Good Works spent with him (which now hangs beside a large photo of Elwin's grandchildren); a prayer shawl knitted for him by a member of St. Peter's needlework ministry; and a tree of his choice, which he immediately decided would be a peach tree, because "I like peaches!" A delicious lunch and good conversation followed the dedication ceremony, and was the team's last chance to enjoy Elwin's skill as a raconteur who loves to talk about his time in the army, his work as a custodian, his late wife, and his interest in medieval church architecture.

During their eighteen months at Elwin's home, your St. Peter's team accomplished the Good Works goal of making homes "safer, warmer, drier" in a number of ways. For example, they improved its electrical safety by installing GFI outlets in the kitchen and bathroom, repairing loose outlets, and installing a ceiling fan/light in the kitchen and a new ceiling light in a bedroom. To give Elwin safe access to his home, they built new landings and stairs for both entries and installed a new storm door to keep the home warmer and drier. They repaired and replaced flooring in two rooms, repaired the ceiling in the living room and bathroom, and replaced his faulty kitchen faucet. Elwin especially appreciates the new walk-in shower they installed to replace his bathtub.

If these details about what the team accomplished include things that you can do to improve someone's life – or skills that you would like to "learn by doing" – please contact Randy Klein (randolphklein@hotmail.com) or Mark Carkhuff (mtcarhuff@gmail.com). We offer on-the-job training, so all are welcome to join this hands-on ministry. You, too, can lift someone's spirits and make his or her home "warmer, safer, and drier."



Homeowner Elwin Yerger [front] paused after the dedication for a photo op with St. Peter's "Good Workers" who were there to help him celebrate his newly renovated home: [left to right] Abigail, Randy Klein, David Graves, Ken Fleischer, Elwin, Catherine Kerrison, and Mark Carkhuff. Fellow team members missing from the photo are Tom Brehm, Rick Duffield, David Eddy, and Karen Joyce, who couldn't be there for the dedication.

Chester Children's Chorus to Return in November

by Kate Mallon-Day

A number of years have passed since the Chester Children's Chorus last filled St. Peter's barn with their glorious sound, and the outreach commission and choirs are thrilled to welcome them back for a concert at 7:30 P.M. on **Saturday, November 18!** This season's CCC concert program includes excerpts from Mozart's *Requiem*, along with arrangements of songs from a variety of musical traditions. This year, though, a new feature awaits us: this performance will bring the CCC together with our own choir in several pieces. John Alston, CCC's artistic director, strives to introduce some classic choral anthems to these talented youngsters, and is excited about blending our sound with theirs.

The evening will begin with a church and community potluck dinner at 6 P.M. in the lower level of the barn, which will give us the opportunity to welcome the children, most of whom live in the city of Chester, and to learn about them as individuals. The CCC is one of St. Peter's core outreach ministries, and we are excited about sponsoring this concert. Although tickets are not required for the concert, a free-will offering will be collected.

Details about the potluck dinner menu will appear later in the next *Beacon*, Keynotes, and Sunday leaflets. We will need help setting up the dinner and arranging chairs for the concert, and then more help after the concert rearranging the chairs for worship the next morning. Please contact Kate Mallon-Day (610-613-8965 or kantakate@aol.com) for further information and to offer your help. And please do spread the word about this event to friends beyond the St. Peter's community, so that we can share this wonderful evening with many!

A Record-Breaking Darby Dinner

Diners at our September dinner at the Darby Community Center included the area's state representative and Darby school superintendent, as well as many families whose children were treated to haircuts for the start of school in the adjacent rec hall. This added activity upped the number of people we served to an all-time high of 139! This record thrilled Vicar Doris and encouraged her to keep growing this wonderful community ministry. We were a bit concerned about whether we had brought enough food, but in fact could offer seconds as well as leftovers for people to take home. One woman asked when our church is coming again, because she wants to be on hand to enjoy our delicious and festive dinner! We can't ask for a better compliment than that!

A heartfelt "thank you" to the passionate parishioners who are committed to helping the Darby community – God's work in action, for sure! If you are inspired to be part of this ministry as a shopper, cook, food transporter or server, please contact Eileen Klein (eileenklein@live.com).

MORE OUTREACH NEWS AND NOTES

Give a Stranger the Gift of Life

You can give the gift of life to an injured or ill person when you come to church on **October 8!** The Red Cross bloodmobile will be at St. Peter's that day between 8 A.M. and 1 P.M., so you make only one trip up our hill that day. To make an appointment to donate blood, you need only visit the Red Cross website (www.redcrossblood.org). While at the website, you can also download their app to learn exactly where and how your blood is being used. If you want more information or have questions about eligibility to give blood, please contact Brenda Grove (brenda.grove@villanova.edu).

Give a Senior Citizen the Gift of Reading

Do you like to read? So do the seniors living in the Church Housing apartments in Phoenixville! Are copies of last year's beach books or other light reads and familiar classics taking up precious space in your home? Are you a book lover who just can't throw out books? If so, we invite you to "recycle" them by passing them on to the senior residents of Church Housing in Phoenixville. Parishioner Kathryn Evans, who manages the apartments, will collect all the books you donate until Thanksgiving and add them to the building's lending library, for her residents to enjoy, especially during the winter.

A SEPTEMBER PHOTO ALBUM



SPRUCE-UP DAY

Most, but not all, of the Labor Day spruce-up volunteers enjoyed a delicious and well-deserved lunch break. The workers not pictured here opted to delay or skip lunch in order to finish the projects they had chosen to undertake. Thank you, everyone, seen and unseen!

FALL FEST 2017



The weather cooperated perfectly with our Fall Fest plans, and young and not-so-young all enjoyed a delightful evening to kick off the new program year. While some [left] spent the evening chatting with friends new and old over delicious *hors d'oeuvres*, others [above] tried their hands (and feet) in a St. Peter's version of the cakewalk, which earned winners — no surprise here — a cake!

October 1
Blessing of the Animals
4 P.M.

October 2
Book discussion
7 P.M.

October 4
Inquirers class
6 P.M.

October 7
Needlework ministry
10 A.M.

October 8
Blood drive
8 A.M. to 1 P.M.

October 11
Inquirers class
6 P.M.

October 13 to 15
Women's retreat



October

October 16
Book discussion
7 P.M.

October 18
Inquirers class
6 P.M.

October 19 to 22
Photo appointments, 1st session

October 22
Bishop's visit
Services at 8 and 10 A.M.
Brunch and conversation
follow the 10 A.M. service

October 25
Moonlight labyrinth walk
7 P.M.

October 28
Barn dance
5 to 9 P.M.

Coming November 5
Ingathering and blessing of pledges
and
Compline, 7:30 P.M.

August Financial Snapshot

	August 2017	Year to Date August	Year-end Projection	Budget 2017
Parishioner Contributions	\$ 21,926	\$ 299,194	\$446,735	\$454,350
Total Income	36,744	401,464	648,851	642,932
Total Expense	50,894	414,403	644,617	642,932
Surplus/ (Deficit)	(14,150)	(12,939)	4,234	0
<i>Mortgage Payment</i>	\$ 1,488			
<i>Interest</i>	674			
<i>Principal</i>	814			
<i>Mortgage Balance</i>	208,123			

*The finance commission has reviewed this summary.
Please direct any questions about it to Joe Herbst, chair, or any other member.*



St. Peter's Church in the Great Valley
 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
 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
 November *Beacon*
 is **October 15.**

Every Week at St. Peter's

Sunday

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

Tuesday

7 P.M. Open Me Up**

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



Blood Drive
October 8
8 A.M. to 1 P.M.

Visit
www.redcross.org
 to register