



St. Peter's Church
IN THE GREAT VALLEY

✠
1700

The Beacon

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

September 2017

Willingness to Wonder

by the Rev. Abigail Crozier Nestlehutt

The school bus did not venture out as far as my neighborhood when I was a girl. The home to which we moved when I was five was just far enough away to be considered out of our elementary school district and not really in another. My mother convinced the principal to allow us to continue to attend Hunnewell School, but transportation was not part of the deal. Forty years later that same home is now in a “fashionable” area where the original houses of my childhood are being replaced with larger, more up-to-date ones. The stream that supplied hours of exploratory adventures in my youth is gone. It is as if it has been blocked off from its source in order to ensure dry ground for the new homes being built in places formerly inhabited only by ferns, wild flowers and chipmunks. I imagine there is at least one school bus route entirely dedicated to the neighborhood these days.

You have witnessed similar changes to the landscape around St. Peter's. Not so long ago our sixteen acres were entirely tucked away and secluded; now we are a neighborhood church. The Atwater community reached 25% occupancy this summer and has held its first homeowners association meeting in our barn. By this time next year the Sage Senior Living community will be almost ready to welcome its first residents. Every day new people stroll onto campus and are enchanted to find such a beautiful spot and delighted to be greeted by friendly parishioners. Our view is different, but St. Peter's is as beautiful and appreciated as ever.

September brings the start of a new program year and it will be an exciting one. After a terrific summer of getting to know one another over suppers and welcoming our assistant rector, we have a fall full of opportunities ahead. You will find that our usual programs have been thoughtfully planned and that we have added a few new things. In general, we are building upon, as well as adding to, the strong ministries of St. Peter's, paying attention to the needs and interests of existing parishioners while also attempting to anticipate the needs of new neighbors.

Each day I see evidence of God at work in and around St. Peter's through each of you. There are the obvious signs, like the buzz of activity around campus during the week or the energy of Sunday mornings, as well as more subtle ones: quiet moments of prayer, tender care extended in a time of need. Perhaps most importantly, I see the community listening with open hearts for the ways in which God is calling us at this unique time. Openness, willingness to wonder and invite, desire to figure out how to follow Jesus—*that* is exciting. Thank you. I encourage you to read about all that is going on at St. Peter's and I invite you to participate in new ways.

What Sweeter Music?

by the Rev. Kyle Babin

One of the many great blessings of St. Peter's is its fantastic music program. With numerous choirs, a first-rate director of music, talented singers, committed participants, two splendid pipe organs, and splendid acoustics, St. Peter's has a veritable embarrassment of riches in the music arena. I am looking forward to the start of the program year so that I can experience firsthand the full extent of our parish's rich music program. Music holds a special place in my heart. But more than this, I also know that music is a window to the Divine. Any art that we Christians create on this fragile earth, although made with human hands, is done to the glory of God. It is our earthly praise. It is the perhaps unwieldy way in which we fumble for a language to express the great mystery of God, knowing that we will never be able to adequately bottle up God's glory. Music, in its own ineffable way, helps us to offer up the yearnings of our hearts in worship when words falter. Music elevates our worship on Sunday mornings and other occasions to a new level of praise.

At St. Peter's, we will add something to our praise during the 11:15 choral Eucharist beginning this program year: Abigail and I will sing various parts of the liturgy as a way of taking our praise of God to new heights. The liturgy is, in fact, meant to be sung, as much as possible. My seminary liturgy professor always said that the default mode of the liturgy is singing. Music can add just a little something to one particular service so that it stands out from others. To that end, in addition to parts of the Eucharistic prayer that we will sing on most Sundays, from time to time for major feasts, we will sing the opening acclamation, the collect of the day, and the dismissal. This extra singing helps to set apart our liturgies as extra-ordinary, and on feasts, extra music (including choral Mass settings by the choir) signals that the liturgical year is characterized by a rhythm of feasts, fasts, and "ordinary" time.

Many Episcopalians (including many church musicians!) are unaware of the vast array of musical resources for the liturgy present in the 1982 *Hymnal*. All the parts of the service that we will begin to sing this fall are in our hymnal. With the development of the 1979 *Book of Common Prayer* and the 1982 *Hymnal*, it was clear that music was to be an integral part of the Church's regular praise. In the Anglican tradition, which greatly values beauty, it makes sense that our adoration of God's wonder and majesty occurs through music. While our Reformed heritage gives due emphasis to the Word, our Catholic roots summon us to bask in the beauty of art and music as a means of expressing what words cannot say.

I hope that this new way of singing parts of the Holy Eucharist will help unite our voices in song in unexpected ways. The fact that we can participate in such rich services here at St. Peter's is a real occasion for gratitude—gratitude for a God who gifted us all with creative powers, powers that we mold and caress into praise for a God who is so much larger than anything we can possibly imagine.



The Beacon

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Psalm 36:9

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Friday, September 8
6 to 8:30 P.M.

Please bring an appetizer for 6 to 8.

Growing Up into Christ—The Youth Ministry at St. Peter’s

by the Rev. Kyle Babin

We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine, by people’s trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming. But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ. (Ephesians 4:14-15)

This passage from the Letter to the Ephesians speaks about spiritual maturity – which is not self-serving but rooted in community and mutual love for one another in Christ. The author asserts time and again that “it takes a village” to do the work of God in Christ. Everyone has different gifts, and a healthy spiritual community values and affirms the diverse gifts of individuals working together toward one goal: love and service of Christ through love and service towards one’s neighbor. As I learned about the youth ministry at St. Peter’s, I heard of the many ways in which the youth of the parish have acted out of spiritual maturity this year and was impressed by their deep and difficult conversations on Sunday mornings, as well as their successful mission trip, participation in outreach, and shared times of close-knit fellowship. It is clear to me, as a newcomer here, that the youth of the parish have greatly enriched the life of the whole community.

And so I’m excited about being involved with the youth ministry this program year. Thanks to Deby Harrison, Abigail, parents, and teachers, the youth group flourished this past year, and I hope the youth ministry will continue to grow – in numbers, but most importantly, in faith and love for Christ. At the same time, I recognize that adolescence is both a time of change and challenge and a time to explore perplexing questions of faith, doubt, and skepticism. Our youth ministry is open to all of this. Skeptics and doubters are welcome. *Everyone* is welcome and is held in the love of Christ. As Episcopalians in the Anglican tradition, we greatly value reason and experience in our growing relationship with God, and we should feel confident in our ability to hold differing viewpoints, ask tough questions, and discuss controversial matters under a big tent of God’s generous grace.

This year’s youth ministry program is shaping up to be exciting. In our regular Sunday morning meetings from 10:10 to 11:05, we will explore a variety of issues and topics, guided by a topical scheme of Experience, Reason, Scripture, and Tradition. We will also gather monthly for an evening activity of fun, including outings to Escape the Room, Old City, and the Philadelphia Museum of Art, a graveyard scavenger hunt coinciding with All Saints’ Day, an overnight at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York City, and more! The year will conclude with another mission trip (location to be determined), during which the youth will play their part in being Christ’s hands and feet for the world.

The youth group is open to all 7th- through 12th-graders, whether parishioners or not, and friends are always welcome. If you are interested in learning more about the youth ministry, please contact me (kyle@stpetersgv.org). We hope you will join in the fun as we grow more maturely into love for our risen Lord.



Sunday School Opens September 17



Sunday school for 4-year-olds through 6th-graders resumes on September 17, from 10:20 to 11:05 A.M. in the lower level of the barn. Each day is planned to help each children grow in their love and knowledge of Jesus in a variety of ways. First, Ryan Battin teaches the children new songs for them to offer during services periodically. After choir time, classes focus on the day’s gospel reading, retold as a story which the children can discuss, act out, or respond to in other ways. Occasionally, the children visit the labyrinth, gardens, sheepcote, and both the church and barn. They also participate in an outreach project benefiting a St. Peter’s focus ministry, and in December they make Advent wreaths and participate in the Christmas Eve pageant.

Parents can register their children for Sunday school at the ministry fair on September 10, or on the first Sunday their children attend. All children are invited to participate in Sunday school, whether their families are members of St. Peter’s or not. Activities that conflict with regular Sunday school attendance are understandably unavoidable, but children are free to attend as schedules permit. Contact Holly Hardester (hahardester@gmail.com, 484-319-6323) for additional information.

Adult Christian Formation Resumes This Month

by Melissa Shaner



In adulthood, our ways of interacting with God and the church evolve, and continuing to nurture and nourish our desire for understanding is important to our growth as Christians. At St. Peter's, questions, doubts, bold ideas, and unfinished musings are welcomed as we seek to engage with God's word in all its forms through the gifts we have been given—including our intellect and one another. Adult forum, which is led by parishioners, clergy, and guests, meets almost every Sunday from 10:20 to 11:05, usually in the barn.

On September 17, adult formation will be devoted to an exploration of Bishop Gutiérrez' letter to the diocese in response to the recent events in Charlottesville (It appears at www.diopa.org and will also be reprinted as a bulletin insert.) In his message, the bishop makes a number of suggestions. How are we already working for justice and peace? What else can we do? This challenging time is an opportunity for us to reflect on and perhaps reimagine our roles as individuals and as the St Peter's community. He urges that "in the name of our Savior we must act now to heal ourselves, our nation and our world. With God's help we will find a way to lead our church and to lead our country. May God open our eyes to see in one another His own divine likeness that we may then truly become instruments of God's peace." We expect this session to be the beginning of an ongoing conversation within our parish.

On **September 24**, Holly Hardester will launch a three-week study of Henri Nouwen's book, *The Return of the Prodigal Son*. According to Holly, "Rembrandt's painting of the same name, which is housed in the Hermitage Museum, is considered to be not only his greatest work, but also one of the greatest paintings of all time. An encounter that Nouwen had with a poster featuring Rembrandt's *The Return of the Prodigal Son* inspired him to travel to St. Petersburg to sit in its presence for hours, and then write a book. Through Rembrandt's depiction of the familiar parable in Luke 15:11-32, Rembrandt's life story, and his own responses, Nouwen leads us to experience the parable in new ways. With whom do you identify--the lost and found younger son, the dutiful and dependable older brother, or the father who knows deep pain and yet loves more deeply?" Come explore this book with us; reading it beforehand is desirable but not mandatory. Copies will be available for purchase at the ministry fair on September 10. The book can also be accessed on the Web, and the painting can be viewed there as well, including on Wikipedia.

Sunday mornings in upcoming months will feature guest speakers, visitors from the diocese (including Bishop Gutiérrez), and topics like environmental stewardship and the gospels. Please stop by our table at the Ministries Fair on **September 10** to pick up a fall schedule and to share your ideas and opinions with me.

Full Moon Labyrinth Walk

Come join us to explore the contemplative power of the labyrinth under autumn's full harvest moon from 7 to 8.30 on **Wednesday evening, September 6**. The labyrinth offers a deep sense of possibility; its ancient form guides us into our inner wisdom. This meditative walking path invites the healing, integration and peace that we crave in our modern world, and all are welcome to attend.



Moonlight
Labyrinth Walk

Shannon Mannon, who is leading the walk and reflections, will meet us on the lower level of the barn. Please dress comfortably and wear walking shoes. And don't forget to invite friends and neighbors to join you and us for the walk!

Meet Us at the Ministry Fair!

Everyone is heartily invited to visit St. Peter's annual ministry fair when it returns on **Sunday, September 10**. Plan to visit the lower level of the barn between 10:10 and 11:05 that morning to learn about the many varied opportunities that we have at St. Peter's to serve one another and the community. The fair is a great way to get more involved in the life of St. Peter's while enjoying coffee and snacks with fellow parishioners.



During the fair, Sunday-school-aged children will enjoy their own special activities, and the youth (junior- and senior-high-schoolers) will have their first official meeting of the new program year.

Fall Inquirers Class: Welcome to the Episcopal Church!

by the Rev. Kyle Babin

WHY MIGHT I WANT TO PARTICIPATE IN THE INQUIRERS CLASS?

One of the major occasions in the life of an Episcopal congregation is the official visitation of a diocesan bishop. As chief shepherd of God's flock within a certain region of God's Church, a bishop's visit to a parish helps connect a local congregation with its larger place within the Church catholic, the worldwide Church. It is therefore fitting that the bishop witnesses mature commitments in faith of individual members of the Church. Thus, when The Rt. Rev. Daniel G.P. Gutiérrez makes his first official visitation to St. Peter's on Sunday, October 22, we hope that a number of individuals will be ready to be confirmed and received into the Episcopal Church, or to reaffirm their baptismal vows. That said, what "path" one should take in preparation for an affirmation of any sort before a bishop is often unclear (even within the canons of the Episcopal Church!) Here is a rough breakdown, which will, I hope, be somewhat helpful.

- **Confirmation** is for all who have been baptized and intend to make a "mature public affirmation of their faith and commitment to the responsibilities of their Baptism" (BCP, 412). This action in faith is appropriate for any baptized person who has not yet publicly witnessed to the vows made in baptism. Since baptism is considered full initiation into the life of the Church, the rite of confirmation is simply a mature affirmation and recognition of what was accomplished in the Sacrament of Baptism, which occurs for many in infancy. The Episcopal Church canons recognize confirmation as any "mature public affirmation" of faith in any denomination. Someone already confirmed in another denomination does not need to be confirmed again in the Episcopal Church.
- **Reception** is intended for anyone who wishes to become an "official" Episcopalian. In other words, if someone has been a full member of another denomination, he or she can be received "into the fellowship" of the Episcopal Church (BCP, 418).
- **Reaffirmation of Baptismal Vows** is appropriate for anyone who has been baptized and wishes to make a recommitment to those vows, perhaps understanding that a more mature appreciation of those vows has occurred in his or her faith journey.
- All these paths of public commitment in faith have one thing in common: they involve the laying on of hands by a bishop after a public attestation in faith. Such an affirmation before a bishop in the Episcopal Church is an opportunity for the wider community of God's people to witness to a person's commitment in faith to the Way of our Lord Jesus Christ.

WHAT WILL THE INQUIRERS CLASS AT ST. PETER'S INVOLVE?

It is designed to give a broad, general overview of aspects of the life of the Episcopal Church; it is intended to answer basic questions about the Episcopal Church and the tradition in which it is rooted. The class is not geared only to newcomers to the Episcopal Church; it also offers long-term Episcopalians an opportunity to immerse themselves in aspects of their faith tradition.

The class meets from 6 to 8 on six Wednesday evenings, beginning September 13. A light, half-hour supper precedes conversation and instruction, and the class ends with a simple worship service. The topical schedule is as follows:

- Sept. 13—The Church Local and Catholic: St. Peter's, the Episcopal Church, and the Anglican Communion
- Sept. 20—The Beauty of Holiness: Worship in the Episcopal Church
- Sept. 27—The Word of God: Scripture in the Episcopal Church
- Oct. 4—The Church Ancient and Modern: Teaching and Tradition
- Oct. 11—The Middle Way: Introduction to Anglican Thought and Spirituality
- Oct. 18—The Means of Grace: The Sacraments

Abigail and I hope that many of you will join us for fellowship, education, and conversation on these evenings. All are welcome, so this is a great opportunity to invite friends who are simply curious about the Episcopal Church! Attendees are not obliged to be confirmed or received or to reaffirm their baptismal vows. For more information, please contact either of us (abigail@stpetersgv.org; kyle@stpetersgv.org).

"You Oughta Be in Pictures"

by Trudi Graves

Yes, that's right—you, the parishioners of St. Peter's, should definitely be sure to have your photo included in the upcoming new edition of our parish photo directory! Since our last photo directory is a decade old, it is high time to publish one that reflects our new members and new staff, as well as the current appearance of those in the 2007 directory. The latest edition will help Abigail, Kyle, and *all* of us establish "facial recognition" of each other.

To accomplish this project, St. Peter's has engaged DisciplePix, an independent producer of church directories whose work Abigail came to know while serving in Maryland. A professional photographer formed the small company after successfully creating directories for his own church; independently owned, it serves a limited geographic area—the Chesapeake/Delmarva area and now this part of Pennsylvania. Representatives of the communications commission reviewed the company's work and were favorably impressed by its high quality; they also appreciated both the company's ability to accommodate our scheduling needs and timetable and also the fact that the directory itself comes at no cost to St. Peter's. All who participate in the October photo shoot will receive both a free 8x10 copy of the photo they selected for inclusion in the directory, and a free copy of the photo directory. The company representatives assure us that there is neither pressure nor obligation to buy anything, although they will be happy to sell participants additional photos in various sizes and formats to those who wish them.



Since some folks might want to use photos as Christmas presents, we have scheduled the photo shoots for **October 19, 20, 21, and 22**, so that the finished product will reach them in ample time for holiday gift-wrapping and shipping. Each sitting typically lasts from 15 to 30 minutes, depending on the number of individuals (and pets) in the photo. Upon arriving for a sitting, each participant will also be asked to approve (or correct, if necessary) all information that appears in the current (Sept. 2017) print directory.

To begin creating the directory, communications commission members will be on hand to do sign-ups for sittings after all three services on the four Sundays before the shoot: **September 24, September 30, October 5, and October 12**. All sittings will be in the parish hall; the photographer will, however, arrange a day when he will visit parish shut-ins for a special shoot.

In the coming weeks, you will hear more about this project in Keynotes, the leaflets, and Sunday announcements. We urge everyone to participate, since the usefulness of the photo directory depends on maximum exposure (pardon the pun), especially as our membership numbers continue to grow.

Reserve Your Spot at the Women's Weekend Now!

It is time to sign up for next month's women's weekend at the Temenos Retreat Center, West Chester, from Friday, October 13 to Sunday, October 15. This year's program, developed by Katie Franz and Nancy Lauby, is based on the book *All I Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten*. Going back to our childhood and bringing its lessons into our adult life can help us learn to ease the stresses we face and to have fun connecting with our "inner child."

This is a weekend of laughter, getting to know each other better, and good eating. We hope those who have never attended will join us this year, and we look forward to seeing familiar faces who have attended in the past. Although Temenos can accommodate only 20 overnight guests, it can easily accommodate Saturday-only attendees, and we hope that women who cannot commit for the whole weekend will come for the day.

As in the past, scholarships are available as well as funds for a babysitting voucher. The \$200 cost for the whole weekend includes three Saturday meals and Sunday breakfast; the Saturday-only cost, which includes three meals, is \$90. We do not offer dinner on Friday evening, but as before, we invite everyone to bring some munchies and beverage of choice (wine and alcohol are permitted at Temenos). To sign up and get answers to any questions you have, please contact Lynn Mander (at lsmander@gmail.com or 610-613-5358).

Reflections on the Youth Mission Trip

At the end of June, eight young people from St. Peter's and their adult sponsors (Abigail, Deby Harrison, and Ryan Battin) journeyed to Boston on a mission trip. Housed at Christ Church, Cambridge, they spent their working time in Dorchester, at Epiphany School, the model for our own St. James School here. The youth's primary project was assembling Ikea furniture (lots of it!) for three apartments where Epiphany's teaching fellows live. In its July newsletter, the school publicly thanked our youth, saying that they "made a big impact." Clearly their work will make a significant contribution towards the efforts of this wonderful school. We are proud of our youth! As you can see in their reflections that follow, our young people also had time for fun and fellowship in addition to their hard work!



For five days in June we embarked on a mission of service, not only to others but to ourselves. We went to Boston in an attempt to do good work but also to strengthen our faith. Over the course of a week we worked at the Epiphany School building furniture for teachers who will spend two to three years teaching there. During that time we all learned more about our work ethic, about ourselves, and about working together. But, we did not work the entire trip. Throughout the trip there were moments of fun and levity, alongside of educational and spiritual offerings. One of the best parts of the trip for me was when a few of us, led by Abigail, went to the Society of St. John the Evangelist (an Episcopal monastery) and experienced a very fulfilling religious ceremony. All in all, I consider the youth trip a success, not only measured by the furniture assembled, but also by character built. – J.P. Infortuna

During St. Peter's Service trip to the Epiphany School this summer, I learned that it is important to enrich the lives of others who are less fortunate. I understand how important education is, and am thankful for the chance to provide for students who are not presented with the same opportunities I have had. – Aleta Ross



I thought that the youth group mission trip was super fun and exciting, while still teaching me great life lessons. While I was in the middle of building the furniture, I was wondering how four pieces of Ikea merchandise could possibly improve a community in the slightest bit. But now looking back on the adventure, I have come to realize that the new furniture is just the start of a chain reaction, improving people's lives. We are providing comfort to teachers who will make an important, positive impact on the lives of the students. This chain reaction can go on and on, and overall, change the whole community for the better. Through this journey, I learned that God's love can be shown and felt in many different ways. – Callie Stoltz

I enjoyed the opportunities to explore Boston. I especially enjoyed walking the Freedom Trail with Mr. Battin and sampling ice cream around the city. – Cathryn Cheetham

My experience on the mission trip was one that was slightly unexpected, but was still engaging and exciting throughout the entire week, and the overall result was far more joyous than I had ever imagined it could be. My experience was learning to prepare myself for many situations and working with others I didn't know that well, then forming bonds with them, learning skills that would later help me in life, but most importantly, the ability to help others in places where they truly need, not just the area that appears to need fixing. It was unlike anything I have ever known, but it was also one of the best. – Mary Wirtel

[Cont. on p. 9]

The Choir Year Begins Anew!

by Bruce Glenny

O sing to the Lord a new song. (Psalm 96:1)

Why not be part of the music program at St. Peter's this year? You are invited to join one of our dedicated groups, which always welcome new members! The family, gallery, and handbell choirs kick off the new year with the annual potluck supper and first rehearsal at 6:30 P.M. on Thursday, September 7. We will eat, sing, and pray together, and of course catch up on news about our summer adventures. St. Peter's offers a group for every age and talent:

- **THE FAMILY CHOIR** leads the psalms, hymns, and service music at the 9 A.M. Eucharist each Sunday and also at special services during the year. This choir, which is open to all singers who can match pitch, sings a broad range of liturgical music. It is particularly convenient for the busy person, as it rehearses every other Thursday.
- **THE GALLERY CHOIR** sings challenging repertoire from the rich body of Anglican Church music from medieval times to the present. Membership in this choir requires weekly Thursday rehearsals and the ability to read music well; prospective members must also schedule a short interview/audition with me.
- **THE HANDBELL CHOIR**, directed by Bruce Glenny, rehearses on Thursday evenings from 6 to 7 beginning in September. New ringers of all ages are most welcome; some prior music reading knowledge is required.
- **THE CHAMBER CHOIR**, which includes accomplished singers from the parish and beyond, offers choral evensongs throughout the year.

I encourage anyone interested in joining any of these choirs to contact me (610-644-2261) to ask questions, to let me know of your interest, and to schedule an interview for the gallery choir.

Please try us out for a week or a month! We hope you will decide to join us in this important ministry for the whole year.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

Opening get-together for family, handbell and gallery choirs
Potluck supper (parish hall), 6:30 P.M.
Rehearsal and sung compline follow

FAMILY CHOIR

Rehearsals: alternate Thursdays, 7:30 to 8:30 P.M., beginning Sept. 14
Sundays: Warm-up 8:30 A.M.

HANDBELL CHOIR

Rehearsals: Thursday, 6 to 7 P.M., beginning Sept. 14

GALLERY CHOIR

Rehearsals: Thursday 7:30 or 8:30 P.M. to 9:30 P.M., beginning Sept. 14
Sundays: Warm-up 10:45 A.M. (church choir room)



**Choir
Practice**

Reminder

If you wish to accompany the choir to Westminster Abbey next August, the deadline for signing up and for paying the non-refundable \$500 deposit is **September 17**.

THE MANY FACES OF OUTREACH AT ST. PETER'S

Our Second Summer of Friday Lunches

Our six-week Friday summer lunch program at Barkley Elementary and Sacred Heart Schools in Phoenixville ended on August 4. We served pizza and other nutritious items to about twenty lively students, and their families benefitted from weekly boxes of groceries also funded by a grant. Additionally, after lunch children chose books to take home with them. A good time was had by all! A huge shout-out goes to our terrific team: Beth, Emily, and Abigail Hacker; Charlene Hanbury; Randy and Eileen Klein; Kate Mallon-Day; Shannon, Katie Jayne, Walker, and Mason Mannon; Martha Nelson; Mary Ann Tatum; and Stacy Warkentine and her children.



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



Cool, wet, and light as air—a happy moment at Camp Get-Along in July!

Chester Children's Chorus to Sing in Concert

The CCC will present a concert to benefit the Chester Eastside Ministries at 7 P.M., Saturday, **September 9**, at St. Paul's Episcopal Church (301 E. 9th Street, Chester). Admission is free, but donations will be collected and given to Chester Eastside to support their programs.

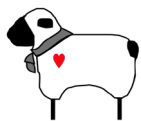
[*"Mission Trip," cont. from p. 7*]

I think the mission trip was a great bonding and learning experience. On the mission trip we learned how to communicate with one another to complete a task. Also, we had many opportunities to bond with each other. These opportunities occurred on the two seven-hour car rides, there and back, and throughout our work in Boston. In conclusion the mission trip exceeded my expectations and it is definitely something I would enjoy doing again. – Ella Jordan

When I decided to accompany our youth group on a service trip, it seemed so far in the distant future. The planning and the preparation, along with the fundraising activities during the year, supported our mutual goal of helping those less fortunate. It was hard to believe that we were finally going in late June, with nothing left to do but travel to Boston. I remember the excitement and pride I felt as I watched our youth grow and change throughout the year. I saw their passion and willingness to help others reflected in all their preparations and in their words during the sermon on the day we left.

But what I learned once we left the church showed me the gifts of those around me working in fellowship with one another, our differences, our similarities, and our uniqueness. There were moments when we were tired from working so hard and others when we were able to laugh and just have fun. All of these experiences, led to a deeper intimacy with one another and our faith life. I am grateful for the opportunity to have had this experience with our youth. It was a special time and has touched me in ways I have never imagined it would. Now that we are heading into a new year, I want to take the opportunity to thank everyone for the gift of their children, and am excited to see how our youth will use future trips such as this to grow and learn valuable lessons they can carry with them into adulthood. – Deby Harrison

Pastoral Care Corner: Eucharistic Visits



Before the post-communion prayer, St. Peter's often extends Eucharist to include those who cannot be present at the worship service. The priest places gifts of bread and wine in the travel kit and sends a Eucharistic visitor forth to share the elements with a hospitalized or homebound parishioner. These visits bring them Communion, fellowship, and the assurance that St. Peter's parishioners are thinking of them and holding them up in prayer; the visits are meaningful to all involved.

If you or someone you know would appreciate receiving a Eucharistic visit, you can arrange it by contacting the rector (abigail@stpetersgv.org), assistant rector (kyle@stpetersgv.org, 610-644-2261), or Mary Ann Tatum (maryanntatum5@gmail.com, 610-644-1549).

- Deby Harrison and Ryan Battin for chaperoning the youth trip to Boston;
- Kyle Babin for accepting the call to St. Peter's Church, and Bishop Gutiérrez for making it possible;
- Peter Neu for providing the beautiful trumpet music for our Independence Day worship;
- Jason and Beth Hacker for organizing the July 4th barbeque following worship on Sunday, July 2;
- Becky Dempsey for substituting as head shepherdess while Susan Dovey was away;
- Gail Guthridge and Pat Harvey who organized Camp Get-Along, all who helped lead activities on camp day, and all who donated lunch and supplies;
- Beth Hacker for playing the organ in Bruce Glenny's absence.



Foyers Groups "Mix It Up" This Fall

Our "summer suppers" are over, but if you enjoyed fellowship with other parishioners at a casual potluck meal, you might want to check out the year-long Foyers program. Perhaps you have been missing out on this fun way to get to know other parishioners.

Foyers is simple. You let us know that you want to participate and answer a few questions (e.g, whether your house is child-friendly, how many you can seat comfortably for a meal, whether you need to avoid steps or are allergic to pets or any foods) to help us create viable groups. Once we set up the groups, we send email addresses to their members, and from then on each group decides when and where to meet. Some meet monthly for dinner, others for brunch or lunch. Typically, the host serves an entrée and the others provide salad, dessert, and appetizer; all members bring their beverage of choice. But details like these are always decided by each group.

If you are interested in participating in Foyers this year, please contact Lynn Mander (lsmander@gmail.com or 610-613-5358), who will send you an email with a few questions. Current participants need not do a thing . . . other than tell fellow parishioners how much fun the Foyers dinners are!

Thank You, St. Peter's

In the month that I have been at St. Peter's, I have been richly blessed by your warm welcome and friendliness. I'm most grateful for the lovely welcome barbecue on July 2, as well as for the gift basket (which I'm still enjoying!) and prayer shawl. I am filled with enormous gratitude to be serving at St. Peter's with all of you, and I look forward to our work together in the Name of Jesus Christ.

*Blessings,
Kyle*

Ed. Note: To enjoy the photos that appear in *The Beacon* in living color, check out the online version at our website, www.stpetergv.org!



September 2
Needlework ministry
10 A.M.

September 8
Fall Fest
6 to 8:30 P.M.

September 4 (Labor Day)
Fall clean-up day
9 A.M. to 12 NOON

September 9
Kairos Outside
9:30 A.M.

September 20
Inquirers Class
6 P.M.

September 5
Sunday school teachers meet
7:30 P.M.

September 10
Ministries Fair
10:15 A.M.

September 24
Photo directory sign-ups
Following all services

September 6
Labyrinth walk
7 P.M.

September 13
Inquirers Class
6 P.M.

September 27
Inquirers Class
6 P.M.

September 7
Choir potluck supper & rehearsal
6:30 P.M.

September 17
First day of Sunday school
Deposit due for choir trip

September 30
Photo directory sign-ups
Following all services

Labor Day Spruce-Up

Come pitch in with fellow parishioners on **Labor Day, September 4**, to help spiff up St. Peter's before Fall Fest and the start of the new program year. From 9 to noon, we will dust, polish, paint, wash windows, and do whatever needs doing outside to freshen up St. Peter's. When we finish working at noon, a festive barbecue will help us celebrate a job "well done."



July Financial Snapshot

	July 2017	Year to Date July	Year-end Projection	Budget 2017
Parishioner Contributions	\$ 62,941	\$ 277,268	\$455,634	\$454,350
Total Income	82,890	364,684	655,969	642,932
Total Expense	43,652	363,351	652,986	642,932
Surplus/ (Deficit)	39,238	1,333	2,983	0
<i>Mortgage Payment</i>	<i>\$ 1,488</i>			
<i>Interest</i>	655			
<i>Principal</i>	833			
<i>Mortgage Balance</i>	<i>208,937</i>			

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
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 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
 October *Beacon*
 is **September 15.**

Every Week at St. Peter's

Sunday, Sept. 3

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

Sunday, Sept. 10 & thereafter

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



**BLESSING
 OF THE ANIMALS
 October 1, 4 P.M.**

We bless pets of all sorts!

**Let Abigail know if you would like
 to help plan this service,
 which takes place on the lawn
 by the historic church.**