



The Beacon

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

October 2021

Mission-driven Ministry

by the Rev. Abigail Crozier Nestlehutt

“Who do you say that I am?” Jesus asks. It is a daunting and awesome question to his early followers who are struggling to understand this man who defies their expectations. Peter responds, “You are the Messiah.”

Inspired by this exchange, I invited you, in a sermon last month, to consider how people in the communities around us would describe St. Peter’s. Then, we began the September vestry meeting by answering, in one or two words, “Who (or what) do you say St. Peter’s Church in the Great Valley is?”

In every age the Church has asked this question in one way or another. National and international events have always had an impact on ministry and have required the faithful to respond. Like generations before us, we must examine the nature of Christian community in relation to the needs of the world. The response to this complicated challenge begins with simple questions.

On page 845 of *The Book of Common Prayer* you will find a section labeled “An Outline of the Faith Commonly Called the Catechism,” which is an intentionally succinct set of questions and answers designed to encourage further engagement through conversation. Whenever I find myself bogged down in the administrative details of parish life or wearied by the magnitude of my responsibility as a Christian, I refer to the section having to do with the mission of the Church.

Q. What is the mission of the Church?

A. The mission of the Church is to restore all people to unity with God and each other in Christ.

Q. How does the Church pursue its mission?

A. The Church pursues its mission as it prays and worships, proclaims the Gospel, and promotes justice, peace, and love.

Q. Through whom does the Church carry out its mission?

A. The Church carries out its mission through the ministry of all its members.

St. Peter’s will remain a healthy, thriving parish by focusing on mission and evaluating our ministries through that lens. We will spend our time, talent, and treasure on worship, formation, outreach, programs, and activities grounded in the good news of God’s love for all people. We will focus on what is essential and join Jesus in pursuits that promote justice and peace. Please read the pages that follow with mission in mind. Look for the ways that we are actively living our faith. Choose how you will participate. If you have an idea you want to try, let me know. Together we will be a community that demonstrates our devotion to Jesus, the Messiah, the Son of the living God.

Blessing of the Animals

Do you adore animals? So did Francis, the son of a prosperous merchant in Assisi who renounced his wealth and devoted his life to the care of the poor. He was also known for his care of creation and his love of animals, and it is customary to hold blessing of the animals services to mark his feast day.



Please join us at 4 p.m. on Sunday, **October 3**, and bring your furry, feathery, scaly, or stuffed friends for a blessing as we honor St. Francis. We will gather in front of the historic church for a brief service with blessings, and treats will be on hand for animals as well as for humans. This is an outdoor event, so masks are required only when maintaining distancing between household groups is not possible. And take this opportunity to invite a friend or neighbor to join you at St. Peter's—all are welcome!

Diocesan Convention 2021

“Jesus, the Light of the World” is the theme of this year’s diocesan convention, which takes place on **October 22 and 23**. Delegates can attend either in person at Philadelphia Episcopal Cathedral or online. St. Peter’s elected lay delegates (Heidi Fowler, Nick Mosvick, Roger Tellefsen) will attend along with our clergy, but all people of the diocese are invited to be present. For more information please go to the diocesan website, www.diopa.org/convention.

Upcoming First Sundays

October 3

November 7

Morning service at 10 a.m.

Women on the Hill to Explore “Traditions!”

When the women of St. Peter’s gather at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, **October 5**, they will converse with each other about some traditions that mark our lives, exploring their role as part of an age-old archetypal system that has existed across cultures and religions. Why does a family reunion matter? What is the difference between a tradition and a ritual? How does receiving the Eucharist as part of a ritual differ from eating bread at a local diner? What rituals have affected our lives and informed our identity?

Shannon Almquist will lead us as we consider the role of confirmations, bar mitzvahs, weddings, funerals, baptisms, and even the sour cream cake Aunt Agnes bakes for each year’s Labor Day picnic! Please join us in the parish hall (with mask) at 7 p.m. on October 5 for conversation, laughs, and insight.



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The Beacon is produced monthly by St. Peter’s Church in the Great Valley
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Publication date: First of month

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Staff: Trudi Graves (editor), Charlotte Mark, David Graves

Coming October 24: Trunk or Treat and All Hallows' Eve Service

For the third consecutive year, St. Peter's is hosting "Trunk or Treat," a version of trick-or-treating in which children move safely from car trunk to car trunk to collect their treats. It is a great way to bring our community together for some fun (and treats) and also an opportunity to invite friends and neighbors to join us on the campus! So plan to decorate the trunk of your car, put on your best Halloween costume if you wish, and have some fun from 5 to 6 p.m. on **October 24**.



For this event to be a rousing success, we need people to host a "trunk" and invite everyone to consider decorating and hosting a trunk of treats! Past participants have found it fun to dress up their trunk in its own costume for Halloween. Besides, everyone who hosts a trunk is eligible to win the "St. Peter's perpetual trophy" for the best trunk! Last year's winners, the Kepperling family of Wayne, will be on hand to defend their title (we understand that they have already begun planning this year's spread). If they are bested this year, they will cheerfully pass on the trophy to this year's winner.

After the trunks have been stripped of their treats (around 5:45), stay for the service for All Hallows' Eve that will follow, in the historic churchyard, when we will hear again the Old Testament stories of the Witch of Endor and Ezekiel's dry bones. For more information, contact Chris (chris@stpetersgv.org).

Are You Getting Ready to Rummage?



The rummage sale benefiting the preschool is getting closer! The big day is Saturday, November 13, from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. We have reserved the week before the sale, from Monday, November 8 through Friday, November 12, to receive, sort, and price the donations that arrive at the barn.

At this point, we are seeking volunteers both to help with those preliminary weekday tasks related to setting up the sale and also to help staff the sale on Saturday. Please contact Mike Harman (michaelharman1956@comcast.net or 610-495-6439) to offer your help and let him know the hours between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. when when you wish to receive and prepare items for the sale during the week or to work at the sale on Saturday.

As you declutter this fall, please set aside items (except clothing and shoes) for us to re-sell at the rummage sale. We gladly accept *almost* anything—including small pieces of furniture, workshop and gardening tools, antiques and collectibles, toys and portable sporting goods and baby paraphernalia, books, and sundry household gadgets—but there are some items that we simply *cannot* accept:

- whatever can't be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected (e.g., mattresses, bed pillows, stuffed animals)
- protective gear like car seats and helmets
- whatever the EPA has deemed hazardous (e.g., paint, CRT television and computer monitors)
- whatever requires costly, time-consuming certification for resale (e.g., cribs & cradles)
- anything that other charities do not accept (e.g., VHS tapes, undergarments, large exercise equipment like treadmills and weights).

Please hold on to your treasures just a little longer, until the week of November 8 through 12, since we do not have sufficient storage space for them at St. Peter's. Thank you for letting us turn your cast-offs into someone else's new-found treasures that benefit our preschool programs and for helping stage the long-awaited return of this community-wide event.

Outreach News

CCC's Home of Its Own . . . at Last

On September 10, the Chester Children's Chorus made an exciting move into Pittenger Hall, its permanent, beautiful, perfect new home on the Swarthmore campus. This is the first time in twenty-eight years that CCC's music and math programs and its administrative offices are all housed in one building. The first floor accommodates up to twenty pairs of choristers and their adult mentors for math practice; the second floor is devoted to music—with ample rehearsal space for over a hundred children, and for group piano instruction (including pianos for eight children and an instructor).

Like most occupants of a new home, the CCC has embarked on a plan to adapt its new space to its needs. To be able to add such features as special lighting, audio-visual equipment, and additional furniture, CCC needs a total of \$50,000, half of which has already been raised through gifts to its "A Home of Our Own" campaign. CCC is now asking its friends like you to please consider making a gift to the campaign to further enrich the children's experience in CCC.

The growth of the chorus, the intensity and success of its math program, and the children's beautiful singing prompted Swarthmore College to give the chorus a campus building large enough for its entire program. If you are similarly inclined, you can make your gift or pledge by October 12 via the "Donate" link on the CCC website (www.swarthmore.edu/chester-childrens-chorus) or by mailing your gift to: CCC "A Home of Our Own Campaign," Gift Records Swarthmore College, 500 College Ave., Swarthmore, PA 19081. As always, the CCC is grateful for all of the support it receives from St. Peter's.

Blue Jeans for Deacon Jeff

As part of this year's diocesan convention, and at the bishops's request, the deacons are collecting and distributing rugged, durable blue jeans for those who are without shelter. The deacons in our diocese are asking parishes in the diocese to donate:



- Clean, gently worn jeans
- Jeans stashed in the back of the closet that you will never wear again
- Brand new jeans, in any size.

Please drop off unwanted or outgrown jeans, or any that your generosity inclines you to purchase, in the "Jeans" bin on the parish house porch, no later than **Sunday, October 17**. The deacons will then deliver the jeans to those with the greatest need. If you have questions, please contact Jeff (jeff@stpetersgv.org). Thank you for your participation. and generosity.

St. James 5K Fun Run

On November 6, St. James School 5K run for all ages will return, and St. Peter's is putting together a team! Kathrine Bright is organizing our intergenerational team, and will send out announcements with more information in the weeks to come.



For now, please save the date, dust off your running or walking shoes, and get ready to have some healthy fun while supporting one of our partner ministries. Thank you!

Help Lift Someone's Spirits

We are expanding our pastoral support of parishioners by delivering an arrangement of the Sunday altar flowers to those who are ill, grieving, or in need of cheer for any reason. Please help us by offering to occasionally deliver a floral arrangement, with a personal note from Abigail tucked into it, to a parishioner who needs a spiritual lift. To volunteer to deliver an altar bouquet after church occasionally, please contact Peggy Dixon (610-400-4063 or peggydixon64@gmail.com) or the parish office. Thank you!

'Tis the [Pledging] Season!

Already? Yes! This is the season for considering thoughtfully and prayerfully how you will be part of the support of our parish in 2022. The pledging season has kicked off, and the stewardship commission is confident that you will respond either by pledging online at St Peter's website (www.stpetersgv.org/online-pledging) or by submitting the pledge card you received in the mail, copies of which are also available in both gathering spaces. Pledging part of your treasure enables the parish to develop a budget and ensures that we all know how our money is being spent. Pledging our treasure is an important part of stewardship, but it is not the totality of it.

This year we are honoring and highlighting all three pillars of stewardship: time, talent, and treasure. The parish is incredibly generous and deeply engaged in our outreach activities throughout the community. People of all ages contribute to the congregation's vibrancy every day, doing everything from bringing snacks for Sunday fellowship, knitting chemo caps, and going on mission trips, to working behind the scenes cleaning the kitchen, arranging flowers, polishing silver, and keeping financial records! This year the stewardship commission will work with all the other commissions to highlight these contributions and some upcoming opportunities that enable everyone to participate in stewardship activities all year round.

As we read in the second letter to the community in Corinth, God loves a cheerful giver. Our stewardship theme this year reflects the joy and cheer we may remember from our childhood (or our children's) in the words of the song, "Rise and Shine and Give God the Glory, Glory, Children of the Lord." We are all children of the Lord, and the stewardship commission appreciates your cheerful donations of time, talent, and treasure! Please keep that in mind as you consider what you will pledge this year.

Greetings from the Preschool

Happy fall! Preschool is well under way for this year, and everyone is excited that the staff and children back in the building. The kiddos



are happy to be back with their friends and learning all sorts of new things in their classrooms.

We still need an aide for our pre-K class on Mondays and Wednesdays; if any of you are interested in working a few hours a week among great teachers and amazing children, or if you know someone who would enjoy doing this, please let Denise Nuttall know (610-644-2261 or preschool@stpetersgv.org).

SPOTLIGHT on **Stewardship**

Stewardship at St. Peters is a broad-based celebration of our time, talent and treasure, brought together by this year's theme of "Rise and Shine and Give God Your Glory, Glory." The stewardship commission members are Jan Himmelreich (chair), Amy Fisher, Mark Fischer, Helen Ockenden (emerita chair), and vestry liaisons Mike Harman and Lyndsay Knupp. Ask us anything about stewardship, and we will get you an answer!



What's Happening in Sunday School

At 9 a.m. on September 12, we welcomed our children back to a new year of Sunday school, and it is wonderful to have everyone learning about Jesus together, and in person. In our first lesson we asked, “Who Are You, Jesus?”; in answering it, the children and teachers began to learn both about both Jesus and each other.

In addition to the many children who returned to Sunday school, we also welcomed some new youngsters. The wonderful

team of teachers leading them during the fall term are Sharon Holt and Gail Malcolm who are working with children in pre-K through second grade, Holly Hardester and Betsy Comstock who teach third- through fifth-graders, and Christy Church, Katie Franz, Jennifer Martin, and Martha Nelson.

Children are heartily invited to start attending Sunday school at any time; they can be signed up on first day they attend.

Sunday School Chimes

On the first Sunday of each month, beginning on Sunday, **October 3**, handbell director Judy Jones will join the Sunday school children to teach them to ring hand chimes. In addition, she will reinforce what they have learned by spending about ten minutes with them every other week during regular Sunday school. The long-range plan is for the youngsters to play their chimes during services. If you have questions, please contact Chris (chris@stpetersgv.org).



Adult formation continues in October, both in person and streamed to Facebook Live, after the 9 a.m. service. This month we will cover a wide variety of topics.

- **October 10:** In the summer of 2022, our diocese will lead a youth mission trip to Navajoland, in partnership with the Episcopal Church in New Mexico, and our young people plan to participate in it. Chris Exley and members of our youth group will discuss this “Pilgrimission” and the support they hope to get from the congregation as they prepare.
- **October 17:** With “Rise and Shine and Give God Your Glory, Glory” as our joyful stewardship theme, at this forum we will learn about both the current and also the anticipated finance status of the parish in an engaging presentation by the chairs of our finance and stewardship commissions.
- **October 24:** Our three delegates to the diocesan convention will update us on diocesan activities and plans and describe what it was like to experience this year’s hybrid convention format.
- **October 31:** Catch a live, illustrated Halloween-themed talk by our friend Dr. Fran Altvater from the University of Hartford about the creepy and the scary in art from the fifth to the fifteenth century! “What could be scarier,” Fran comments, “than demons in the medieval world? When medieval artists imagined the entrance of Hell, they visualized a horrific beast that devoured the damned. Bodies were distorted, growing horns and hooves and tails on distinctly humanoid forms. In contrast, the ranks of angels—orderly, balanced, physically perfect—offered assured relief.”

If you are attending adult formation on Facebook and have observations or comments to share about your experience, please contact Melissa Shaner (myshaner@verizon.net or 610-296-7621).

Those Dirty Cars Paid Off Handsomely

Thanks to the owners of those dirty cars who rewarded the youth of the parish so generously at last month's car wash, the youth group's "pilgrimage" fund has grown by over \$1,600! The young people are grateful to everyone for so generously helping to offset their portion of the expense for the trip to Navajoland, and also to the adults who helped them (see the list on page 8). This will be the youth group's most ambitious mission trip yet, and while the diocese is underwriting 1/3 of the total expense of the mission trip, there still are costs to be covered by the participants.

Want a Wawa Shorti?

Did you know that October is "Wawa coupon month" at St. Peter's? Youth group members will be on hand after Sunday services all month to sell you a \$5 coupon for a Wawa shorti. Supplies of these coupons (which have no expiration date) are limited, so "buy early and buy often" to support next summer's youth mission trip to Navajoland!

Popcorn Theology in October

Join us for popcorn theology at 6 p.m. on Monday, **October 11**, to discuss *Worth*, a 2020 film starring Michael Keaton, Stanley Tucci, and Amy Ryan. It addresses the question, "What is life worth?" This question is not existential or abstract; it is a necessary understanding of the value of a human life in this film dealing with the distribution of the 9/11 Victims' Compensation Fund. The attorneys supervising the fund—Kenneth Feinberg (Keaton) and Camille Biros (Ryan)—wrestle with the question of whether the life of a janitor or schoolteacher is less valuable than that of a Fortune 500 CEO if the decision is based simply on net worth and earned income.



Popcorn theology is simple: (1) watch the month's film on a service like Netflix, Amazon Prime, or On Demand; (2) think about the ethical, moral, spiritual, or religious themes it raises; (3) choose a beverage and snack if you wish; and (4) use the Zoom link you get the day of the meeting to join the conversation between 6 and 7 p.m. For more information, email Mark Nestlehutt (mark.nestlehutt@gmail.com) or Steve Ockenden (steveock@verizon.net).

Pub Theology

Everyone is invited to join us for pub theology when it resumes on Monday, **October 4**. We gather at 6 p.m. on the first and third Monday of each month, and with our curiosity in tow explore a variety of theological topics. Topics "on-tap" for pub theology in October deal with the evolution of the *Book of Common Prayer*. Despite that tavern lingo, though, for now pub theology will continue to be a virtual offering, and the Zoom link will be included in announcements about it.

As always, we are eager to follow the path of the curious, so please share your ideas about topics for us to pursue in the coming months with Chris (chris@stpetersgv.org).

- Lindsey Mosvick for organizing the Sunday school ice cream social;
- Judy Jones for maintaining the labyrinth and the butterfly garden;
- Trudi Graves for her work with the Sacred Ground program, and the Rev. Emily Zimbrick-Rogers and Kate Farrow of St. David's Church, our partner in the series, for theirs;
- Mark Clark for installing new flooring in the kitchen of the historic building, and Trey Phillips for assisting;
- Rachel Martin Swartz and Jeff Moretzsohn for leading adult forums in September;
- Holly Hardester, for continuing to help guide the new Sunday school year;
- Jan Himmelreich, Susan House, Peter Kreek, Mary Ann Tatum, and Laurel Veitch, for researching Realm, our new church management software program;
- All who participated in the youth car wash—the young people; the parishioners who rewarded their efforts so generously; helpers Beth and Jason Hacker, Randell Jesup, Jeanne and Dave Lockner, Paige Infortuna, Eric Stoltz, and Dave Tatum; Kate Mallon-Day who lent her power washer for the event; Mary Ann Tatum who suggested using our well water to save money;
- Luci Russell for making roomy face masks to enable the choir to sing safely, and the choir for its exciting return to in-person worship;
- Dave Lockner for the attention he has paid to St. Peter's electrical systems;
- Michael Trycieckyj, Liam Reid, Char Mark, Suzanne Casey, Bruce Glenney, and the choir for their gift to the parish of a CD of Karl Jenkins' *Stabat Mater*;
- The stewardship commission for preparing the festive fellowship and Kate Mallon-Day for singing "Rise and Shine" on Stewardship Sunday;
- Sarah Tellefsen, assistant secretary, for taking minutes at the August vestry meeting.



Sacred Ground Opening Service, Sunday, September 19

(with thanks to Saturday's bride and groom for the shade their tent provided)



[Photo credit: the Rev. Emily Zimbrick-Rogers]

October 2

10 a.m.

Needlework ministry

October 3

Blessing of the Animals

4 p.m.

October 4

Pub theology

6 p.m. (Zoom)

October 5

Sacred Ground

9:30 a.m. & 12 p.m.

Gathering of Women

7 p.m.

October 6

Sacred Ground

7 p.m.



Our regular weekly offerings appear on page 10.

Save the Date**All Saints' Choral Evensong****November 7****4 p.m.****October 11**

Popcorn theology

6 p.m. (Zoom)

October 16

Habitat for Humanity

9 a.m.

October 18

Pub theology

6 p.m. (Zoom)

October 19

Sacred Ground

9:30 a.m. & 12 p.m.

October 20

Sacred Ground

7 p.m.

October 24

Trunk or Treat

5 p.m.

August Financial Snapshot

	August 2021	Year to Date August	Year-end Projection	Budget 2021
Parishioner Contributions	\$ 43,384	\$441,533	\$612,985	\$555,000
Other Income*	16,616	96,978	150,222	123,150
Total Income	60,001	538,511	763,207	678,150
Total Expense	52,006	456,762	685,878	678,150
Surplus/ (Deficit)	7,994	81,749	77,329	0

**Interest, rentals, endowment distributions, fundraiser, PPP funds*

Since many parishioners have kept their pledges up to date, as the snapshot reveals, we ended August on strong financial footing. As the time to pledge to our 2022 budget approaches, the finance commission encourages everyone to consider prayerfully how best to support the parish in the coming year. —*Eric Lien for the finance commission*



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The Rev. Abigail Crozier Nestlehutt, Rector
 The Rev. Christopher W. Exley, Assistant Rector
 The Ven. Jeff Moretzsohn, Deacon
 Dr. Bruce Glenny, Organist/Choirmaster
 Rachel Martin Swartz, Parish Administrator
 Denise Nuttall, Preschool Director
 Gail Malcolm, Event Coordinator
 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.**

Weekly Offerings at St. Peter's

Sunday

8 A.M. Holy Eucharist, rite one*
9 A.M. Family Eucharist & Sunday School**
10:15 a.m. Adult Formation**
11:15 P.M. Holy Eucharist, rite two*

Monday thru Thursday

12 NOON Noonday Prayer***

Wednesday

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

Thursday

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

Friday

8 A.M. Gathering of Men***

* Church
 ** Barn
 *** Virtual

Parish office open Mon. thru Thurs., 9 A.M. to 4 :30 P.M.

Welcome to St. Peter's, ***Deacon Jeff Moretzsohn***

