



The Beacon

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

May 2022

Be Thou My Vision

by the Rev. Abigail Crozier Nestlehutt

“The days are long, but the years are short” is a quip familiar to bleary-eyed new parents. Like many phrases, it proves, over time, to be irritatingly accurate. One day you find a moment to take a breath and you realize that your children are too old to justify the boxes of toys stored in the basement. Perhaps someday, a grandchild will play with them you argue, hoping to avoid letting go of colorful items infused with memories.

Throughout our lives we outgrow things—toys, clothes, food preferences, habits, coping mechanisms, to name a few—and for the most part, this maturation is good. As we age the styles and strategies that served us well in our youth necessarily evolve. Still, some things need not be left in the rearview mirror, like a denim jacket as a recent article in the *New York Times* suggests, that can be donned well past one’s rebellious high school years, provided it is worn in a new way. Periodically we must evaluate where we have been and where we are going in order to discern whatever in our lives, tangible or intangible, needs adjustment.

Sometimes it seems as if I need to grow back into something that I should not have outgrown. Sometimes I have felt this way about my relationship with God. Not that I ever let go of the divine, it is more that I have increasingly asked God to share my attention with the dozens of responsibilities that my day-to-day life entails. By allowing my inbox to define what needs to be done, I allot less and less time to God. (Maybe you know this feeling too.)

What begins to happen is that I develop an incomplete picture of efficiency and accomplishment. The pattern of constantly “doing” never becomes easy, but it does become familiar, and the familiar feels better than the unknown—whether forgotten or never tried. Then one day I find a moment to take a breath and discover that boxed up in my basement is the joy of dwelling with the divine and the fruitfulness that results in ordering my life in accordance with God.

The good news is that God is always ready for me to return. Lately I have been listening to various versions of hymn 488, “Be Thou My Vision.” Its closing verse summarizes its theme: “Heart of my heart, whatever befall, / Still be my vision, O ruler of all.” During the weeks of Eastertide we ponder the meaning of the resurrection. This wondrous season gives way to the feast of Pentecost when we are sent out into the world to proclaim the good news of God’s incredible love. The long, green season after Pentecost carries us through the long, warm days of summer. Maybe this is an ideal moment to carve out a little extra time for God.

The ministries, programs, and worship of St. Peter’s Church in the Great Valley reflect a community that is both grounded in and open to the divine. You will find ample evidence of this in the pages that follow. Thank you for the ways in which you are engaged in this community, and please know how welcome you are to participate in all that we do here, for the glory of God.

In Case You Missed This in Keynotes

It is a pleasure to announce that The Reverend Rachel Eskite will join us as Assistant Rector, beginning on June 12. Her ministry will focus on Christian formation for children, youth, and adults, and she will also participate in worship leadership. This is a half-time position, and as she settles in I will let you know her hours of availability. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions. What a joy it will be to welcome Rachel to St. Peter's this summer. Her enthusiastic note to the parish is below.



I am excited to be called into ministry with you! My husband Colin and I (and our dog Myra) are happy to be returning to the Mid-Atlantic area: it's a homecoming for us. I was born in Baltimore, MD but grew up around in the Richmond, VA area. I returned to Maryland to go to Hood College, where I met Colin (in a Jane Austen class!) After graduation, I stayed in Frederick, working at a crisis and suicide hotline and taking some graduate classes. Later I was certified as a yoga teacher and taught yoga. It was during this time that I began to discern a call to ordained ministry. After not finding a church home in Frederick, I found my homebase in a small parish in Mechanicsville, VA. I attended seminary at the School of Theology at the University of the South in Sewanee, TN, which is a beautiful place with many trees and a lot of wildlife.

I am a runner, and especially enjoy long-distance running and marathon training. Colin and I also like to explore new places, and I enjoy learning the history of places, listening to stories, and drinking coffee. I also enjoy being creative, playing puzzle games, and learning new things.

Thank you for inviting me into mutual ministry with you. I am so very much looking forward to our time together, worshipping, seeking and serving God in the world and in one another. I am grateful to be called to a place where I feel I can be my authentic self and develop my priestcraft in such a vibrant and caring community. Our upcoming journey together will be an adventure, and I feel certain that we will learn and grow together and become better versions of ourselves by being in relationship with one another. I will see you in June.



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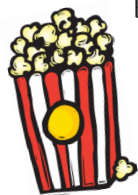
"Getting to Know You"

The women of St. Peter's are looking forward to a live, in-person gathering in the parish hall, complete with served light refreshments, at 7 p.m. on **May 3**. We have planned a "speed meeting" activity (modeled on speed dating), which is sure to help us have fun *and* get to know one another better. In pairs, we will draw some not too intrusive or difficult questions from a bowl and will answer and discuss them for five minutes; we will then change partners and repeat, about ten times in all. We guarantee that everyone will learn something new and get to know each other better. If you have questions, please contact Holly Hardester (hahardester@gmail.com or 484-319-6323).

Final Popcorn Theology until Fall

The participants who gathered to discuss the final movie of our Lenten popcorn theology series on Hollywood musicals decided to end the program year with yet another one, the 2021 version of *West Side Story*. Everyone is invited to join them on Zoom at 6 p.m. on Monday, **May 9**, to discuss director Steven Spielberg's reimagined version of Leonard Bernstein's musical.

As you view the film beforehand (available on Hulu, Disney+, Vudu, Apple TV, Google Play, and Amazon Prime), look for the spiritual, moral, and ethical themes. Then supply yourself with a



beverage and snack of your choice and join us on Zoom at 6 p.m., using the link that everyone on the parish email list will receive that Sunday. For more information, please contact Mark Nestlehutt (mark.nestlehutt@gmail.com) or Steve Ockenden (steveock@verizon.net).

Pre-Memorial Day Blood Drive: How Will You Help?

As you have already learned, St. Peter's is hosting another Red Cross blood drive in the barn from 2 to 7 p.m. on Wednesday, **May 25**. You can help make this drive a success



in one of two ways—or both if possible! You can register to donate a pint of live-giving blood that day by visiting **stpetersblooddrive.com**. In addition, since this vital event will engage the community around us as well, you can accept this invitation to help promote and conduct this drive. Our March blood drive drew nearly thirty non-parishioners to our holy hill, and we need parishioners to welcome those who come to our door this month as well. For more information or to volunteer your help, please contact **info.stpetersblooddrive@gmail.com**.

Stewardship: A Work in Progress

We are still rising and shining, St. Peter's! After a meaningful Lent and a glorious Easter season we are working at continuing to be our best selves as disciples of Jesus Christ in our community—contributing our time and talents by supporting our food ministry, knitting, participating in blood drives, tending to our grounds, teaching Sunday school, serving on the flower and altar guilds In whatever way we serve, what we do is important to St. Peter's stewardship mission, and we thank you. The stewardship commission especially thanks everyone for both making a pledge and also keeping up with it! This allows us to operate efficiently and keep our facilities beautiful, and the barn warm, thanks to the new heat pumps.

As this program year winds down, we have set a few goals for next year: implementing the mobile app, that we wanted to have in place by now, was significantly delayed, will be a top priority next year. We will also continue to work on blood drives through the spring and summer, as this is an activity that really engages our time and talents. We will seek ways to coordinate with all the commissions so that each has an opportunity to develop its own way of participating in stewardship through time, talent, and treasure.

Have a wonderful summer and remember: "Rise and Shine and Give God the Glory," and celebrate all the good things in your life!

Two Diocesan Events at Nearby Parishes in May

On **May 14**, St. David's Church, Radnor, is hosting an all-day diocesan Loving Presence Adaptive Leadership Workshop. Please visit **www.diopa.org/events/lovingpresence-adaptive-leadership-workshops** for details.

On both **May 20 and May 21**, Church of the Good Samaritan, Paoli, is the site of an old-fashioned outdoor revival sponsored by our diocese from 6 to 8 p.m., rain or shine. For details, please visit **www.diopa.org/news/revival**.



Adult formation concludes for this program year with three sessions in May. If you have ideas for next year, please contact Melissa Shaner (610-296-7621 or myshaner@verizon.net). Thanks to all for your flexibility and commitment!

- **May 8:** Meet the vestry! Who are these people? What does a vestry do? Why did the people who were just elected choose to take part in this aspect of church life?
- **May 15:** Canon Betsy Ivey will talk about what St. Peter's is doing in the bishop's Casting Nets initiative, which invites us, as the diocesan website says, "to really dream what your church might be if it was not expending so much energy on buildings, people and money. How might you break free from how you have always done things and dare to envision a church that is focused on the life-giving essentials of prayer, community, worship and ministry to and with your neighbors?" It goes on to point out that Covid-19 taught us that we can find ways to thrive despite obstacles and that change happens quickly "if we have faith to embrace new possibilities and focus on what is most essential."
- **May 22:** Vietnam veteran Dave Tatum will discuss teaching young people the nature of war and the meaning of Memorial Day, war's impact on families and communities, and how to honor and remember those who lost their lives.

Take a Bow, 2022 Grads!

The season of mortarboards and "*Pomp and Circumstance*" is fast approaching, and that means it will soon be time for us to celebrate all the newly minted graduates in our parish family in the! But to keep up this long-time St. Peter's tradition of celebrating them in the June *Beacon*, we need everyone's help.



So if someone in your family is graduating from high school, college, or grad school in May or June of this year (or did so since last June), by **May 24** please send the *Beacon* editor (beacon@stpetersgv.org) a note that includes the school awarding the diploma, a special honor awarded with the diploma, the graduate's plans for the coming year (e.g., college or grad school selected and field of study if known, or job accepted).

A Sabbatical for Abigail in 2023

As announced at the annual parish meeting, the vestry has approved a sabbatical for our rector from February through April 2023. Abigail's working theme is "Be Thou My Vision" and her focus will be to attend to relationships with God, family, and friends, with emphasis on renewing her commitment to the life of faith. Her sabbatical plans are still being formed but will include a course at St. George's College, Jerusalem; individual time with her children and husband, retreat during Holy Week, and developing a personal Rule of Life using resources available through the Society of St. John the Evangelist. She is working with the vestry to ensure that the time is productive for both parish and priest. As plans develop you will learn more details. If you have any questions in the meantime, please contact Dave Lockner or Abigail.

Reminder



If you want to sing the national anthem at the June 18th Reading Phillies game, you must sign up by **May 8**.

Looking ahead to



Pentecost, June 5

A Multitude of Tongues for Pentecost

Parlez-vous français? ты говоришь по русски? Sprechen Sie deutsch? Unaongea kiswahili? ¿Hablas español? Whatever language you speak besides English, we would love for you to participate in our traditional reading of the Pentecost passage from Acts of the Apostles on June 5. Please let Abigail know of your interest in sharing your linguistic gift that day (abigail@stpetersgv.org or 610-644-2261).

Pentecost 2022!

Celebrate the Holy Spirit, our stellar choir, and the end of the program year on Sunday, June 5, the Feast of Pentecost. Our morning services will be particularly festive, and in the afternoon we will enjoy both choral evensong and a picnic afterwards.

The 4 p.m. evensong features works by three very different composers: seventeenth-century Welsh composer Thomas Tompkins' *Preces and Responses*, twentieth-century Englishman Herbert Howells' *Magnificat* and *Nunc Dimitis*, and an anthem, *Veni Sancte Spiritus*, by contemporary American composer Paul Gibson.

Details about the picnic will appear later this month, but for now, please set aside this special day on your calendar and start thinking about digging out your Pentecost reds! If you would like to help plan the picnic, please let Abigail know (abigail@stpetersgv.org or 610-644-2261). Thank you!

Dear St. Peter's family,

Preschool graduation on **May 19** is just around the corner, and this year's ceremony also marks the end of the thirtieth year of the school's existence. We are always excited for our oldest preschoolers as they get ready to venture on to new schools and classrooms! And as the school year winds down, many of them are looking forward to the start of our summer camp, which is currently full. We thank all of you for your support and for spreading the word about it!

Immediately after the graduation ceremony on May 19, which begins at 9:30, we will also celebrate our beloved pre-K and 4-day teachers, Mrs. Furin and Mrs. Brown, who are retiring after so many years of invaluable service. Please feel free to stop by to thank them and let them know how great an impact they had on your children or grandchildren. They are truly remarkable educators in every sense of the word; as a parent of children whom they taught, I am grateful for the way they nurtured my children's love of learning.

We continue to look for teachers to take their place in the fall, and have some interviews scheduled for in the upcoming weeks. Stay tuned for news this summer, and enjoy those sunny days.

Best wishes to all,
Denise Nuttall

Youth Jam Returning in June

On June 11, youth from around the diocese will again gather at St. Peter's for fun and fellowship. Although the diocese will assist with most of the Youth Jam arrangements, as the host parish we need volunteers to help with setting and cleaning up, welcoming, and preparing and serving food. Please contact Abigail (abigail@stpetersgv.org) if you wish to be part of the fun. Thank you!



News

Pilgrimission Meet-and-Greet

On Sunday afternoon, **May 15**, from 2:30 to 4, our youth group will host their fellow participants from around the diocese who are making the June "pilgrimission" trip to Navajoland. This afternoon of games and conversation will help them get to know each other as they continue to prepare for their journey. For more information, please contact Jeanne Lockner or Abigail.

Food Ministry

The pandemic intensified the challenges of everyday living, but the challenges of food insecurity will not disappear when it finally ends. With that in mind, St. Peter's food ministry continues to support our neighbors through these nearby community agencies

DARBY MISSION EASTER DINNERS

The day we delivered 40 colorful bags filled with ingredients for Easter dinner this year was especially memorable. Everyone was grateful to the parishioners who bought and packed up the non-perishable ingredients; to the outreach commission for funding our purchase of large roasting chickens and perky daffodils from Wegmans; and to Becky Dempsey and Cathy Terlescki who coordinated the effort. Especially gratifying this year was the number of our Darby Mission friends who participated in "Everyone's Way of the Cross," during which Vicar Doris, assisted by several community members, read the stations of the cross and gave helpful summaries at each station.

EASTER HAMS FOR *ALIANZAS DE PHOENIXVILLE*

Thank you to the parishioners who donated their free supermarket ham so that 14 families could enjoy a special Easter dinner, and to Doug Jones who organized this opportunity to treat a family in need to a special holiday meal. Kudos, too, to Martin McElroy for "trucking" those large spiral-cut hams (total weight—one hundred sixty pounds) to our friends in Phoenixville. Our regular and "special" egg delivery also benefited sixty families at holiday time.

A New Outreach Focus Ministry

In response to parish involvement in the Community Youth and Women's Alliance of Coatesville ministry, the outreach commission has designated CYWA as one of St. Peter's key mission commitments. A vital community center that provides meals and distributes food, CYWA also maintains a shelter for homeless women and a recovery unit for women with children. In addition to building on our previous activities and relationships we can now also offer CYWA the promise of yearly funding.

MEALS FOR CYWA, COATESVILLE

Volunteers packed 100 nutritious lunches at Easter time and delivered them to Coatesville, including to seniors unable to get to the distribution center; our regular and "special" egg delivery reached 120 families at holiday time as well. CYWA recipients of all this show their appreciation through heartfelt handwritten notes about the importance of this ministry, and we add our thanks to leaders Jenny Disque and Queenie Northrop and volunteers Patti Hagstrom, Holly Hardester, Eileen Klein, Sue McMaster, Martha Nelson, and Cathy Terlescki.

An additional note about the food ministry in both Coatesville and Phoenixville: the delivery of non-perishable food donations that began two years ago continues on a regular basis, thanks to our parishioners' generosity!

CHURCH HOUSING, INC.

In partnership with Church Housing (led by Kathryn Evans and Tracy Patches), St. Peter's food ministry is assisting low-income families at Pinckney Hills Commons in West Chester by supplying kitchen equipment. Eagerly anticipated, this new residential facility filled quickly with qualified families.

The Return of Camp Get-along

At last, after a two-year pandemic hiatus, Camp Get-along returns to our holy hill on Wednesday, July 13! As in the past, we will provide games, music, crafts, the all-time favorite waterslide, and lunch to the delightful inner-city children and their counselors at the four camps run by our diocese.

More details will appear next month, but in the meantime please reserve this wonderful day on your calendar and plan to join the fun. Contact Gail Guthridge (guthgirl60@gmail.com) if you have questions.

CCC Performances in May

All are invited to the Chester Children's Chorus' spring concerts at Swarthmore College on the first two weekends in May. On **May 1**, they are performing selections from Handel's *Messiah* at 5 p.m. in Upper Tarble; at 4 p.m. on Saturday, **May 7**, they will sing pieces from Earth, Wind & Fire, Bill Withers, and more, in the Scott Outdoor Amphitheater. Seating is first come, first served, so come early and enjoy either free performance—or both!

May 1

Annual parish meeting
11:20 a.m.
Celebratory fellowship lunch
12 noon
Chester Children's Chorus concert
4 p.m.

**May 19**

Preschool graduation
9:30 a.m.

May 24

Deadline for graduates' information

May 3

Gathering of Women
7 p.m. (parish hall)

May 9

Popcorn theology
6 p.m. (Zoom)

May 25

Red Cross blood drive
2 to 7 p.m. (barn)

May 7

Needlework ministry
10 a.m. (parish hall)
Chester Children's Chorus concert
4 p.m.

May 15

"Pilgrimission" Meet-&-Greet
2:30 to 4 p.m.

May 29

Summer service schedule begins
8 a.m. & 10 a.m. (church)

- Becky Dempsey, Holly Hardester, and Cathy Terlescki for packing up the Darby Mission Easter dinners, and Doug Jones for collecting Easter hams and Martin McElroy for delivering them to *Alianzas*;
- The Rev. Canon Betsy Ivey for accepting the invitation to assist the vestry in focusing on the dreaming exercise of the diocesan Casting Nets initiative;
- Bill Keltz and Martin McElroy for donating the new powerful projector for daylight presentations such as adult forum;
- Cliff Castle, Jeff Conway, Allison Duncan, David Parkyn, and Luci Russell, for serving as the discernment group for Martin McElroy's call to the diaconate;
- Doug Jones and the Bad Boys for attaching door stops to the barn doors;
- The outgoing vestry class of 2022, David Graves, Linda Holden, Cathy Terlescki, and Laurel Veitch for their three years of service;
- All who made our Palm Sunday and Easter worship services so meaningful and beautiful—our guest musicians Peter Neu, David Oreshowsky, David Cianci, Jay Malloy, Sofia Dillion, Gary Gress, and Luke Staisiunas; the altar and flower guilds and choir; Abigail, Jeff, and Bruce; Easter egg hunt organizers, the Hacker family; the providers of goodies for Easter fellowship, Gail Guthridge, Suzanne Casey, and Marsha McIlvain.

**March Financial Snapshot**

	March 2022	Year to Date March	Year-end Projection	Budget 2022
Parishioner Contributions	\$ 69,324	\$185,717	\$583,790	\$563,900
Other Income*	13,598	25,592	144,127	132,100
Total Income	82,922	211,309	727,917	696,000
Total Expense	55,285	156,735	688,158	696,000
Surplus / (Deficit)	27,637	54,574	39,759	0

**Interest, rentals, endowment distributions*

You may remember that the February snapshot showed a modest deficit, because the February 27th offering wasn't deposited until March! The March snapshot shows just the opposite—a large surplus caused by that March deposit of the income from the last week of February! — *Eric Lien for the finance commission*



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The Rev. Abigail Crozier Nestlehutt, Rector
 The Ven. Jeff Moretzsohn, Deacon
 Dr. Bruce Glenney, Organist/Choirmaster
 Rachel Martin Swartz, Parish Administrator
 Denise Nuttall, Preschool Director
 Gail Malcolm, Event Coordinator
 Mario Delano, 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
 June/July Beacon
 is **May 15.**

Weekly Offerings at St. Peter's

Sunday (thru May 22)

8 A.M. ***Holy Eucharist, Rite 1***
9 A.M. ***Family Eucharist & Sunday School*****
10:15 a.m. ***Adult Formation*****
11:15 P.M. ***Holy Eucharist****

Sunday (beginning May 29)

8 A.M. ***Holy Eucharist, Rite 1****
10 A.M. ***Holy Eucharist, Rite 2****

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.

Some Tips for May from the Green Stewards

- As you look forward to vacation travel this year, please consider offsetting your carbon footprint. You can access information about how to do this through a program promoted by the Episcopal Church and Blessed Tomorrow, located at **www.cooleffect.org/travel-offset**.
- If you are a gardener, please think consider adding one or two edible foods to your plot and donating your fresh produce to our weekly deliveries to area food pantries.

