



The Beacon

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

July ~ August 2023

Entertaining Angels

by the Rev. Abigail Crozier Nestlehutt

From time to time, I used to wrap up a homemade cookie or put together a small assortment of garden flowers and send my young children around the corner to the home of a dear friend whom they called Miss Helen. Sometimes I just wanted a few moments to myself and knew that Helen would invite them in for a visit; even if she was out, the walk there and back would buy me a little time. Sometimes I wanted them to practice their independence. And sometimes I wanted to remind them to do something kind each day. I suppose that every visit accomplished all three objectives.

Although my children are grown now, I still occasionally ask them to deliver a basket of fresh strawberries to a neighbor or suggest that they pop over to the home of a trusted adult friend for advice. Reaching out in these ways is just something we do in my family—or at least try to do. I consider simple gestures like these to be essential to our humanity. We cannot thrive in isolation. We need the mutuality of relationship, the give-and-take of generosity of spirit.

Scripture is full of examples of caring and of admonitions to care for others. We find everything from the story of Abraham serving the visitors who appear at the entrance to his tent, to the command in Hebrews 13:2, “Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares”; from the lavishness of the fatted calf, to the simplicity of a cup of cold water. In sharing refreshment—or simply time—with others, we demonstrate our regard for them and also create opportunity to receive unexpected blessings.

These long summer days are perfect for practicing biblical hospitality, and I encourage you to embrace your own version. What small kindness might you offer? Whom will you invite into your home? Whom might you surprise with an unexpected brief visit? I also urge you to pay attention to the kindnesses offered to you and feel the relief of being grounded in gratitude.

St. Peter’s abounds in opportunities to connect. You have an open invitation to stop by anytime for a visit. Throughout the week, someone is often around, and on Sunday morning you are certain to be greeted warmly. Also, please remember that on the third Wednesday of the month we come together to share a simple meal and to visit with each other, sometimes with music! In the pages that follow you will find details about our July and August “third place” Wednesday evening events, as well as about many other ways to gather meaningfully to receive and offer hospitality.

This summer I invite you to join me in giving and enjoying small gestures that mean so much, leisurely conversations that build community. Together we are sure to entertain angels.



**Worship at 10 a.m.
with guest trumpeter
Peter Neu**



**Then stay for our
traditional, and always
tasty, observance of
Independence Day.
Indulge in celebratory
sundaes, topping
them this year with
homemade and truly
HOT hot fudge and
butterscotch sauces and
a variety of toppings!**



The Beacon

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

The Beacon is produced monthly by
St. Peter's Church in the Great Valley
2475 St. Peter's Road, Malvern, PA 19355
Phone: 610-644-2261
E-mail: parishoffice@stpetersgv.org
Web site: www.stpetersgv.org

Submissions are invited and are subject
to editing.

Submit articles to beacon@stpetersgv.org

Publication date: First of month

Deadline: 15th of month preceding

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

Help Feed a Busload of Young Campers!

As many of you know, camp day is one of the most delightful summer events at St. Peter's, when a bus brings children in the morning for a day of playing games, doing crafts, enjoying the water slide and a nutritious lunch topped off by ice cream sundaes, before taking them home with new books to read. On Wednesday, **July 12**, we



will host thirty elementary school children enrolled in a remedial reading and math program in Coatesville for this day of sheer fun.

Parishioners participate in many ways, but at this point we need a number of volunteers to both prepare and serve lunch. Here's how and when you can help:

- **July 11**, 10 a.m. to noon: prepare lunches (barn)
- **July 12**, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.: serve lunch (barn)
- **July 12**, after 1 p.m.: serve ice cream sundaes (outdoors)

Please let Holly Hardester know which slot you prefer (hahardester@gmail.com, 484-319-6323). If you would like to participate in camp in other ways, please contact Gail Guthridge (guthgirl60@gmail.com), who is coordinating the activities. And whether you are free to volunteer or not, please pray for sunshine and joy on July 12!

And remember that the whole parish is invited to enjoy the waterslide and refreshing fellowship from 2 to 4 p.m. that day!



Do you want to hear about Abigail's experiences in the Holy Land as well about the rest of her sabbatical? Then join her for casual conversation after the 10 a.m. service on **Sunday, July 16, or Sunday, August 27.**

Bishop Gutiérrez to Visit St. Peter's October 22

On Sunday, October 22, the Right Reverend Daniel G.P. Gutiérrez, will visit St. Peter's at 10 a.m. This will be a meaningful opportunity to hear from our diocesan leader and also to tell him about our ministries, dreams, and plans. Please mark your calendar and plan to attend this special single service that day.

The bishop's visit is also an opportunity for us to confirm and reaffirm our faith. Confirmation is appropriate for those who were baptized at an early age and have never made an adult affirmation of faith. Reception is appropriate for those who have made an adult affirmation of faith in another church communion and now wish to be fully committed members of the Episcopal Church. Reaffirmation is for those who were confirmed or received earlier in their lives and now wish to make a new beginning in faith. While confirmation and reception are necessary and meaningful steps for becoming a full member of the church, reaffirmation is a more personal commitment to faith, so I encourage everyone to consider taking this opportunity to participate.

In preparation for the bishop's visit, Deacon Jeff will offer a class for inquirers in August; details about this series appear below. Young people in eighth grade and above who are interested in confirmation should please contact Abigail (abigail@stpetersgv.org); adults should RSVP to Jeff. Anyone who is interested in reaffirmation but cannot attend the scheduled sessions should please contact either Jeff or Abigail.



Inquirers Class

Are you interested in learning about St Peter's Church in the Great Valley? Or are you curious about the Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania (the birthplace of the Episcopal Church), or about how we Episcopalians are connected to the Church of England and the Anglican Communion worldwide? If so, plan to join Deacon Jeff Moretzsohn for a three-week series designed for inquiring minds and curious Christians. Some FAQ's covering the details follow.

What will the series cover?

- *The Anglican Communion*: the English Reformation; colonial expansion and the Church; English church expansion between the 17th and 19th centuries
- *The Episcopal Church*: its history, governance, and structure; its *Book of Common Prayer* and Outline of the Faith (catechism); the Episcopal Church today; the Diocese of Pennsylvania; St. Peter's Church in the Great Valley and its history

When will it meet?

Sunday, August 13, 20, and 27 at 9:15 a.m.

What should I do if I want to attend?

Call the parish office (610-647-2261) or email Jeff (jeff@stpetersgv.org)

What should I do if I have questions?

Call Jeff (610-620-5085)



Summer Supper

July 19, 6 to 7:30 p.m.

Come for supper at St. Peter's. Deacon Jeff will grill hamburgers and hot dogs to accompany soft drinks, chips, and ice cream sandwiches. If possible, please bring a salad or side dish to share.

Concert by Jazz Sanctuary

August 16, 6 to 7:30 p.m.

Relax at a casual evening of jazz offered by Jazz Sanctuary* and enjoy finger foods and beverages for all ages.

We hope to see you at either or both of these evenings and encourage you to invite a friend. To help us plan, please let Abigail know that you plan to attend, either via email (abigail@stpetersgv.org), by phone (610-644-2261), or by signing up after a service. If you find you can attend at the last minute, please just come anyway, regardless of whether you have signed up.

**Jazz Sanctuary is an ensemble that performs at community gatherings, supports charitable organizations, and provides educational development. According to its founder, "The best music is made when the players breathe together . . . Then I am one with the other players and the audience [and] we all feel and know when we have reached that inner space together. . . [Jazz] has become an integral part of our life and the lifeblood of music in our lives. My wish is to bring this feeling, this togetherness, and this community to as many people as possible."*

Keep Making Those Birthday Cards This Summer!

**Keep making those
birthday cards, kids!**



We hope our Sunday schoolers will continue to create birthday cards for our friends at Echo Lake with summer birthdays! More specifically, we ask the children's parents to please encourage them to keep participating in this outreach project that the residents appreciate so much. We need approximately twenty cards each month.

You will find bags of supplies (each with a blank card, instructions, and crayons or markers) in a white basket in the common room. When the card is finished, just put it back in the bag and return the bag to the basket; we will collect and distribute them each summer week. If you have questions, please contact Judy Jones or Sarah Goller. Thank you for your help.

Plastics-Free July

You can painlessly make a difference for the environment by going plastic-free in July. A simple change like declining plastic cutlery with your take-out meals or switching to a reusable water bottle can make a big difference not just in July but all year. For more information about the rationale for giving up single-use plastics, the Green Stewards invite you to visit **Plastics Free July.org** or <https://bit.ly/3J12bzN>; they also suggest that you might want to take the international or the local pledge at either site. And do stop by after worship at the information table in the common room to learn more about home-based ways to preserve the environment.



Outreach News

CYWA Food Distribution

Your help will make a difference! We have an opportunity for you to assist with making and distributing lunches at the Coatesville Youth and Women's Alliance on the third Tuesday and Wednesday of each month. Help us continue the tradition!

In June, we delivered on hundred and fifty lunches, ninety dozen eggs, and paper cups of lemonade to our friends in Coatesville. The lemonade was a welcome surprise, especially for the children, and it sparked conversation just as we had hoped it would. And we're not stopping there.

On Tuesday, **July 18**, we will again make sandwiches and pack those green bags with all the "sides" in the common room at 10 a.m. That cart in the photo, loaded with green lunch bags, is just one of many that we pack into cars for delivery to Coatesville the following day.

In July we plan to include homemade oatmeal raisin cookies as a lunch treat. Since we prepare 150 lunches each month, thirteen volunteers have the opportunity to bake a batch of 36 cookies and package three of them in twelve zip-lock sandwich bags. In the coming weeks, be on the lookout for an opportunity to sign up to bake a batch.

And if you happen to be away during July, don't worry about FOMO (fear of missing out)! We will do this again in August, so you can join us to make sandwiches and pack lunch bags at 10 a.m. on **August 15!** Thank you from the food ministry and our Coatesville friends!



The CCC Goes "Country" This Month

For the first time in its nearly thirty years, the Chester Children's Chorus is going country! Be there when over a hundred children take the stage at the Swarthmore College Lang Performing Arts Center at for three performances that will surely have you on your feet doing a two-step. Admission is free; seating is limited, so plan to arrive early. Concert times are 2 p.m. on **Thursday, July 27**, and 7:30 p.m. on **Friday, July 28** and **Saturday, July 29**.



Darby "Back to School" Celebration

July is definitely not too early to start thinking about the "Back to School" celebration at Darby Mission on Tuesday, September 5, when Delaware County's Back to School Community Resource Fair resumes after three years, bringing with it an array of fun-filled activities, school supplies, haircuts for students, community information. It also brings a community dinner at Darby Mission, and that's where St. Peter's comes in.

We are looking forward to once again providing a simple, picnic-style dinner, most likely sloppy joes, macaroni salad, a green bean salad, and something special for dessert. There are lots of different opportunities for many of us to be involved—preparing food at home, gathering at church to cook together, and transporting the food to Darby Mission. We will also need people to serve the food at the event, which is a great opportunity to get to the residents of that community. Watch for more information during the summer, and please contact Holly Hardester (hahardester@gmail.com, 484-319-6323) or Eileen Klein (eileenklein1@icloud.com, 215-498-8777) to get involved.

- Martin McElroy for coordinating the May blood drive, and Suzanne Casey and Michael Smith for their help;
- Susy Baum for substituting as vestry secretary in May;
- All who prepared and served the May Darby Mission dinner;
- Judy Jones for leading Sunday school this past year and reorganizing its space and resources, and Sharon Holt and Paige Infortuna for their help with this task;
- Amy Fisher, Sarah Goller, and Holly Hardester for serving as Sunday school substitute teachers;
- Sarah Goller, for taking on the leadership of Sunday school this coming year;
- The choir for presenting evensong in June, Gary Gress for playing the organ, and Susy Baum and Paige Infortuna for preparing the reception that followed;
- Beth Hacker for playing the organ at summer services;
- Brenda Grove for organizing the book group;
- Dave Lockner for his ongoing work with electricians to improve the barn lighting;
- Doug Jones for obtaining and coordinating quotes for repairs to the barn sidewalk.



Backpack Blessings

If you are a child, teenager, college student, or returning to school at any age—or if you are one of our many members who teach at any level—be sure to be at St. Peter’s on Sunday, **August 27**. And remember to bring your backpack, your briefcase, your electronic device, whatever . . . and to invite a grandchild, friend or neighbor.

The beginning of the new academic year is an appropriate time to bless both the school paraphernalia and those who use them. Each participant will receive a colorful backpack tag to use through the year as a reminder that the 2023-24 school year began with God’s blessings.

The Postponed June Youth Jam

As you no doubt heard, the diocese opted to postpone the Youth Jam because of the health risks posed by the noxious air on June 10. It has rescheduled it for September 9, from 1 to 4 p.m. and appropriately renamed it the “End of Summer Jam.”

As before, we need volunteers to help host the event. If you are free to volunteer that day, please let us know by sending an emailing juneyouthjam@gmail.com, or by leaving a voicemail at our youth phone number, **610-400-8680**. Also as before, our parishioners are heartily invited to come join the fun and to bring friends and family as well (no need to RSVP to attend).

A Scheduling Heads-Up for September 3

We will deviate from our first-Sunday-of -the-month schedule for September:

September 3—services at 8. and 10 a.m.

September 10—One 10 a.m. service, followed by Farewell and Godspeed to Bruce Glenn



July 1

Needlework ministry
10 a.m.

July 2

Independence Day service
with special music
10 a.m.
Sundae Sunday follows
11 a.m.

July 12

Camp day
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Parishwide watersliding
2 to 4 p.m.

July 16

Sabbatical conversation
11:15 a.m.

July 18

Sandwich-making for CYWA
10 a.m.

July 19

Third Wednesday fellowship
6 to 7:30 p.m.

July 31

Book club
7:30 p.m. (Zoom)



August 5

Needlework ministry
10 a.m.

August 6

First Sunday worship
10 a.m.

August 13

Inquirers class
9:15 a.m.

August 15

Sandwich-making for CYWA
10 a.m.

August 16

Third Wednesday fellowship
6 to 7:30 p.m.

August 20

Inquirers class
9:15 a.m.

August 27

Inquirers class
9:15 a.m.
Sabbatical conversation
11:15 a.m.

May Financial Snapshot

	May 2023	Year to Date May	Year-end Projection	Budget 2023
Parishioner Contributions	\$ 45,902	\$231,984	\$550,638	\$530,504
Other Income*	10,857	48,409	206,491	208,637
Total Income	56,760	280,392	757,128	739,141
Total Expense	69,630	285,995	728,828	739,141
Surplus / (Deficit)	(12,870)	(5,603)	28,300	0

**Interest, rentals, endowment distributions*

As of May, our total income is slightly above the figure we projected at year's end, because we are benefiting from the higher-than-expected yields we are receiving on interest income. Our total expenses are also slightly under what we projected. –*Dave Lockner for the finance commission*



St. Peter's Church in the Great Valley
2475 St. Peter's Road, Malvern, PA 19355
Telephone: 610-644-2261
E-mail: parishoffice@stpetersgv.org Web site: www.stpetersgv.org

The Rev. Abigail Crozier Nestlehurst, Rector
The Ven. Jeff Moretzsohn, Deacon
Dr. Bruce Glenny, Organist/Choirmaster
Deby Harrison & Aleta Ross, Interim Youth Co-ministers
Rachel Martin Swartz, Parish Administrator
Erinn White, 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
September *Beacon*
is **August 15.**

Weekly Summer Offerings at St. Peter's

Sunday, June 11 thru September 3

8 A.M. Holy Eucharist, Rite 1*

10 A.M. Holy Eucharist, Rite 2*

First Sunday, July & August

10 A.M. Holy Eucharist, Rite 2*

**Fellowship follows all services
Nursery care available at 10 a.m.**

Wednesday

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

Thursday

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

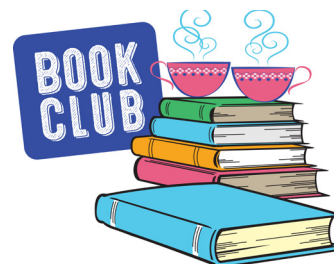
Friday

8 A.M. Gathering of Men***

* Church
** Barn
*** Virtual

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

Parish office will be closed on July 3 and 4.



Our selection for July 31 will take us to an Irish beach town to explore life transitions and friendship through Faith Hogan's *The Ladies Midnight Swimming Club*.

Please watch Keynotes and the Sunday leaflets in August for information about the August selection and date of our meeting.