

# The Beacon

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

*April 2018*

## *Safe*

*by the Rev. Abigail Crozier Nestlehutt*

The collision of April Fool's Day and Easter Day inspired all sorts of silly ideas among family and friends. There was the not-quite-appropriate suggestion that the tomb might not be empty this year or the mischievous suggestion to print the Christmas cover on the Easter leaflets. Not a fan of a holiday that requires me to spend the day wondering if someone is going to do something to make me feel foolish, I was pleased when I realized that this year April Fools' Day would fall on Easter because church seems like a good place to be safe from ridicule. Jokes are fine and I am quite capable of laughing at myself; still, it is good to be part of a community that will laugh along with, instead of at, one another.

I am not sure it mattered to me much as a child, but as a young adult the fact that I could count on people at church accepting me was important. Not everyone has that experience, but I did and I am grateful. Church is not a club that you are invited to join only after sufficient vetting and a vote of the board. Church is where the people of God come together. God chooses who belongs, and God chooses everyone and calls them beloved. In this season of Easter we remember just how much God is willing to do for God's people. The trumpets, egg hunts, flowers, and bonnets are only the beginning. From here we walk along with the disciples as they try to figure out what the resurrection means. Not literally, but in our own ways. We did it last year and we will do it next year and we will do it the year after that. What does it mean to you that God loves you that much?

To me it means that while it is nice to be in places where I am safe from ridicule, I am called to not play it safe all the time. I can go beyond testing the water with my toe and allow myself to feel the rush of the current around my ankles and up to my knees. I am not talking about being reckless. I am talking about being willing to reach beyond the comfortable in response to my understanding of what it is to seek, serve, and strive for Jesus.

This Eastertide, I invite you to hold onto the sound of the trumpets or the scent of the lilies or the gentle roughness of a straw bonnet just a little longer than usual. Do not hurry onto the next thing. Let the glory of that day energize you to care in a new and deeper way. It is easy to be busy. It is hard to slow down long enough to wonder and listen and then respond to the needs of the world.

Alleluia, Christ is risen. The Lord is risen indeed, Alleluia. What next?

As you consider your answer to this question, I invite you to read about all that is happening at St. Peter's in the pages that follow. There are opportunities for worship, fellowship, education, and service. It is all part of building up the body of Christ and sending us forth into the world to love and serve the Lord. Thank you for your part.



## *Adult Christian Formation in April*

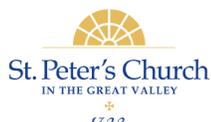
*by Melissa Shaner*

Adult Christian Formation returns on **April 8** after the Holy Week recess with a presentation by Dr. Janice Hicks, a clinical pastoral education resident at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania. After 25 years as a chemist and walking with her mother through dementia, she entered Virginia Theological Seminary. From her website: "One in three Episcopalians is over age 65 and another 40% are age 45-64. Congregations will see a large increase in those with dementia and their family members or friends. It is important to prepare congregations to be able to minister to people with dementia and their loved ones, consistent with their being full members of the Body of Christ. Science, theology, and stories can help us understand the physical, emotional, and spiritual aspects of dementia. What do we understand about the stages of the disease and what is happening in the brain? Does dementia impact a person's identity as a person of faith or an atheist or in between? How can we use these insights for better care and better advocacy for people with dementia?"

On **April 22**, Kyle, Sian Myshko, and St. Peter's Youth will present their digital Bible storytelling project on the parable of the prodigal son.

On **April 29**, Dr. Kiran Sebastian will preach and lead adult formation. Academic dean at Lutheran Theological Seminary in Philadelphia, he was ordained in the Church of South India, a member of the Anglican Communion, which was formed as part of the largest ecumenical movement in history when the Methodists, Presbyterians, Congregationalists, and Anglicans in colonial India united. His academic specialty is world religion.

As always, please join us any Sunday you are able at 10:20 in the Barn!



**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  
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Submissions are invited and are subject to editing.  
Submit articles to [beacon@stpetersgv.org](mailto:beacon@stpetersgv.org) or fax them to 610-644-7967  
Publication date: First of month  
Deadline: 15<sup>th</sup> of month preceding  
Staff: Melissa Shaner & Allison Duncan (co-editors, April issue), Trudi Graves (editor), Charlotte Mark, David Graves

### *St. Peter's Church in the Great Valley Annual Parish Meeting*

**Sunday, April 15**

One service at 10:00 a.m. in the Barn  
Meeting at 11:00 a.m.  
Lunch to follow

## **OUTREACH FOOD MINISTRY NEWS**

### ***Weekend Backpacks in Phoenixville***

When you think of filled backpacks, books or a much-anticipated camping trip come to mind. For some children, Fridays mean a backpack filled with essential weekend food that staves off hunger. School meals may provide the only consistent nourishment for 14,000 Chester County children. Many experience food insecurity caused by life-changing emergencies such as a parent's job loss or illness. What happens on weekends to these children when they go home?

In Phoenixville, "Phantom Backpacks" provide a steady weekend food supply from October through May. St. John's Lutheran Church program is exemplary. While the Chester County Foodbank Weekend Backpack Food Program serves 10 of 13 school districts, Phoenixville partners with Phoenixville Area Community Services (PACS) and Wegmans for additional fresh fruits and vegetables.

Special thanks to Linda Huggler, Gail Guthridge, Nancy Wilson, and Eileen and Randy Klein, who pack four or five times a year at St. John's Lutheran Church to prepare 54 backpacks for the new Early Learning Center off Pothouse Road in Phoenixville.

Our last packing experience occurs in May. This is a perfect youth activity: action-packed, under an hour, and limited scheduling throughout the school year – ideal for busy teens who want to serve those in need. Please contact Eileen Klein ([eileenklein@live.com](mailto:eileenklein@live.com) or 484-875-0122) if you can give this food ministry a try.

## **OUTREACH FOOD MINISTRY NEWS**

### ***Phoenixville Ecumenical Monday Dinners***

*by Eileen Klein*

On March 5 we prepared and served a tasty and nutritious meal at St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Phoenixville to 15 people who came back for seconds and took meals to friends. An extra 10 meals were taken to Good Samaritan Shelter. Everyone played a significant role in making the evening a success, from the bakers, cooks, and servers to the cleanup crew, and it was all done so joyfully. Warm appreciation to Queenie Northrop for her leadership.

This community is so appreciative and aware of the kindness and effort that goes into these evenings. One guest was on his phone the whole meal, detailing each dish as he ate, and another was most grateful for some gluten-free options.

Could there be a more rewarding or fun way to give back to a struggling under-served community? To join this special ministry, contact me at [eileenklein@live.com](mailto:eileenklein@live.com) or 484-875-0122.



## *April Calendar*

Mid-week Worship and Bible Study at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesdays in the Parish Hall  
Prayer Group meets on Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. at Bellingham  
Choir rehearses at 7:30 on Thursdays  
Gathering of Men meets in the Parish House on Fridays at 7:00 a.m.

### **Easter Day, April 1**

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite I – Church  
9:00 and 11:15 a.m. Festal Easter Eucharist in the Barn

### **Regular Sunday Schedule:**

**April 8**

**April 22**

**April 29**

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite I – Church  
9:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite II – Barn  
10:20 a.m. Christian Formation – Barn  
11:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite II- Church

### **Wednesday, April 4**

4:30 p.m. Vacation Bible School meeting – Parish House

### **Friday, April 6**

7:30 p.m. Youth Bake Off – Church kitchen

### **Saturday, April 7**

10:00 a.m. Needlework Ministry – Parish Hall

### **Tuesday, April 10**

7:15 p.m. Finance Commission Meeting – Parish House

### **Sunday, April 15**

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist – Barn  
11:15 a.m. Annual Meeting - Barn

### **Tuesday, April 17**

7:15 p.m. Vestry Meeting – Parish Hall

### **Saturday, April 21**

6:00 p.m. Preview Party – Common Room

### **Monday, April 23**

7:15 p.m. Outreach commission meeting



For its eighth production, the St. Peter's Players will present "Plaza Suite" by Neil Simon. The performances will take place on three consecutive evenings, May 17, 18 and 19 at 8:00 PM with an additional matinee performance on Saturday, May 19 at 2:00 PM at St. Peter's Church in the Great Valley in Malvern. Tickets are \$20 (adults) and \$10 (students). If you are interested in group (10 or more) ticket opportunities, please call 610-644-9260.



**TICKET ORDER FORM**

TICKET TYPE	THU., 5/17	FRI., 5/18	SAT., 5/19 Matinée	SAT., 5/19 Evening	TOTAL
Adults	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Students	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Total Enclosed	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

I/We are unable to attend but would like to make a \$\_\_\_\_\_ contribution to St. Peter's.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate the number of tickets you want for each performance in the appropriate space. Payment must accompany your order. Please mail ticket order, a self-addressed stamped envelope, and a check payable to St. Peter's Church in the Great Valley to Jan Muck, 1425 Yellow Springs Road, Malvern, PA 19355. On the memo line of the check, please write Plaza Suite.

Additionally, if you would like to support the production as a patron, please review the opportunities noted below. Please contact Paige Infortuna (pinfortuna@msn.com or 610-608-2093) for more information about becoming a patron. Donations are deductible to the fullest extent allowable by law.

**PATRON LEVELS**

**PALM COURT** ..... \$250

- 6 tickets for the play performance
- Full page ad in the program book
- Listing in program book

**CHAMPAGNE BAR** ..... \$200

- 4 tickets for the play performance
- Half page ad in the program book
- Listing in program book

**OAK ROOM** ..... \$150

- 2 tickets for the play performance
- Quarter-page ad in the program book
- Listing in program book

Note: Patron ticket orders received after May 4th may not be acknowledged in the program book.



You are cordially invited  
to the **St. Peter's Players**  
**Preview Party**  
for "Plaza Suite" by Neil  
Simon

Plaza Suite-suitable Hors d'Oeuvres and Libations  
John Orr will offer expanded Director's Notes  
(and perhaps a few surprises!)  
**Saturday, April 21, 2018**  
**6:00-7:30 p.m.**  
The Parish Hall and Historic Church

\$30 per person. Please make checks payable to  
St. Peter's Church in the Great Valley with memo  
"Preview Party."

For information, call Charlene Hanbury at 610-  
633-6511. Tickets to "Plaza Suite" will be available  
at the Preview Party.

*All proceeds benefit St. Peter's Church in the  
Great Valley.*



## *Youth Happenings*

Five of the St. Peter's youth journeyed with Sian Myshko and Kyle to New York City for a Presidents' Weekend of fun, exploring the city, and bonding in fellowship. On Friday night, we checked into our hotel on the East Side. The following morning, we headed to the Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine, the fifth largest Christian church in the world. But first, delicious pastries and robust coffee at the renowned Hungarian Pastry Shop across the street from the Cathedral! After our repast, we met with The Rev. Canon Jeanne Person, a long-time friend of Abigail and now Canon Pastor to the Diocese of New York. She kindly offered a private tour of special features of the cathedral, including the famous Christa artwork (a crucifix featuring a woman nailed to a cross), the Great Choir, and several of the side chapels. We then participated in a vertical climb of the cathedral with a cathedral docent, going all the way to the top of the interior roof of the cathedral!

On Saturday evening, we laughed throughout "The Play that Goes Wrong" at the Lyceum Theatre in Times Square. The next morning, after an early trip to Dylan's Candy Shop, we attended the Choral Eucharist at St. Thomas Church, Fifth Avenue. After a nice brunch and some last-minute shopping, we returned by train to Paoli, exhausted but fulfilled.

The youth have two activities planned in April: the second annual Bake-Off on Friday, April 6, from 7:30-9:30PM in the Historic Church, and a trip to the Mutter Museum in Philadelphia (details pending). Those youth who will be eligible to participate in the youth group next year, as well as friends, are invited to attend any events. For more information, please contact Kyle ([kyle@stpetersgv.org](mailto:kyle@stpetersgv.org)).

## Children, Youth, and God's Mission Field

by Kyle Babin



*"And [Jesus] said to [his disciples], 'Go into all the world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation.'" (Mark 16:15)*

*"All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need." (Acts 2:44)*

At St. Peter's, we are blessed to have numerous active outreach ministries. And this is appropriate, because in response to worshipping the living God, we know that we must be sent forth into the world to serve the people of God in God's Name. One of my seminary professors—incidentally a professor of Christian mission—constantly reiterated that we as Christians do not have a mission, the Church does not have a mission, but God has a mission. In fact, God is mission. And so we know that our work and service as members of the Body of Christ is indispensable to our identity as Christians, but we are participating in something larger than ourselves and not orchestrated by us.

This summer, there will be two major ways in which our young people will experience intensely God's mission field. June 18-22, we will be hosting Vacation Bible School, the first such bible camp in a while at St. Peter's. Our curriculum is "Abundance Orchard: Where Faith Grows and Hungry People Are Fed." This VBS program is produced by the Society of St. Andrew ([endhunger.org](http://endhunger.org)), an ecumenical, non-profit, charitable organization based in southwest Virginia that is dedicated to addressing problems of hunger worldwide. The VBS curriculum is available for free online, but the Society of St. Andrew requests that a mission offering be collected at each VBS session. Participants will be encouraged to bring a little money each day that can be directed towards the cause of the Society. The New Testament stories are all about feeding: Jesus having breakfast with his disciples (John 21:1-13), Jesus having lunch with a tax collector (Luke 19:1-10), Jesus having dinner in the home of his friends (Luke 10:38-42), and others. Each day, stories of important mission work will be shared. Activities to raise awareness of issues around food and hunger in the world will also be offered.

One of the most appealing aspects of the Abundance Orchard curriculum is that, unlike most other VBS curricula, it is not fancy. Its purpose is to reflect the conservation and responsible stewardship of resources that its theme promotes. Waste is avoided, along with fancy props that will often be thrown out. This curriculum offers something of theological and biblical substance and connects its topics with real issues in the world. By offering such a program at St. Peter's, we are reflecting the strong commitment in this parish to issues around food in the communities that surround us. We are likewise imparting to this young generation the ever-increasing need to avoid waste while millions go without proper nourishment.

VBS is open to all children from rising kindergarten to rising fifth grade. I invite you to reach out to friends and family who might have interest. Perhaps grandparents will invite your young grandchildren to come and spend this fun week with us. Participants do not need to be members of St. Peter's, and we hope many will not be! Cost is \$20 per child and \$10 for each subsequent child in a family. Register by emailing [vbs@stpetersgv.org](mailto:vbs@stpetersgv.org) by May 22.

A week after VBS, seven of our parish youth will be journeying to Beaumont, Texas, to offer hurricane relief to people still reeling from the disastrous effects of Hurricane Harvey. We will be graciously hosted by St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, and that parish will connect us with local residents in need of helping hands. With a mission trip such as this one, youth make direct contact with other people in need. As opposed to simply sending money somewhere in an anonymous fashion, doing hands-on work for people whom you can encounter is all about fostering relationships. This is the essence of the Gospel, where we are called to be connected deeply with one another, meeting people outside of our own circumstances—whatever they may be—and sharing something of ourselves with them, and they with us. I am certain that this mission trip will be a life-changing experience for all of us participating. Please keep our youth in your prayers as they continue to prepare for this endeavor.

At St. Peter's, we are blessed to have an abundance of resources—talent, energy, goodwill, and financial stability—that we can share with others in need. Although our physical campus may be up on a hill in relative peace, the tendrils of our love in the Name of Christ are reaching all over the world, and thanks be to God for that!

## *Meet Our Vestry Candidates*

*Don Cheetham*

I have attended St. Peter's since 2005. Immediately before that, I attended Christ Church, Pottstown, where I was received and served two terms on the Vestry. Since joining St. Peter's, I have sung in the family choir for about nine years, been a reader and adult formation leader, and am in training to become a Eucharistic Minister. I have also served on the Property Commission and the Newcomers Commission.

My day job is as a Legal Aid lawyer, providing civil representation in certain areas to people who can't afford lawyers. I also served on the Board of Directors of ACLAMO, a non-profit that provides educational and social services to a primarily Latino clientele in Montgomery County, for about 30 years, including terms as Vice-President and President.

My wife, Melissa Shaner, and I explored several Episcopal churches before joining St. Peter's. It has been a spiritually nourishing home, and I have been enriched by the strong and active congregation, as well as the excellent music St. Peter's provides.

*Doug Jones*

I have been married to my wife Judy for almost 36 years and have two children and two grandchildren. I consider myself semi-retired, working part time as a consultant to the Delaware Insurance Department. Judy teaches high school science in the West Chester School District.

We had been attending another Episcopal church since shortly after moving to Malvern in 1983. I was introduced to the beauty of St. Peter's by my good friend Dave Tatum, who suggested working with the Bad Boys as something to occupy my time while job-searching. I quickly came to love all 16 acres of the campus. I was having difficulty deciding whether to keep trying to stay in the rat race of the modern business world or to find something lower-key in the area when one day, as I was sitting on a bench near the workshop, I received a very strong message that St. Peter's is where I belonged. Giving in to what I perceived as the Lord's wishes, I gave up on the rat race, and within a week the consulting job landed in my lap.

Shortly thereafter my wife and I both began attending services at St. Peter's. We came to love the people and fellowship and decided to transfer our membership in the fall of 2016. Since then I have increased my involvement not only with the Bad Boys and Girls for Jesus, but also as a ringer in the handbell choir and and operator of the sound system at the 11:15 service.

As a vestry member I will do whatever I can to support the Holy Hill, the historic (and newer) buildings, and the people I have come to love. I will advocate for what I feel are in the best interests of the congregation.

*Eileen Guest Klein*

The first time Randy and I visited St. Peter's in 2005 we appreciated all the "newcomer welcomes": genuine introductions, welcoming smiles, engaging conversation, and the beauty of an architecturally significant, lovingly restored historic rural church. All that occurred before we sat down and heard an inspiring sermon and beautifully blended sounds of a Baroque-inspired choir, and experienced freshly baked Eucharistic bread during the moving communion celebration. We found our church home!

The family choir complemented my profession as a special educator in the Great Valley School District. I enjoyed two residencies in England. To lead Evensong services at Westminster Abbey, St Paul's, and Chester Cathedral was totally awesome. Our experiences at St Martin-in-the-Fields and Christ Church, Oxford, were equally magnificent.

I coordinated patrons' parties for the first five plays and participated in Evensong receptions, choir teas, and hospitality events. I led our thirteen Eucharistic bread bakers. For years I was a member of the landscape committee, which created a plan, planted many memorial trees, and cultivated gardens. I have found much meaning as a member of the Pastoral Care commission. Currently, my work on the Outreach commission and the new Outreach Food Ministry allows a most meaningful church life.

Ever since my participation in Youth Fellowship as a teenager, sharing God's love with others has motivated me. During the past two years I enjoyed researching ways that St. Peter's can do that through a

food ministry. Encouraging others to participate in this important work has revealed the love of God shared by many parishioners and the profound appreciation of people experiencing the pains of poverty. I am delighted to be nominated to the Vestry and hope to continue the expansion of outreach through the food ministry.

*Alix S. Markee*

Our family's introduction to St. Peter's occurred in the early 1990's when our two daughters attended St. Peter's Preschool. They had the incredible good fortune of being guided by such professional, dedicated, and caring individuals as Suzi Alrutz, MaryAnn Furin, Rita Porreca, and Kathy Nuttal. We forged meaningful relationships with many families, some of whom we have remained intertwined with over the years. The impact of St. Peter's at that time in our lives was nothing short of miraculous. St. Peter's was a source of comfort, stability, reassurance, guidance, and love -- a gift which I often reflect upon and will forever be grateful for.

As often is the case, time marches forward, schedules are hectic, situations and family dynamics change... our family was not present at St. Peter's for several years. They say absence makes the heart grow fonder. How true. We eventually found our way back. Although many faces have changed, one thing has remained constant: we are grateful for and appreciative of the support, acceptance, and Christian environment in which we worship.

On a professional note, I have an extensive background in both retail management and commercial development. I have enjoyed coaching for local youth organizations and am an active member in our community. I love spending time with my family, and enjoy sports, gardening, and cooking.

Jim and I have enjoyed our tenure in various capacities, primarily at the 11:15 am service. It would be my honor to step up to the plate and help St. Peter's meet the challenges that undoubtedly lie ahead. So much has already been accomplished, and there is still so much yet to achieve.

### *With a Deep Sense of Gratitude*

*by Rip Tilden*

After 24 years in the Philadelphia suburbs, my wife Beth and I have decided to move to Louisville, Kentucky. Our decision is the result of a great deal of thinking and prayer over the last two years, as we considered where to live in the next stage of our lives together. We want to live closer to our children and grandchildren so that we can enjoy watching our grandchildren grow while being a part of their lives on a more regular basis.

We are blessed with three beautiful children who married wonderful people. Our two sons and our daughter are building exciting lives with their families in Pittsburgh, Louisville, and Denver. Frankly, we wish we could live in all three cities at the same time! When we move to Louisville in mid-April, we will be located just a few minutes from our daughter's house.

It will be very hard to say goodbye to friends here as we make this transition. Most difficult will be bidding farewell to St. Peter's. This wonderful faith community has been a central part of our lives for a quarter century. We've experienced times of remarkable growth, been blessed by the ministry of four rectors and three interim rectors, seen our campus transformed, and come to know God's love in ways we never would have envisioned when we first walked into the historic church in 1994.

As I reflect on our time at St. Peter's, what strikes me is how much more in love I am with God because of the blessings I have received from our remarkable parish family. I've learned to love God in new ways because of the beautiful, touching ways that members of this parish have shared God's love with one another and with those around us. I have benefited from countless acts of caring, the sweet joy of shared laughter, the powerful support we give one another in our mutual life journeys, and the beauty and peace of common worship.

My sense of God's presence in my life and God's breathtaking gifts of salvation and redemption are immeasurably richer because of my life at St. Peter's. I cannot think of a more marvelous gift to take with us as we begin the next phase of our lives. I am deeply grateful for that gift and I am excited to share it with people we meet in the years ahead. Thank you.



## *World Labyrinth Day*

Celebrate the 10th Annual World Labyrinth Day on May 5, 2018, and join over 5,000 people taking steps for peace "Walking as One at 1" in the afternoon. Last year gatherings were held in over 20 countries and 45 US states! Bring a friend to St. Peter's and walk our labyrinth -- if you can't make it at 1:00PM, walk whenever you can, as it will be 1:00PM somewhere in the world. Share and view WLD stories, photos, and videos on social media using the hashtag #LabyrinthDay. For more information, visit The Labyrinth Society at [labyrinthociety.org](http://labyrinthociety.org).

### *Reserve Your Place for Feast for the Future!*

The St. Peter's Youth Group will once again team up with chef Peter Gilmore to host a dinner to raise money for the June mission trip. This year we will celebrate the Kentucky Derby on Saturday, May 5, beginning at 5:30PM with cocktails/non-alcoholic beverages, followed by dinner, in the Historic Church. Tickets are \$75 per person, and there are only 64 seats available. To RSVP, email [feast2018@stpetersgv.org](mailto:feast2018@stpetersgv.org). Payment must be received in order to confirm your reservation. Checks may be made payable to "St. Peter's Church" with "Feast for the Future" in the memo line. If you have any questions, please contact Kyle ([kyle@stpetersgv.org](mailto:kyle@stpetersgv.org)).

### *Chester Children's Chorus -- Upcoming Concerts*

Forty members of the Chester Children's Chorus will be performing as part of the Shoemaker Visiting Lecturer Series at Westtown School on Sunday, April 15, at 7:30PM in their theater. More information can be found at [www.westtown.edu](http://www.westtown.edu) or by calling 610-399-0123.

The full Chorus will celebrate spring at Lang Concert Hall, Swarthmore College, on Friday, May 11, and Saturday, May 12, at 7:30PM. Reservations are required, though seating is not assigned. Visit <https://cccspring.brownpapertickets.com> to make your reservation.

### *Save the Date -- Camp Get-Along!*

This summer Camp Get-Along will be on Wednesday, July 11, from 10AM to 2PM. Please contact Gail Guthridge at [guthgirl60@gmail.com](mailto:guthgirl60@gmail.com) if you would like to help with crafts, games, the waterslide, or food. It is a very satisfying day of fun and fellowship spent with a deserving group of young folks!

### *Preschool News*

We welcome our new preschool director, Leigh Pavoni! A native of Delaware County, Leigh earned her bachelor's degree in psychology at Widener University and master's degree in education at Neumann University. Leigh brings tremendous enthusiasm and energy to the position and is dedicated to maintaining the warm, nurturing environment of our preschool. Leigh writes:

Dear Church Families,

To all I did not meet at the service in March, I am the new preschool director and I love the preschool age! I have been married 10 years in June with two kids: Grace, 6, and Matthew, 3. We live in Kimberton and love this area. I have been staying home with my kids for the past six years and loved every minute of it! As the kids are getting older, it was time for a change!

The last month has been wonderful. I really have not one complaint. Everyone from the old director

to Abigail and Kyle to the wonderful teachers to the office staff and the Bad Boys – yes, I met them – has been amazing in my transition. The families and kids of the school have opened their arms so graciously to me as well. The St. Peter’s family really is special and I am so happy and blessed to be a part of it!

Registration for 2018-19 is open to the whole world, and I’m giving tours to families all the time. If you haven’t already registered for next year, please do so I know how much space we have for new people! If you have any reason to hold off on registration (possible move, work change, etc.), please talk with me – I want to be able to keep your child’s space available, but must also plan as accurately as I can for next year. This applies especially for those who have 2.5- and 3-year-old children: there’s a lot of demand for this program.

St. Peter’s Lambs Flock of 2018 is beginning to form! We are looking forward to a fun summer with six one-week sessions of camp beginning in early June, and children may be registered for three, four, or five days of any session. I have camp flyers if you would like some!

In April, the kids have a couple field trips, Donuts with Dad, Earth Day, and we start soccer shots on Mondays. It will be a busy two last months of the school year, and we thank the church for your support!

Kindly, Leigh Pavoni (610-644-2261 or preschool@stpetersgv.org)

### *February Financial Snapshot*

	February 2018	Year to Date February	Year-end Projection	Budget 2018
Parishioner Contributions	\$28,674	\$70,413	\$438,047	\$430,898
Total Income	67,317	122,363	687,808	684,998
Total Expense	62,159	120,304	688,751	684,998
Surplus/ (Deficit)	5,158	2,059	(943)	0
Mortgage Payment	\$1,488			
Interest	659			
Principal	830			
Mortgage Balance	203,140			

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

### *The Conversation Project*

At one of the Lenten Soup Suppers, we discussed issues related to the end of life. To further the conversation and offer resources, we have invited hospice professional Beth Adams to increase awareness of the need to address individual wishes concerning Advanced Care Directives. She will present materials from The Conversation Project, a national initiative that highlights that it is not enough, nor complete, simply to have Advanced Directives in place. It is equally important to have the conversation about your end-of-life wishes with someone you trust to ensure that these wishes are fulfilled.

The Conversation Project is a practical in-service that guides participants to prepare for these discussions. There is a workbook for each participant that we begin to explore during the presentation and is then completed at home. What are your wishes? Have you addressed them with your physician? Who is the ideal person to carry out your wishes? How do you begin the conversation?

We hope you will join us and bring a friend to the Historic Church on **Wednesday, May 9, from 7:00-8:30 p.m.** Dessert and coffee will be provided. So that we have enough workbooks for everyone, RSVP to Parish Secretary Elizabeth Dwyer at elizabeth@stpetersgv.org or 610-644-2261. If you need a ride, please contact Susan Dovey at srdovey@verizon.net or 610-524-8614.



St. Peter's Church in the Great Valley  
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 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  
 Gail Malcolm, Marketing and Event Manager  
 Elizabeth Dwyer, Parish Secretary  
 Liam Reid, Weekend Facilities Manager  
 Leigh Pavoni, Preschool Director

*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  
 May Beacon  
 is **April 15.**

**Every Week at St. Peter's**

**Sunday**  
 8 A.M. *Holy Eucharist\**  
 9 A.M. *Holy Eucharist\*\**  
 (Nursery care available\*\*) *Christian formation for all ages*  
 10:10 A.M. *Holy Eucharist\**  
 11:15 A.M. *Holy Eucharist\**

**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



2018  
 Dr. Audrey Evans Scholarship Benefit  
*The Sound and Spirit of St. James School*

MONDAY MAY 21, 2018  
 6 p.m.  
 The Union League of Philadelphia  
 140 South Broad Street  
 Philadelphia, PA 19102



**HONORING**

The People of St. Peter's Church in the Great Valley  
 Including the Rev. Abigail Crozier Nestlehutt, Rector  
 and  
 Maestro Louis Scaglione  
 President & Music Director, Philadelphia Youth Orchestra

To volunteer or for more information contact Roshonda Jones  
 (rjones@stjamesphila.org or 215-226-1276)