



St. Peter's Church
IN THE GREAT VALLEY

✦
1700

The Beacon

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

May 2017

I've Got the Joy, Joy, Joy, Joy . . .

by the Reverend Abigail Crozier Nestlehutt

The Eastern Shore of Maryland is commonly referred to as “the land of pleasant living” because of a 1950’s advertising slogan for a regional brew, National Bohemian or Natty Boh. With miles and miles of rivers and creeks as well as acres and acres of open space, the Chesapeake Bay area is remarkably beautiful and reliably peaceful. People choose to live there because it is a pleasant place with a reasonable pace. This time of year, when the weather turns warm, kids swim off bridges after school. In the evening neighbors arrive for dinner by boat and the meal probably consists of whatever was grown in the backyard, caught off the dock, or featured at the growers-only market. Bad things happen there at the same rate that bad things happen everywhere. Still, in “the land of pleasant living,” people tend to be joyful. They might be happy to live in a lovely part of the world, but they are joyful because they feel connected to and care about the place they are in and the people with whom they are in community.

Noting the deep racial, religious, and political divisions in our country at this time, the Yale Center for Faith and Culture at Yale Divinity School launched an initiative called the Theology of Joy and the Good Life Project. Its website states, “For more than two millennia, the articulation and cultivation of joy was at the center of Jewish and Christian scripture, theology, and practices—an articulation and cultivation that in turn was grounded in and evolved over centuries of lived human experience, observation and discernment. Notwithstanding the importance of joy to human well-being and the deep, ancient religious foundations for understanding and cultivating joy, the very idea of joy has all but disappeared from modern theological reflection, is all but ignored by the social sciences, and is increasingly absent from lived experience. The consequence is a ‘flattening out,’ a ‘graying,’ of human life and communities—abundance of entertainment notwithstanding—and a sharp bloom of individual and communal dysfunction. The Theology of Joy and the Good Life project seeks to restore joy to the center of Christian reflection on the nature of the good life and to restore the question of the good life to the core of Christian theology, the world’s colleges and universities, and our most significant global conversations.”

The project is multifaceted and includes something called the “50 States of Joy” campaign, a preaching series that challenges religious leaders to preach on joy for at least four of the Sundays of Eastertide. The campaign seems to be attracting mostly non-lectionary-based pastors, which makes sense. Leaders in denominations that do not follow a particular cycle of readings assigned for each Sunday have a kind of flexibility that is different from those of us in denominations that follow a lectionary. Still, I am intrigued by the challenge to consider joy, to build relationships through a shared discussion of joy, and to wonder about the nature of the good life in our world today.

What is joy and why does it matter? Let’s wonder about that together this Eastertide. “He is not here, for he has risen, as he said! They departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to tell the disciples” (Matthew 28:6-8).



NOTES FROM THE RECTOR . . .

Sunday School Leadership

Many thanks to Elizabeth Phillips, who so beautifully organized our Sunday school for the 2016-17 program year. She offered vision, attended to countless details, and most of all made each teacher and student feel cherished. We will miss Elizabeth, but are delighted to send her off with our prayers as she moves to North Carolina, where she will attend Duke Divinity School!

I am happy to announce that Holly Hardester will assume the leadership of our Sunday school program starting this month. Holly is a wonderfully faithful parishioner with many years of experience in Christian formation, both at St. Peter's and at other churches. I look forward to this ministry with Holly!

Welcoming Our Neighbors

Building continues in the community to the west of the historic church, and soon a walking path will connect our campus with the Atwater neighborhood. Planning is underway to invite our new neighbors to enjoy the beautiful St. Peter's campus and also to attend a church service.

As we adjust to our new reality, I invite you to join me in a walk to get acquainted with the community next door on **Sunday, May 28**, after the 10 A.M. service. Please email me (abigail@stpetersgv.org) to let me know that you wish to participate.

Program Year Ends, Summer Begins

May 21 is the last day of our regular morning service schedule, and during the 9 A.M. service we will thank our Christian formation leaders. Later that day, we bring the program year to a close with a Taizé-style Compline service in the barn. Join us at 7:30 P.M. for this beautiful service led by the choir.

On **May 28**, during Memorial Day weekend, our summer schedule begins, with services at 8 and 10 A.M. in the historic church. This summer, keep an eye out for periodic outdoor worship opportunities as well!

Doing Spring Sports or Other Activities?

Baseball, softball, crew, lacrosse, soccer and other activities dominate family schedules in the springtime and often make it difficult to get to St. Peter's on Sunday morning. Consider attending a different service than usual and know that it is absolutely fine to wear your sports uniform to church. We are happy to see you no matter what.

Also, I am sincerely interested in attending your games, meets, and races. If you send me a schedule, I will try to get out and see you in action. Just send me an email (abigail@stpetersgv.org) telling me when and where you will be engaging in whatever activity you love.



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Go "Back to the Future" with the History Nerds

"Rockets and Missiles," "America by Air," "Moving beyond Earth," and "Space Science" are just a few of the intriguing exhibits that await St. Peter's "history nerds" on this year's trip. On **June 10** we will explore those exhibits, and many more, at the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum, located at Dulles International Airport, just outside Washington, D.C.

The excursion promises to give us a unique look at some of our nation's most historic aviation icons—the space shuttle Discovery, a Lockheed SR-71 Blackbird, a Concorde—along with a host of other aviation and space memorabilia. The museum offers a day's journey through some of the most fascinating and dramatic moments in American history.

We plan to leave St. Peter's at 7:30 A.M. and return by approximately 6 P.M. Our luxury coach can accommodate fifty-three people, and we are taking reservations on a first-come basis. If you are interested in making the trip, contact Rip Tilden (rip.tilden@gmail.com or 610-909-7580) or Bill Armstrong (jobiarmst@verizon.net).



Meet the Vestry Nominees

GREG BRIGHT

I was born in Charleston, SC, where my father was stationed by the Navy; we moved to Sharon, MA, when I was 5. I grew up with two younger brothers. A Roman Catholic (still), I was baptized, given First Communion, and confirmed in that faith. I went to the University of Notre Dame for college and Boston University for graduate school; I have worked for the same environmental remediation company since finishing my graduate studies.

I met my wife Kathrine the same week I was hired, in January 2005—a very good week for me, to say the least. We lived in Quincy, Norwood, and Wayland, MA, for several years and attended the Episcopal Church of the Holy Spirit, Wayland, from 2009 until it closed in 2015.

We moved to Malvern in 2016; the fact that Kathrine was born and raised in Chester County and has family nearby factored into our decision to come here. We have been coming to St. Peter's for almost a full year now, primarily attending the 9 A.M. service with our two young sons, Aiden (5) and Desmond (2).

I am looking forward to serving on the vestry as a way to get more involved with the church and to meet more people in the church community.

WILSON SMITH

My wife Barbara and I have been members of St. Peter's for over twenty-five years; we joined when our daughter Elizabeth was five. I have volunteered as an usher at the 9 A.M. service for most of my time here.

When John Tampa came to St. Peter's, he asked me to be the head usher at 9 o'clock and serve on the worship committee. After Elizabeth graduated from high school, I stepped down as the usher scheduler but continued to usher.

I look forward to continuing to serve the parish as a member of the vestry and believe my background, which has been focused on financial services, will allow me to contribute to the continued success of St. Peter's. I started out working at several banks and migrated into the securities business and then into private equity. For the last three years I have been consulting with several local nonprofits, helping with land development projects and financial planning.

DONNA BOORSE FABIUS

I began attending St Peter's in 2004 and was received in 2006. I regularly attend the 9 A.M. service in the barn and also greatly enjoy the occasions when the parish comes together for services in the historic church.

Three things drew me to St. Peter's: the people, the music, and the setting. My three children were baptized here and participated in Sunday school and youth group activities for many years. Throughout the years I have been an active member of the parish. In 2015, I served as a member and recording secretary of the Discernment Committee. Currently, I participate in the Needlework Ministry and serve as a shepherd with my daughter Emily.

I would be honored to serve on the vestry to help maintain the history and traditions of our church while embracing new people and plans for our future success.

CHARLENE HANBURY

I have been a member of St. Peter's for ten years. I am retired, having worked for forty-five years as a computer programmer/accounting manager/corporate controller. I have been a widow for five years. I am a volunteer visitor for Heartland Hospice and a Reiki practitioner with a strong interest in healing.

Over the years, I have been on vestries in three Episcopal churches, one in Virginia's Shenandoah Valley, and two in Pennsylvania (in the Delaware and Conestoga Deaneries). In the Diocese of Pennsylvania, I have served on Diocesan Council and chaired its Executive Committee; been a delegate to Diocesan Convention; served on several diocesan committees (Finance & Property, Clergy Salaries & Pensions) and a sub-committee (Parochial Audits). I am a 1994 EfM graduate and a member of Episcopal Church Club of Philadelphia. At St. Peter's, I usually attend the 8 A.M. service, where I serve as a reader and a Eucharistic minister.

I look forward to serving on St. Peter's vestry. From experience I know that each annual vestry is unique. I hope that we can use our individual gifts and passions and work together to create a team that builds community and furthers the mission of St. Peter's. I am particularly interested in stewardship and in building our ministry to the Atwater and Sage Senior Living communities.

All-parish worship and annual meeting – April 30

Join the Choir for a Unique Experience of Westminster Abbey!

by Bruce Glenny, Organist/choirmaster

The choirs of St. Peter's have been invited to be the resident choir at London's iconic Westminster Abbey from August 6 to 12, 2018. And, thanks to the generosity of a friend of the choir, no fundraising is needed for this residency. As the choirs prepare for it, they will offer events for the entire parish with the sole aim of raising awareness of and interest in their residency.

The invitation to sing and lead worship services at this famed cathedral is extraordinary, and will prove to be both a challenge and a reward, as the singers must rehearse many extra hours to shape and improve their skills in order to match the requirements of Westminster. Once in London, they will rehearse and sing services daily, during a residency that will be their last for some time, as our rector has plans for future pilgrimages.

Through the process of preparing for the residency, the choir will become a better ensemble, capable of leading our own worship services with renewed vigor. As an outreach project, the choir represents not only our own parish, but in a broader sense our diocese and also, to a large degree, the Episcopal Church in America. With an average attendance of five hundred people from all over the world at each Evensong, the choir becomes a musical ambassador. This sharing of our talents with the world is truly an awesome experience.

Here are some remarks from parishioners who joined us for our 2015 residency.

I listened to some of the final rehearsal from the nave of Westminster Abbey. It was heavenly – the blend of voices, cantor, organ. Wonderful! The wash of sound is impossible to describe. I got to take time off; the choir rehearsed for hours, as they do each day during their residency: first in the choir room, behind the scenes, and then in their black cassocks in the quire, with an impromptu “audience” of visitors to the Abbey. It was very revealing to see how difficult their task is: the choir, cantor, and organist who have never met before must unify around a familiar liturgy but with unique music, and it is the responsibility of the choir director to oversee and manage this delicate relationship. The consummate professionalism of all these people was easily apparent. It brought tears to my eyes. (Peter Kreek)

I have known and lived the intensity of time and commitment required of all choir members to prepare for a residency when I accompanied Don [her late husband, a longtime choir member]. As a non-choir member, this trip provided me the opportunity to sit in on a rehearsal and see first-hand the technique and discipline required. I was only there for thirty minutes and was exhausted when I left! It was an awesome and spiritual experience to accompany the choir during this residency at Westminster Abbey and St. Paul's Cathedral. (Pat Harvey)

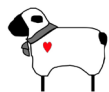
Something of interest to view from the choir stalls is the effect of the music on the tourists from all over the globe. They may not be involved in the religious aspect of Evensong, but they become silent and, one can judge, thoughtful from the music presented. I personally feel the faith of the service. Listening to the responses, the *Magnificat* and *Nunc Dimittis*, and the anthem all make me aware of the power of music in a house of God. This is an enriching experience for me, and watching the choir daily, I can tell it is for them also. St. Peter's is represented in the very highest way through this music service, and the church can be proud to have such faith and musicality on view in these great cathedrals. (Mary Anne Morgan)

The choirs invite the entire St. Peter's community to join them in England in the summer of 2018 and experience worship at Westminster Abbey in a wholly new way. Additional detailed information is available from the church office or from me (610-644-2261).

- Elizabeth Phillips for leading Christian formation this year and Holly Hardester for taking on that position in the coming program year;
- The many parishioners who lent a hand on spruce-up day and Gail Guthridge and Sandy Mannix, who organized the work teams;
- Charlotte Tellefsen and Dylan Stoltz for working with the Bad Boys during spring break;
- Holly Hardester and Gail Guthridge for organizing the Maundy Thursday agape meal and vigil;
- All who made our Easter Sunday worship so glorious: Bruce Glenny, the choirs, and the visiting musicians; the altar and flower guilds; and the office staff, who put in extra hours of work during Holy Week;
- Pat Harvey, Barb Coleman, and Lynn Mander for staging the Easter brunch with the Omelet King, and Terry Michael for his delicious cinnamon rolls;
- Suzanne Casey for coordinating the Easter egg hunt;
- Pat Harvey, Joe Herbst, Paige Infortuna, and Steve Ockenden, whose vestry terms expire at the annual meeting.



The Secret Ingredient of a Casserole: Loving Care



Sometimes the simplest things have a strong impact and make a difference. A case in point is that from time to time a casserole or other simple meal is prepared and delivered to an individual or a family in the midst of an event where such an expression of caring brings comfort and very practical relief. The Pastoral Care Commission oversees these food deliveries to grateful recipients. A parishioner whose family received a meal wrote, "Thank you so very much for the wonderful meal that you provided to me and my family during this difficult time. I also wanted to let you know that I could truly feel your prayers, love and support and these have provided great comfort. I feel so blessed."

When you, or someone you know, can benefit from the gift of a meal prepared with goodness, love, caring, and prayers, contact Abigail (abigail@stpetersgv.org) or Mary Ann Tatum (maryanntatum5@gmail.com, 610-644-1549). If you would like to volunteer to provide these meals occasionally, contact Eileen Klein (eileenklein@live.com, 484-875-0122).

Camp Get-Along to Return in July

For a rewarding morning of fun and service, reserve Wednesday, July 12 on your calendar now! That's the day when the children in Camp Get-Along will once again make their way from Philadelphia to St. Peter's for a day of activities and fresh air on our campus.

Camp Get-Along day is always fun for our volunteers, who help in many different ways, both indoors and outdoors. You won't regret volunteering to help! Questions? Ready to sign up now? Contact Gail Guthridge (guthgirl60@gmail.com, 610-688-1986).



Chester Children's Chorus

The Chester Children's Chorus will perform twice this month, on **May 12 and 13**, in the Lang Concert Hall at Swarthmore College. These 7:30 P.M. free concerts will honor this year's four high school graduates. Doors will open at 6:45 P.M., and arriving early is advised, since seating is limited to the first 425 guests. Kate Mallon-Day (kantatakate@aol.com) will be happy to answer your questions.

Take a Bow, 2017 Graduates!



Will you or your child march in a cap and gown to the strains of *Pomp and Circumstance* this month or next? If so, this message is for you, even if you earned the degree but skipped the ceremony!

In keeping with St. Peter's long tradition of recognizing each year's graduates in *The Beacon*, we will celebrate our grads in the June issue. But we need your input, so please let the *Beacon* editor (beacon@stpetersgv.org) know by **May 20** about this milestone that you or your children reached this past year. Be sure to identify the institution conferring the diploma and any honors attached to it; if you wish, add a few words about post-graduation plans (e.g., intended college major, grad school, employment).

March Financial Snapshot

	March 2017	Year-to-date March	Year-end Projection	Budget 2017
Parishioner Contributions	\$ 24,341	\$ 132,512	\$455,214	\$454,350
Total Income	31,913	156,138	638,350	642,932
Total Expense	58,001	159,376	636,385	642,932
Surplus/ (Deficit)	(26,088)	(3,238)	1,965	0
<i>Mortgage Payment</i>	\$ 1,488			
<i>Interest</i>	621			
<i>Principal</i>	867			
<i>Mortgage Balance</i>	212,211			

At the end of March, the financial snapshot shows both a \$26,088 deficit for the month and a year-to-date one of \$3,238, but it also projects a small surplus of \$1,965 by year's end. This result is actually positive, revealing the support and enthusiasm of our

parishioners: with 25% of the year behind us, parishioners have contributed 29% of the budgeted contribution amount. March expenses were as expected, and our finances continued to track the 2017 budget. Since expenses usually outpace income until early fall, when income receipts catch up with them, we forecast that, as normally happens, the budget will be balanced at the end of the year. Many, many thanks to all parishioners who continue to generously support St. Peter's. — Tammy Kraig for the Finance Commission



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The Rev. Abigail Crozier Nestlehutt, Rector
 Dr. Bruce Glenny, Organist/Choirmaster
 Susan House, Parish Administrator
 Stacy Warkentine, Preschool Director
 Gail Malcolm, Marketing and Event Manager
 Elizabeth Dwyer, Parish Secretary
 Liam Reid, Weekend Facilities Manager

*Our Mission:
 by the power of the Holy Spirit,
 to nurture people of all ages in the
 knowledge and love of God in Jesus Christ,
 and to make Him known
 in the wider community*

The deadline for the
 June Beacon
 is **May 16.**

Every Week at St. Peter's

Sunday (through 5/21)

8 A.M. Holy Eucharist, Rite I*
 9 A.M. Holy Eucharist, Rite II**
 10:15 A.M. Christian formation, all ages**
 11:15 A.M. Holy Eucharist, Rite II*
 (Nursery care available at 9 and 11:15**)

Sunday (as of 5/28)

8 A.M. Holy Eucharist, Rite I*
 10 A.M. Holy Eucharist, Rite II*

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



May 6
 Needlework Ministry open house
 10 A.M.

May 20
 Vestry retreat

May 21
 Youth car wash
 during the 9 and 11:15 A.M. services
 Compline
 7:30 P.M.

May 26
 Preschool graduation
 9:30 A.M.

May 28
 Summer worship schedule begins
 Holy Eucharist at 8 and 10 A.M.
 Atwater/Sage neighborhood walk
 after the 10 A.M. service