



St. Peter's Church
IN THE GREAT VALLEY

✠
1700

The Beacon

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

June ~ July 2018

"One Wild and Precious Life"

by the Rev. Abigail Crozier Nestlehutt

As new parents, my husband and I turned to the local expert for help when our colicky infant seemed impossible to console. In our case that was Chicago pediatrician Dr. Marc Weissbluth, author of *Healthy Sleep Habits, Happy Child*, whose angle is that "sleep begets sleep." He advocates early bedtimes and frequent naps because a well-rested child sleeps better than an overtired child. In writing about living a spiritual life in a secular world, Henri Nouwen says, "What fascinates me so much is that every time we decide to be grateful it will be easier to see new things to be grateful for. Gratitude begets gratitude, just as love begets love." Both Weissbluth and Nouwen are onto something—gratitude is like sleep for an infant. If we put a child down for a nap before she is exhausted she will drift off to sleep peacefully; if we wait too long she will become cranky and agitated and rest will come fitfully. If we look with a bitter heart we will find all sorts of reasons to complain. If we look at the world with a soft heart and choose to see what is beautiful, it will feel as if the world is full of beauty or things that we can make beautiful by caring about them.

For me, it is fairly easy to see beauty in the summertime. By June the drab landscape of late March has been transformed. The greens, pinks, yellows, purples, and reds of summer trees and plants have effectively erased the gray days of early spring, and the air even smells beautiful. So why not pay special attention to all of that this year? Discover what is good around you and then notice what that discovery does to your feelings about what is hard. Gratitude begets gratitude. Love begets love.

How is being grateful made possible by Jesus' love for you and how does your gratitude empower you to love others as Jesus does? I am reminded of Mary Oliver's poem "The Summer Day":

Who made the world?
Who made the swan, and the black bear?
Who made the grasshopper?
This grasshopper, I mean—
the one who has flung herself out of the grass,
the one who is eating sugar out of my hand,
who is moving her jaws back and forth instead of up and down—
who is gazing around with her enormous and complicated eyes.
Now she lifts her pale forearms and thoroughly washes her face.
Now she snaps her wings open, and floats away.
I don't know exactly what a prayer is.
I do know how to pay attention, how to fall down
into the grass, how to kneel down in the grass,
how to be idle and blessed, how to stroll through the fields,
which is what I have been doing all day.
Tell me, what else should I have done?
Doesn't everything die at last, and too soon?
Tell me, what is it you plan to do
with your one wild and precious life?

I hope that your summer is full of opportunities to see beautiful things in all sorts of places. I know that you will find them at St. Peter's. The following pages will tell you more. I look forward to our adventures.

Praying Beyond Church

by the Rev. Dr. Kyle Babin

*Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances;
for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you" (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18).*

Paul's words have a lovely ring, and yet they may seem like a pipe dream to many. The reality is that at least a third of the working American's day is probably spent in the office—more than a third if commuting is involved. Then there's the time for sleep—around eight hours! That leaves another third for family time, meals, gearing up for the day, and winding down at its end. In short, most non-retired people have a very full, busy workweek. So I wonder how often the act of praying gets sidelined to Sundays and public worship, away from home or other non-church sphere. And yet Paul says to pray without ceasing. But how?

Perhaps ceaseless prayer begins with baby steps. It may be unrealistic to jump immediately from virtually no daily prayer to significant intervals of time spent in conversation with God. Yet ceaseless prayer can and should be our goal. One way to start is to set aside intervals of the day as times to offer short prayers to God. These periods can grow longer over time, but at first a simple "Thank you, God, for waking me up" is a good place to begin. You may wish to add a brief simple prayer upon leaving the house in the morning or before closing your eyes at night. There are also other moments in the day: a blessing said before a meal, especially with family at table, or a timely prayer before anything momentous in the day, or praying in the car while on the way to work in a car or train? The point is that prayer does not need to be fancy or eloquent; it just needs to be directed at God.

The home is a wonderful place to create a little school of prayer, and *The Book of Common Prayer* makes prayer easy. I commend to all households "Daily Devotions for Individuals and Families" (pp. 136–140) for use at all times of the day. These prayers can be said in five minutes, and they are perfect for a family before leaving for work and school, after dinner, and before bed. If we never learn the language of prayer, we never become fluent in speech with God. Children learn prayer principally at home, although formation must also occur in substantive ways at church. Memorizing prayers, such as the Lord's Prayer, from an early age is a great idea, too.

The point of regular, consistent, simple prayer is that it punctuates our life with a reminder of God's presence, and gratitude begins to shape our life. No action undertaken is too ordinary to be without a connection to God or without gratitude for God's many gifts to us. Once this God-framework becomes the skeleton for our lives, our bones become out of joint when prayer is missing at any point in the day.

I offer the following suggestions for brief prayers that can be easily memorized and said at any time, even without a prayer book. These words can become a new language in which our bodies and souls are steeped, so that our lives can begin to become ceaseless prayer. With God anything is possible!

Brief Prayers during the Day

Upon waking: "I praise my God this day. I give myself to God this day. I ask God to help me this day." (St. Augustine)

Upon leaving the house: "Lord, watch over my going out and my coming in, from this time forth for evermore."

At meals: "Bless, O Lord, these gifts to our use and our selves to your service, and make us always mindful of the needs of others. In Christ's Name we pray. Amen."

Before bed: "Guide me waking, O Lord, and guard me sleeping, that awake I may watch with Christ and asleep I may rest in peace."

The Jesus prayer (at any time, especially when Christ's presence is sought): "Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, have mercy on me, a sinner."



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The Beacon is produced monthly by
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Submissions are invited and are subject
to editing.
Submit articles to beacon@stpetersgv.org
or fax them to 610-644-7967
Publication date: First of month
Deadline: 15th of month preceding
Staff: Trudi Graves (editor), Charlotte Mark,
David Graves

Summer Solstice Labyrinth Walk

Everyone is invited to a summer solstice labyrinth walk from 7 to 9 p.m. on **Thursday, June 21**. The summer solstice offers an opportunity to deepen our connection with the earth and the sun, the giver of life and energy. Walking the labyrinth in community offers support and healing as we contemplate what we give our own light and energy to. How can we enlighten ourselves to benefit our world and work for justice in the coming year?

Healing sounds from local musician Henrik Stubbe Teglbjaerg will accompany the walk, as both the labyrinth and sound are ancient tools for journeying within to connect, release and renew. Walking the labyrinth outdoors, with no walls limiting or protecting us, we are able to sense our place between the vastness of the heavens and the earth beneath our feet.

No prior experience walking a labyrinth is necessary, but dressing comfortably is advised. Feel free to bring a journal, and a friend or neighbor. The barn will be open for quiet reflection or prayer before the start of the walk. Contact Shannon Mannon (mannonshannon@yahoo.com) if you want to learn more.

NEW AT ST. PETER'S THIS SUMMER

Sundays at St. Peter's this summer will be fun! We are planning some different and enjoyable elements in worship and fellowship, so be sure to join us throughout the summer. If you have an idea or suggestion, want to sign up, or help with the planning of any of the following innovations, please contact Abigail (abigail@stpetersgv.org or 610-644-2261).

Holy Hiking This Summer



Holy Hiking

Since summer is a particularly good time to appreciate "all things bright and beautiful," Abigail will offer three "holy hiking" opportunities from 3 to 5:30 p.m. on **Sunday June 24, July 22, and August 26**. Each outing will include a walk in the woods, Holy Eucharist outdoors, and a bit of simple refreshment at the end of the hike.

We do our first hike in Valley Forge Park on **June 24**. Watch for more specific information about it and the other two in Keynotes and Sunday leaflets.

If you are interested in participating in the June hike or in assisting with planning any of the three, please let Abigail know.

Worship in the Barn on July 1

On **Sunday, July 1**, our 10 a.m. service with special music will take place in the barn, and will be followed by particularly festive fellowship. This service, which marks our celebration of Independence Day, will again include trumpet music played by Peter Neu. Watch for more information in Keynotes and Sunday leaflets, and let Abigail know if you would like to help plan this "first Sunday" innovation.

Midweek Midsummer Worship and Supper

Join us on **Wednesday evening, July 18**, for a simple service of Holy Eucharist followed by a picnic supper from 6:30 to 8:30.



**CHORAL EVENSONG
& FESTIVE PORK BBQ
JUNE 3
4 P.M.**

Outreach Opportunities in June and July

Pack Some Protein and Grains for The Clinic



PACK SOME PROTEIN!

Each summer, the food pantry at The Clinic becomes pretty bare. Without your help in restocking the shelves, the medical staff cannot offer needy patients the heart-healthy and high-protein foods that they need to recover and remain healthy. So the staff is requesting donations of peanut butter, beans, rice, whole grains, canned stews, meats, tuna and salmon (canned or in foil).

Supporting this vital ministry is easy! All we ask is that you bring the requested items to the collection boxes in the common room of church on **Sunday, June 3 or June 10**. To ensure that we cover all the needed types of food, we devised this simple plan based on last names:

- **A to C:** 2 jars of peanut butter
- **D to G:** 3 cans of beans
- **H to K:** 3 cans of stews or meats
- **L to M:** 3 cans or foil packs of tuna or salmon
- **N to Z:** 1 or 2 boxes of rice, oatmeal, or any whole grain

The patients and staff of the Clinic thank you!

A Little Summer Music by CCC

Everyone is invited to the final summer concerts of the Chester Children's Chorus on **July 26, 27, 28 and August 1**. Admission is free, but tickets must be reserved (www.brownpapertickets.com), beginning July 1. All concerts take place in the Lang Music Building at Swarthmore College.

The CCC is performing two evening concerts at 7:30 p.m. on both Friday and Saturday, July 27 & 28, as well as a 2 p.m. matinee on July 26. Before they sing the afternoon concert, the CCC will participate in a public science fair in the college's Science Center. Additionally, at 2 p.m. on August 1, the CCC dancers take the stage at the Lang Performing Arts Center.

If you have questions about these summer events, please call CCC (610-328-8180) or send an email to ccc@swarthmore.edu.

Join the Camp Get-Along Fun!



Once again this year, on **Wednesday, July 11**, the three- to twelve-year-olds in Camp Get-Along will spend a fun-filled field trip day in the fresh air, sunshine, and greenery of our campus. Operated jointly by St. John the Evangelist and St. Peter's in Philadelphia, Camp Get-Along offers field trips as part of its year-round day camp program, and St. Peter's has sponsored this "day in the country" for a number of years.

So grab your sun hat and sunscreen and experience this joyful outreach adventure for yourself on **July 11**, between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.! We will again have the opportunity to lead the youngsters in a morning of outdoor fun, crafts, games, and the ever-popular waterslide—and to share a homemade picnic lunch with them (probably in the air-conditioned common room).

We offer volunteers of all ages and talents many ways to participate in this fun-filled day: leading or assisting in the outdoor games and crafts and at the waterslide, providing lunch, and helping to serve the meal. And of course we need lots of prayers for a sunny (but not beastly hot) day! Please contact Gail Guthridge (guthgirl60@gmail.com) if you would like to help on this satisfying day of service, fun and fellowship!

Darby Dinners Resuming Soon

On **July 17**, St. Peter's food ministry team will mark the beginning of the third year of serving dinners at the Darby Mission. Our eager volunteers plan, prepare, and serve dinners to an appreciative community, and there are lots of opportunities to help, both at home and at Darby!

This year's dinners are scheduled for July 17, August 7, and September 4; the coordinators for each, respectively, are Holly Hardester, Queenie Northrop and Kristen Eddy, and Eileen Klein. Please contact Eileen Klein (eileenklein@live.com) if you want to learn how you can participate in this gratifying ministry.

Come to the VBS "Abundance Orchard"

All rising Kindergartners through fifth-graders are heartily invited to join us for a week of summer fun at Vacation Bible School from **June 18 to June 22**, from 9 a.m. to noon. "Abundance Orchard: Where Faith Grows and Hungry People are Fed" is the theme that will guide us as we tell Bible stories with props, and the children will have time to play with water balloons, race zucchini cars, and bake Communion bread.



VBS
June 18 to 22

You still have time to register; the cost is \$20 for one child and \$10 for each additional child in a family. VBS is open to non-parishioners, so consider asking a neighbor's child to attend with your child. You can register by sending an email with your child's name and age to vbs@stpetersgv.org; you can also register online at www.stpetersgv.org/vbs. Please make your check out to St. Peter's Church and note "VBS" on the memo line.



Anna Andrews is a *cum laude* graduate of Temple University, where she majored in psychology. She plans to work in behavioral psychology and hopes to teach English in Japan in the future.

Matt Fabius graduated with a B.A. from the University of California Los Angeles with a B.A. He majored in linguistics and computer science and minored in film & digital media.

Cassie Shannon graduated from Millersville University with a B.A. in art. She concentrated in medical illustration, and is pursuing job opportunities in that field.

Two choir scholars also graduated this year: **Jason Hurle**, from Radnor High School, and **James Robison**, from West Chester University.



On May 5, the St. Peter's youth group hosted the second annual Feast for the Future to raise funds for their June mission trip. Over fifty guests—many in costumes appropriate for the Kentucky Derby—gathered for a fun-filled evening that began with *hors d'oeuvres* served by the youth and cocktails and "mocktails" appropriate for the day and enjoyed the race on a flat screen television. When everyone was seated at table, the young people began serving an elaborate five-course meal prepared by our own chef extraordinaire

Peter Gilmore, his wife Susan, and some of his colleagues.

Guests had the opportunity to participate in a 50/50 raffle, and Mark Nestlehutt, the lucky winner, kindly donated his winnings to the youth group. Mary Anne Morgan and Mark Nestlehutt, winners of the prize for the best-dressed woman and man, left for home with a bottle of wine. This highly successful event raised over \$2,000 towards the youth mission trip. Many thanks are due to all who helped in various ways with this event, especially Peter and Sue Gilmore.

Our young people will take off early on June 24 for their weeklong mission trip to Beaumont, Texas, where they will be based at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church as they provide hurricane relief to residents. Kate Mallon-Day and Eric Stoltz will accompany Kyle as chaperones. After four full days of hard work, their trip will end with a day of fun in Houston before they fly home on June 30. Please keep the young people and their sponsors in your prayers as they prepare for this trip and as they travel.



[More photos on p. 8. To see this issue in color, visit our website!]

Barn Dance – Second Time Around!



Please plan to join us on Saturday, November 10, for our second annual community barn dance. Once again we want to invite our friends, neighbors and the surrounding community to come together for an evening of dancing, conversation, dining and good old-fashioned fun. Those (of all ages and talents) who participated in the barn dance last fall can vouch for how delightful the evening was, and this year's planning committee has begun to design an enjoyable evening for everyone, building on last year's successful event and on some suggestions that arose from it.

Dancing will begin at 5 p.m. (in the barn, of course) with some instruction from our callers Chloe and Rick Mohr. It's easy—if you can walk and follow simple instructions you'll be dancing in no time! Dancing will be followed by supper, again provided by Jimmy's BBQ and featuring pulled pork, chicken and appropriate sides. Throughout the evening there will be both a silent and a live auction, and the event will conclude (weather permitting) with a bonfire and s'mores. Tickets are \$25 per person, \$10 for children 12 and under, and \$65 for a family of four or more.

For this event to succeed, we need the help of the entire parish. You can assist in one or more of the following simple ways:

- Invite family, friends and neighbors to join us on November 10, and encourage them to bring others.
- Distribute some postcards with details about the event to people who may be interested in joining us or to businesses and establishments you frequent.
- Provide items for our silent and live auctions. If you have extra gift cards hiding in a drawer, we can use them to create baskets. If you have a vacation property or belong to a local country club, vacations and a round of golf always attract bids, or you might ask your favorite restaurant or shop to donate a gift. Credit card points and cash donations would certainly help us too.
- If you are an artist, consider creating a work to auction; if you are a collector, consider donating one of your treasures for someone else to enjoy owning.
- Become a sponsor of the event, or invite local businesses to sponsor it.
- Bake some simple desserts for the meal, like pumpkin bars, brownies, Rice Krispies treats, and cookies.
- Donate a case of beer or some wine – that will help too!
- Join the barn dance committee in staging this large-scale event by contacting Paige Infortuna (pinfortuna@msn.com or 610-608-2093).

Sponsoring the community barn dance gives us a wonderful opportunity work together *and* to welcome visitors to our campus. We expect to host about 250 guests for dancing and dinner again this year, and all funds raised will support the mission and ministries of St. Peter's, so please think about how you would like to help make this community event a success. Thank you!

"History Nerds" Trip Canceled

The June 16th trip to the Museum of the American Revolution has been canceled. The "history nerds" decided to take this year off and look forward to next year. We thank Rip Tilden and Bill Armstrong for leading this group for so many years.

If you have a suggestion for next year's destination or want to volunteer to provide leadership for the outing, please contact Abigail (abigail@stpetersgv.org).

June 2
Needlework open house
9:30 a.m.

June 3
Choral evensong
4 p.m.
followed by pork BBQ

June 18 to 22
Vacation Bible School
9 a.m. to 12 noon

June 21
Solstice labyrinth walk
7 to 9 p.m.



June 24
"Holy hiking"
Valley Forge Park
3 to 5:30 p.m.

June 24 to 30
Youth mission trip

July 6
Needlework ministry
10 a.m.

July 11
Camp Get-Along
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

July 17
Food ministry Darby dinner
4 to 8 p.m.

July 18
Midweek Eucharist and supper
6 p.m.

July 22
"Holy hiking"
3 to 5:30 p.m.

April Financial Snapshot

	April 2018	Year to Date April	Year-end Projection	Budget 2018
Parishioner Contributions	\$ 32,679	\$153,462	\$438,923	\$430,898
Total Income	48,571	254,724	657,406	684,998
Total Expense	54,962	243,496	672,141	684,998
Surplus/ (Deficit)	(6,391)	11,228	(14,735)	0
<i>Mortgage Payment</i>	\$ 1,489			
<i>Interest</i>	653			
<i>Principal</i>	836			
<i>Mortgage Balance</i>	201,408			

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

- Everyone who served as a Christian formation leader this year;
- Echo Lake for inviting St. Peter's members to lunch;
- Sarah and Roger Tellefsen for hosting dinner after the vestry retreat;
- Mark Nestlehutt for his sermon on Pentecost Sunday;
- Peter and Sue Gilmore and the youth and their parents for doing Feast for the Future;
- St. James School for honoring St. Peter's at the scholarship benefit at the Union League, and Donna Fabius for serving as our planning liaison for the event;
- Steve Ockenden for leading the adult formation "Ethics of Homeland Security" series;
- The Rev. Dr. J. Jayakiran Sebastian from Lutheran Seminary for celebrating and preaching here;
- Susan Dovey, Helen Ockenden, and Melissa Shaner for organizing the "Conversation Project" meeting with Elizabeth Adams;
- The parishioners who worked on *Plaza Suite*; John Orr (director); Dave Arnold, Don Cheetham, Kayla Cross, and Melissa Shaner (actors); Katie Franz, Joseph Franz, Liam Reid, Mary Ann Tatum, Ian Alexander (technical crew); Cliff Castle, Charlene Hanbury, Larry Malcolm, Jan Muck, Sally Orr, Paige Infortuna (business crew); Beth and Jason Hacker, Suzanne Casey, Don Cheetham, Donna Fabius, and Kate and Rich Mallon-Day (preview party); and all who sold tickets and ushered.



for All You Do



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The Rev. Abigail Crozier Nestlehutt, Rector
 The Rev. Dr. Kyle J. Babin, Assistant Rector
 Dr. Bruce Glenny, Organist/Choirmaster
 Susan House, Parish Administrator
 Elizabeth Dwyer, Parish Secretary
 Leigh Pavoni, Preschool Director
 Gail Malcolm, Marketing and Event Manager
 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
 August Beacon
 is July 20.

Every Summer Week at St. Peter's

Sunday

8 A.M. **Holy Eucharist***

10 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
 *** Parish House
 **** Bellingham



Those who brought us Feast for the Future!

