

# The Beacon

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

*June ~ July 2019*

## **R&R**

*by the Rev. Abigail Crozier Nestlehutt*

One summer Sunday in my childhood, a friend invited me to go to a Red Sox game with her family. I do not remember much about what happened at Fenway Park that day, but I remember more about what happened at my house when they came to pick me up. My father was in the yard doing things like weeding and picking up sticks, and my friend's father chastised him for working on Sunday. At first I thought he was kidding, but he was not. "Sunday is a day of rest," he said, and off we went to the game. Even then the notion that Sunday was reserved for church and recreation was counter-cultural. I knew that once upon a time Laura Ingalls Wilder's family read the Bible and listened to Pa play the fiddle on Sundays and that my hometown's "blue laws" prohibited the sale of meat, but for the most part, our day started with church for me and ice hockey for my brother and went on from there as any other day might. Now, years later, it is hard to find any evidence in the world that Sunday is a special day of rest. Maybe that would be just fine for Jesus. He himself was criticized for healing on the sabbath. But, as Donna Schaper explains in her slender book *Sabbath Keeping*, sabbath is setting aside time for God, and Jesus did not forget to do that.

Technically, keeping the sabbath is a commandment, but the reason to consider doing it is because it is life-giving. The relatively slower pace of summer might make it easier to start being intentional about this, but remember, vacation and sabbath are not exactly the same, something that is obvious to anyone who, on returning home from an action-packed week away, realizes that he or she is more tired than before the trip. When we keep the sabbath, we take time to step back, admire the world around us, and play and pray with God in new ways. To do so we may need to set aside other activities to make room for ones that offer real renewal.

I have been thinking about this because I am increasingly concerned over the level of stress and disconnection in our world and because I have noticed the stress and disconnection in my own life. Some of it is unavoidable; certain things must get done, some situations are just plain hard. Still, this summer I will talk with my family about what we might realistically do differently to pause, rest, and see God's work in the world.

At St. Peter's we try to offer you opportunities to do this as well. Our summer programming includes evensong, a community labyrinth event, hiking, concert-going, helping others, and breaking bread together both at the altar and in our summer suppers. Our summer worship is simplified, but still glorious. I encourage you to engage in conversation with the people you care about. Ask them how they set aside time for God. Also, read the pages that follow and find in them invitations to draw closer to the divine. Not because you should, but because doing so will be restorative. You might want to start with this from the *Book of Common Prayer*,

O God, in the course of this busy life, give us times of refreshment and peace; and grant that we may so use our leisure to rebuild our bodies and renew our minds, that our spirits may be opened to the goodness of your creation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## Youth Sunday June 2

On *June 2*, our youth will be involved in leading most elements of worship at the 10 a.m. service, doing many things, literally from “A” to “U.” They will do what adult parishioners usually do, everything from arranging the altar flowers to preaching, reading, and ushering, and they will host fellowship after the service as well!

Please be sure to join us in support of our youth, and to see the special things they have planned to welcome Chris Exley to St. Peter’s!



## Pentecost Sun., June 9

At the 10 a.m. service we will thank this year’s Christian formation leaders and choir members, and of course celebrate the birthday of the Church with a celebratory confection afterwards. Please wear something red on this festive day.

That afternoon, at 4 p.m., the combined choirs will lead us in the final evensong of the program year in the barn, singing music by Sir Charles Villiers Stanford, Howard Helvey, and local composer Vernon Williams. Please invite a friends to this uniquely Anglican offering at the end of this choir year. After the service we will enjoy food and fellowship.

## Pentecost June 9

### Coming Soon – Vacation Bible School!

The fun of VBS starts in a little more than two weeks. Please have your children who are rising pre-K’ers through rising fifth-graders join us, and also bring their friends if they wish, for five mornings of summer fun, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon between **Monday, June 17 and Friday, June 21**. This year’s activities center around the theme of “Abundance Orchard: Where Faith Grows and Hungry People are Fed” and include Bible storytelling, crafts, music, and of course outdoor fun on our sixteen acres.

Registration costs \$20 per child, and \$10 for each additional child in a family. To enroll, simply complete the registration form in the “Events” section of our website ([www.stpetersgv.org](http://www.stpetersgv.org)). All children who will be in pre-K through fifth grade are welcome to participate, whether members of St. Peter’s or not. Amy Fisher will be happy to answer any questions you have, either in person or via email ([vbs@stpetersgv.org](mailto:vbs@stpetersgv.org)).



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

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR NEW ASSISTANT RECTOR . . .

Dear Friends,

As I begin my ministry at St. Peter's on May 28, it might be helpful to understand the changing roles that I will have alongside you. Abigail has asked me to be "particularly responsible for overseeing ministries with children, youth, and families, but also to share in liturgical and pastoral responsibilities, and be broadly engaged in the parish." When I join you, however, I will not be a priest yet; at 10 a.m. on June 8, I will be ordained as a "transitional deacon" at the cathedral in Philadelphia. (Please come!)

As part of the process towards ordination to the priesthood, I will spend our first six months together in the role of deacon, which is typically outward-facing, seeking to bring the world to the church and the church to the world. I will do that both by learning about and being visible in the community surrounding St. Peter's, and by learning about St. Peter's and our wonderful ministries together. During services, and as part of the liturgy, my main role will be to assist Abigail: I will be responsible for setting the table, proclaiming the Gospel, preaching, and prayer. I am not able to consecrate the bread and wine at communion; nor can I as a deacon offer God's blessing to the people or pronounce the forgiveness of sins. Deacons may pray over people and assure them that they are loved and blessed by God. I am also able to bring communion to those who are sick or unable to come to church.

My "priesting" should happen around the beginning of December, at that point I will add all the other liturgical functions of a priest. I look forward to growing in my ordained roles with the people of St. Peter's.

Yours,  
Chris Exley

### *Summer Suppers – Everyone's Invited!*

In 2017, a new tradition began at St. Peter's, our summer suppers hosted by the vestry, who decided to host parishioners at a relaxed supper between June and August, either at home (space permitting) or at St. Peter's. They wanted the groupings for the invitations to "mix everyone up," enabling families, couples, and singles – as well as 8-, 9-, and 11-o'clockers – to connect with each other informally over a meal and get to know people whom they may not usually run into at St. Peter's.

We have drawn up this year's schedule and are working on the "guest lists," which include every parishioner; we have mailed the invitations for the June suppers, and those for July and August suppers

will follow. Your vestry host provides the entrée and beverages, and guests are asked to provide an appetizer, side, or dessert. When your invitation arrives, *please* do not hesitate to let us know if the supper you have been invited to conflicts with other commitments! We will be happy to re-invite you to a supper on a date that works for you.

We encourage everyone to participate in this event and enjoy the casual summer atmosphere of a potluck supper, connect with other parishioners you may not know very well, or even at all, and learn about opportunities to get involved in St. Peter's activities that interest you. The vestry looks forward to seeing you at a summer supper!

### *Community Summer Solstice Labyrinth Walk*

*The necessary thing is great, inner solitude. What goes on inwardly is worthy of your love. (Rainer Maria Rilke)*

The labyrinth is an ancient spiritual tool that has countless applications; it is a walking meditation that reduces stress, quiets the mind, and opens the heart. If you'd like to learn more about this ancient pathway to prayer, come join our community labyrinth walk on **Wednesday, June 12**, at 7 p.m. These community labyrinth events are joyful, contemplative celebrations. Coming together collectively spurs us on individually to connect more deeply with the divine within.

Please dress comfortably and wear shoes appropriate for the labyrinth's gravel path. We will gather at 6:30 on the lower level of the barn, where light refreshments will be available all evening. All are welcome, as always, so consider inviting a neighbor or friend. If you have questions, contact Shannon Mannon (mannonshannon@yahoo.com).

## *A Busy Spring for the Food Ministry!*

The spirited generosity of our food ministry participants promotes positive, respectful interactions with underserved communities in need, and our volunteers kept busy indeed with a number of holiday food opportunities this spring.

- At the April dinner at St. Peter's, Phoenixville, led by Janet Rich and Eileen Klein we served forty-eight Easter dinners to our friends at tables festively adorned with mini daffodils, Easter grass, and eggs filled with chocolate treats. Our guests enjoyed their early holiday meal of baked ham, creamy mac and cheese, fresh asparagus, fresh pineapple and ice cream sundaes. In addition to meal planning, shopping, prepping, cooking, baking, and serving, done in two shifts, our volunteers interact with guests, listening to their stories and responding warmly with smiles and conversation.
- The Darby Easter feast, a successful service project led by Holly Hardester, brought thirty families all the makings for Easter dinner: baked ham or chicken ready for roasting, scalloped potato mix, other traditional holiday fare, and mini daffodils. The generosity of St. Peter's parishioners and their donations to the food ministry at Alternative Christmas made this feast possible.
- Our newest food ministry, led by Nancy Wilson, delivered a variety of homemade soups each week in April to appreciative folks at the Free Church of St. John's Episcopal Mission, Kensington. Our soup supper cooks provided many of the soups, valued at over \$700, for distribution as part of a cooperative project. Nancy also planted shrubs and bulbs to beautify the church property for Easter Sunday. The food ministry plans to continue working with this community in Philadelphia and develop more ways of connecting with it.
- On May 7, Cathy Terlescki and Eileen Klein led our first Darby dinner of 2019, at which a hundred spirited guests of all ages enjoyed a *Cinco de Mayo* beef feast with all the "fixins," including black bean mango salad and Mexican brownies. What a delightful community, which truly appreciates our thoughtful homemade food!
- At St. Peter's, Phoenixville, on May 13 Queenie Northrop and Gail Guthridge led the teams in a one-pan chicken dinner of seasoned crispy chicken, potatoes, carrots, and peas, spinach salad, and apple pie. The forty-eight meals we served received enthusiastic, appreciative comments from guests. Lengthy conversations and positive interactions with so many of our regular guests have become a regular feature of our Phoenixville food ministry.

Won't you join us for a food ministry meal in 2019? Our seventy-five lively and generous volunteers know they can move in and out of the food ministries as their schedules permit, and this flexibility sustains the food ministry. Your participation truly matters to us all! While many helpers don't consider cooking and baking their personal strengths, they do enjoy serving meals at the counter or desserts from our cart, and conversing with our guests to make them feel welcomed. Volunteers who prefer to remain "offstage" happily prep coffee and cold drinks, run the dishwasher, and do clean-up. For the Darby dinners, we do the baking and cooking at home, which provides different opportunities for those who just can't be available on a Tuesday afternoon. If you want to be involved in a limited way because of your already full schedule, please contact Eileen (eileenklein@live.com) to learn about the many options to serve in the food ministry.

## *Take a 4<sup>th</sup>-Sunday Holy Hike!*

Since summer is a particularly good time to appreciate "all things bright and beautiful," on **Sunday, July 28 and August 25**, Abigail will again offer some "holy hiking" opportunities that include a walk in the woods and Holy Eucharist outdoors, followed by some simple refreshments. Our July hike will be in the Ockehocking Nature Preserve in nearby Newtown Square, just west of route 252 on route 3, beginning at 4 p.m. The unpaved trail is gravel in some places and grass in others and has some hilly sections.

This is the hike that was "thunderstormed out" twice, so let's all pray for better luck this year! More information to come in Keynotes and Sunday leaflets. If you want to participate or help with the planning, please let Abigail know (abigail@stpetersgv.org or 610-644-2261).

## Join the Camp Get-Along Fun!

Once again this year, the three- to twelve-year-olds attending Camp Get-Along will spend a fun-filled day in the fresh air and greenery of our campus on **Wednesday, July 10**. 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 we have hosted this "day in the country" for many years.

So if you are in town, do join the fun of this outreach adventure on **Wednesday, July 10** between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. We will once again lead the youngsters in a morning of outdoor fun, crafts, games, and the ever-popular waterslide – and share a picnic lunch with them and their counselors. We offer volunteers of all ages and talents many ways to participate: leading or assisting with the outdoor games and crafts; helping at the famous waterslide (helpers of all ages have been known to try it out!); and serving lunch.

Please contact Gail Guthridge (guthgirl60@gmail.com) if you would like to be part of the fun of this once-yearly day of summertime service, fun, and fellowship.

### CELEBRATE



This year all of us at St. Peter's congratulate five of our parish young people, three college and university graduates and two high school graduates! Brava and godspeed, Mallory, Anna, and Megan! Bravo and godspeed, Luke and AJ!

- **Mallory Dovey** earned a B. S. from the College of Charleston (SC), with a double major in business administration and in hospitality and tourism management. She is now working in social media marketing for a Charleston-based online children's clothing retailer.
- **Luke Staisiunas**, son of Luci Russell and occasionally a substitute organist at St. Peter's, graduated with a Bachelor of Music in organ performance from the University of Oklahoma. He is continuing his studies for a Master's degree in organ performance there.
- **Anna Tellefsen** earned a B.S. in anthropology and human biology from Emory University. A week after graduation she entered an accelerated B.S.N./M.S.N. graduate program there, with the goal of becoming a nurse practitioner.
- **Megan Caterino** graduated with honors from Great Valley High School, and intends to major in psychology at the University of Pittsburgh.
- **AJ Wirtel**, a graduate of Malvern Prep, will study aerospace engineering at Virginia Tech and join its cadet corps.

### Thank You-th!

From calendar and bake sales to feasts and carwashes, you've been there to support this year's youth fundraisers, and the young people of the parish are grateful for your generosity. While not everyone in the youth group will go to Chicago, all of them had a hand in the fundraising that was part of preparing for the trip. They came together as a group, working to meet their goals and having fun along the way. Your monetary gifts helped them achieve their goals and will enable them to carry their mission forward on behalf of our parish in Chicago this summer. The young people look forward to sharing their experiences with you on their return, but want to thank you now for helping them get there.

### St. Peter's Goes to Washington Memorial Chapel!

Plan to join the Nestlehutts at a Wednesday evening carillon concert at Washington Memorial Chapel. Many of you have already attended these summer offerings in the past, so on **July 31**, let's attend together as a group, whether it's your first time or not! The concert begins at 7:30 p.m.

Bring a blanket or chair and a snack or supper (and maybe some bug repellent). If you wish to attend with us, please email Abigail (abigail@stpetersgv.org) so that she can keep an eye out for you.

## *Thank You, Emma McDermott!*

*by Tom Helm*

When I rejoined the endowment commission a couple of years ago, I was heartened by the growth in the endowment's value since 2009. Then I learned that we had received an unexpected, extraordinary gift of over \$400,000 from Emma McDermott, a parishioner who was, and remains, relatively unknown.

Having been a member of St. Peter's since about 1987, I thought I could find others in the parish who had known her, but I found very few. Those few told me only that she attended regularly with her husband and sister from the early 1970's to sometime after 2000; lived at Dunwoody; and had no children, but did have seven nieces and nephews. Parish administrator Susan House told me that after Emma died at 94 in 2008, her attorney called to notify St. Peter's of the gift and to ask where to send the proceeds of her life insurance policy.

I wanted to learn more about Emma because I have never been able to verify that St. Peter's ever formally thanked her or her family for the generous gift. I also wanted to learn about her to see if I could determine what motivated her to make such a gift. Then at a diocesan event in June 2018, by chance I met and chatted with the rector of an area church who, I believe, helped answer that question for me. He told me that a building campaign at his church, which is smaller and seemingly less affluent than ours, had raised a million dollars in short order. Surprised, I asked, "Wow, how did you accomplish that?" Then told him our Emma McDermott story. His explanation for such generosity as hers was simple, "She did it because she remembered the people and what she wanted to do as her legacy, and she was motivated by that love to create a resource for the future."

Well, I still haven't found a way to thank Emma McDermott, but I think I now understand her motivation. And I found my answer in a most unlikely place, purely by accident!

- Leigh Pavoni for running the preschool Strawberry Festival;
- Jason Hacker for the fellowship and support he has contributed this program year;
- The parishioners who contributed food for Easter dinners for thirty Darby families;
- Sandy Mannix and Jan Himmelreich for organizing the spring cleanup, and all who came out to help;
- The flower guild for all the beautiful Easter Sunday flower arrangements, and the choir and instrumentalists for the wonderful Easter music;
- The worship commission members who planned the Holy Week and Easter services, and St. Francis in the Fields for hosting us at the Great Vigil of Easter;
- Gail Guthridge, Holly Hardester, and Helen Ockenden for orchestrating the Maundy Thursday *agape* meal, and Mario Delano for providing overnight security during the watch that followed the service;
- Suzanne Casey for organizing the family Easter egg hunt;
- Spring term Sunday school teachers Betsy Comstock, Holly Hardester, Sharon Holt, and Gail Malcolm, for their work with our youngest members;
- Peter and Sue Gilmore, their colleague Cindy, Jason Hacker, Dan Houston, Deby and Bill Harrison, Paige Infortuna, Melissa Shaner, Eric Stoltz, and the youth group for their work on Feast for the Future;
- Helen Ockenden for greeting on World Labyrinth Day and Holly Hardester for leading it;
- Pierre and Betsy Bouvel and Dave Tatum for organizing the "history nerds" trip;
- Susan House for her extra work printing and assembling annual meeting materials;
- Linda Holden, Molly Kulp, Betsy Comstock, and Laurel Veitch for helping with fellowship after the annual meeting, and Mark Clark for grilling the brats;
- The organizers of the youth car wash and the "washers": Jason and Beth Hacker, Dan Houston, Paige Infortuna, Dave Laurence, Dave Lockner, Shannon Mannon, Eric Stoltz, the youth group and their parents;
- Ian Alexander, for wiring and installing the new speakers and amplifier in the church.



*Thanks  
from the Vestry*



*for All You Do*

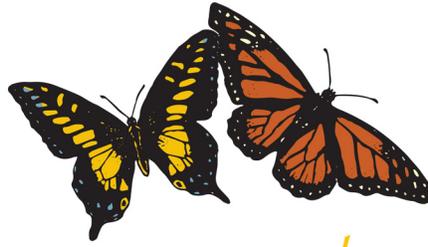
**June 1**  
Needlework ministry open house  
10 a.m.

**June 2**  
Youth Sunday  
Chris Exley's first Sunday

**June 8**  
"Exploring God's Backyard"  
9:30 a.m.  
Chris Exley ordination  
10 a.m. to 12 noon

**June 9**  
**Pentecost**  
Wear red to church!  
Choral evensong & reception  
4 p.m.

**June 12**  
Summer solstice labyrinth walk  
7 p.m.



*June July*

**June 17 to June 21**  
Vacation Bible School  
9 a.m. to 12 noon

**June 22**  
Kairos Outside  
9:30 a.m.

**June 23 to June 29**  
Youth mission trip

**July 4, 5**  
Parish office closed

**July 6**  
Needlework ministry  
10 a.m.

**July 10**  
Camp Get-along  
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

**July 27**  
Kairos Outside  
9:30 a.m.

**July 28**  
Okehocking Preserve hike  
4 p.m.

**July 31**  
Carillon concert  
Washington Memorial Chapel  
7:30 p.m.

### ***Chester Children's Chorus Returns!***

On Saturday, October 12, the exciting Chester Children's Chorus will return to St. Peter's, so mark your calendars now for an afternoon of wonderful choral music, youthful exuberance, and excitement! The CCC's free concert (donations gratefully accepted) for St. Peter's and the community will begin at 4 p.m. in the barn. This is a terrific opportunity to invite a neighbor, friend, or family member (or all three) to experience the musical offerings of this talented group of young people from the city of Chester.

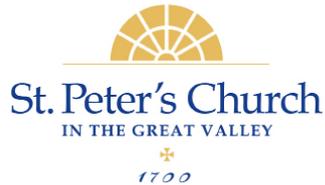
John Alston, an associate professor of music at Swarthmore College, founded CCC in 1994 because he recognized that joining the Newark (NJ) Boys Chorus in his youth had transformed his life. Since nearby Chester reminded him of the tough Newark neighborhood where he grew up, he was determined to use his talents as a teacher, conductor, and singer to offer the children of Chester the same opportunity to change their lives through music that the Newark Boys Chorus had given him.

St. Peter's has adopted CCC as one of its core outreach ministries, which means that we support it financially both through outreach funds and donations at our alternative Christmas market. CCC offers its members year-round activities, including school-year rehearsals five days a week and a five-week, full-day summer learning program that includes two to three hours of music daily plus reading, science, art, literature, history, hip-hop dancing, and African dance and drumming. For more information about CCC or the October visit, contact Kate Mallon-Day (610-613-8965 or kantakate@aol.com).

### ***April 2019 Financial Snapshot***

	<b>April 2019</b>	<b>Year to Date April</b>	<b>Year-end Projection</b>	<b>Budget 2019</b>
Parishioner Contributions	\$ 33,219	\$174,233	\$484,966	\$482,449
Total Income	41,398	198,001	648,466	634,485
Total Expense	47,473	217,652	643,521	634,485
Surplus/ (Deficit)	(6,075)	(19,651)	4,945	0

*[The finance commission has reviewed this snapshot.  
Please direct any questions to its chair, Eric Lien.]*



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The Rev. Abigail Crozier Nestlehutt, Rector  
 The Rev. Christopher W. Exley, Assistant Rector  
 Dr. Bruce Glenny, Organist/Choirmaster  
 Susan House, Parish Administrator  
 Elizabeth Dwyer, Parish Secretary  
 Leigh Pavoni, Preschool Director  
 Gail Malcolm, Event Coordinator  
 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 15.**

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

**Sunday**  
 8 A.M. **Holy Eucharist\***  
 10 A.M. **Holy Eucharist\***  
 (Nursery care available)

**Monday**  
 11:30 A.M. **Rector's Atwater Walks**  
 (on June 3 & 10; July 1 & 29)

**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

*The people of St. Peter's  
 are all invited to celebrate  
 our own Mark Nestlehutt's  
 new ministry as rector of  
 Washington Memorial Chapel  
 on Wednesday, June 16, at  
 6:30 p.m.! Bishop Daniel G.P.  
 Gutiérrez will preside at the  
 Celebration of New Ministry  
 of the Rev. Mark Stevens  
 Nestlehutt.*