



St. Peter's Church
IN THE GREAT VALLEY

✠
1700

The Beacon

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

March 2020

What Would Jesus Do?

by the Rev. Abigail Crozier Nestlehutt

Binge-watching Netflix was something other people did until one day about five weeks ago when my “to do” list entailed tasks that would take some time but not require my full attention. On a friend’s recommendation, I tuned into *The Great British Baking Show*. As a veteran viewer of the occasional American cooking program like *Cupcake Wars* or *Chopped*, I should have known from the title alone that I was in for a different sort of experience. The gist of all these programs is formulaic: contestants standing in front of tidy workstations receive culinary challenges to complete before time runs out, and each effort is evaluated with the goal of eliminating at least one starry-eyed hopeful in each installment until a victor emerges. Every program has its own focus and angle, but past experience suggested to me that they were all still about the same. In each some sort of drama was concocted and emphasized by a celebrity judge who then ridiculed the contestant who made a mistake with either humor or just plain meanness.

This is where *The Great British Baking Show* differs most obviously from its American counterparts: the judges do not mock, tease, or put down – they *judge*. They say what tastes and looks good and what does not. They give specific recommendations as to how to make something better and they offer a handshake when a contestant has done a particularly excellent job. Even a cake that has fallen apart – even landed on the floor – need not be trashed. It will not win the round, but it might not lose because it might taste just fine. When one person has trouble getting something out of a pan another rushes over to help. And, while every segment has specific requirements, contestants can test out at home two out of the three challenges that make up each episode before having to produce them under the pressure of clock and camera. At the end of the whole competition, when only three bakers remain, their family and friends, along with all of the original contestants, gather outside the baking tent and enjoy picnicking and games until the winner is revealed. Much rejoicing ensues, and professions of lifelong friendship are made and then backed up by outtakes of subsequent gatherings of contestants turned friends.

In a way my one evening of bingeing was just silly entertainment, but it was also eye opening. Although there were plenty of moments when someone could have slipped in an edgy quip to get an extra laugh, that never happened. When someone produced a confection that seemed like a complete disaster, at least one aspect turned out to be just right. When eliminating contestants, the judges told them the news with what appeared to be real respect. I am even willing to believe that the contestants formed some new friendships. All of this was remarkable to me because it was so different from what I had expected.

Recently I heard someone suggest that we should bring back the once popular “WWJD” catchphrase, which was so used and overused that its triteness made people stop saying it. Although shelved, the phrase never quite went away. What if we pick that idea up again this Lent, and intentionally look at the world from Jesus’ perspective? How would doing that change what we do, say, or think each day? What would it feel like to do what Jesus would do? I bet that trying will be harder than any of us expect. I look forward to hearing about your experience.

Schedule Change March 8



The Rt. Rev. Daniel G. P. Gutiérrez will be with us on Sunday, **March 8**, and will preside at our **SINGLE, PARISH-WIDE SERVICE AT 10 A.M.** in the barn. Please note that this is a change from our previous announcement.

During his visit with us, he will receive into the Episcopal Church members of St. Peter's who have been confirmed in other Christian denominations, and will also offer all parishioners the opportunity to reaffirm their faith publically. If you are interested in either of these opportunities, please contact Chris Exley (chris@stpetersgv.org) for more information as soon as possible.

Newcomer Event

If you are new to St. Peter's or have never attended one of our "Newcomer Events," Abigail, the vestry, and the newcomers committee cordially invite you and your family to join us for dinner on Sunday, **March 15** from 4 to 6 p.m. This informal dinner is an opportunity for our newer members, visitors, and guests to enjoy dinner and fellowship together.

We hope you will join us and we look forward to sharing time together, and getting to know each other a little better. For more information or to RSVP, please contact Abigail at (610-644-2261 or abigail@stpetersgv.org).



Centering Prayer

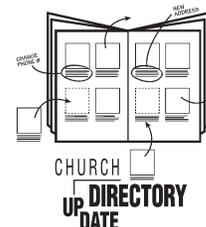
Tuesday, March 17, 6:15 p.m.

Give yourself the gift of silence with God and others. After a brief introduction, we will enter into silent prayer together in the church for thirty minutes. You will be on your way by 7 p.m. For more information or to let Abigail know that you plan to participate, please contact her (abigail@stpetersgv.org or 610-644-2261).

WANTED:

Updates for Our Parish Directory

We will publish a new parish directory in time for distribution at the annual meeting on May 3. If you have moved, or have a new telephone number or email address, *please* email the new information to **parishoffice@stpetersgv.org** as soon as possible.



The Beacon

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Psalm 36:9*

The Beacon is produced monthly by St. Peter's Church in the Great Valley
2475 St. Peter's Road, Malvern, PA 19355
Phone: 610-644-2261 Fax: 610-644-7967
E-mail: parishoffice@stpetersgv.org
Web site: www.stpetersgv.org

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

LENT AT ST. PETER'S

Lenten Soup Supper Series

On the five Wednesday evenings in Lent, Chris will lead a discussion series about how the images and symbols of Holy Scripture are used in our Sunday worship. A thumbnail of the topics follows:



March 4

How Hebrew Scripture and the New Testament are used in our liturgy

March 11

How the New Testament informs the order and purpose of Christian worship

March 18

The lectionary, preaching, and hymns

March 25

Biblical shape and images in Table fellowship, thanksgivings, and blessings

April 1

Images in scripture

The evening begins at 6 p.m. with a simple soup supper in the parish hall; the program follows, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. We invite you to provide bread or soup for a supper; you will find the sign-up sheets in both gathering spaces. Do plan to join us for as many of these evenings as your schedule permits.

Stations of the Cross and Dinner



STATIONS of the CROSS

Starting on **March 6**, and continuing every Friday through April 3, we will offer the Stations of the Cross at 7:30 p.m. in the barn. Stations of the Cross is an ancient ecclesiastical tradition that follows Jesus' path to the cross; as a Lenten discipline, Stations of the Cross is a powerful way to reflect on all that Jesus went through and did for us. At St. Peter's we are blessed to have received Jauneth Skinner's striking woodcuts of the Stations as a memorial gift and will use them in this weekly Lenten observance.

After the service, we hope that those who attend will head to a local restaurant and enjoy a meal and fellowship together. Please let Chris know (chris@stpetersgv.org) if you are interested in participating in the meal, so that he can reserve space for us.

Women's One-Day Gathering

Plan to arrive at Washington Memorial Chapel by 9 a.m. on **March 14** to participate in all the activities planned for the day around the theme of "Joy." We have set aside time for sharing, reflecting, and exploring our experiences, and for an included lunch and guided tour of the chapel; we will also attend the 5 p.m. service together. For those who prefer to eat out rather than cook afterwards, we will make a dinner reservation at a local restaurant.

The cost for the day is \$35; scholarships (or a babysitting allowance) are available. If you would like to attend or have questions, please contact Lynn Mander (lsmander@gmail.com or 610-613-5358).



Looking Ahead to Holy Week & Easter



April 5

Palm Sunday

Services at 8, 9, & 11:15 a.m.

Choral Evensong

4 p.m.

April 9

Maundy Thursday

7:30 p.m.

Maundy Thursday liturgy

Watch through the night begins after the service (church)

April 10

Good Friday

12 noon

Watch ends (church)

Good Friday liturgy

7:30 p.m.

Stations of the Cross (barn)

April 12

Easter Sunday

6 a.m.

The Great Vigil of Easter (church)

9 and 11:15 a.m.

Festal Choral Eucharist (barn)

Family Egg Hunt following 9 a.m. service

Details about the services will appear in the April issue.

Thank You!

A very special thank you to all 132 parishioners who helped us achieve our \$459,000 pledge goal! We are ever so grateful to our generous parishioners who give so much of their time, treasure and talent, and are delighted by the success of this stewardship season.

Although the season has ended, we will still gladly receive new pledges. Pledging gives us a reliable and reasonably accurate way to predict, prioritize, and plan for all that we are called to do at St. Peter's in any year and enables us to determine how much to undertake and what new goals to set for ourselves. A pledge, however, is not a debt, nor is it a binding obligation: it is simply a good faith estimate of the degree to which a household wishes to support St. Peter's over a year. Should unforeseen expenses or an unanticipated life change occur, a pledge can be adjusted in strict confidence. If you would like a pledge form, they are still available both in the gathering spaces and online (www.stpetersgv.org – click on "Giving").

BUILD ST. PETER'S



Thank you again to those whose generous pledges brought us to our goal, and thank you in advance to those who decide to take us beyond the goal by pledging at this point!

Adult Forum Goes Green in March

With the exception of March 8 (the day of Bishop Gutiérrez' visit), our Lenten adult forums are devoted to presenting insights and conversations about the connections between our faith and the environment. Brought to us by the "green stewards" team, these sessions aim to provide insights into, and strategies for, caring for creation.



March 1: Sustainable Living

This group discussion will introduce the "green stewards" team and highlight several sustainable products that some lucky attendees can win in a drawing.

March 15: Restoring Creation: A Journey of Faith

Conservationist, pastor, and author Owen Owens will highlight work being done on nearby Valley Creek, along with some other water-related projects. An active conservationist for over forty years, Owens co-founded the Valley Forge Chapter of Trout Unlimited, co-chairs the Religious Campaign for Creation Care, and wrote *Living Waters: How to Save Your Local Stream* (1993) and *Spiritual Help in Hard Times: The Bible's Hope for Life on Earth* (2015).

March 22: Energy Conservation and Choice

A guest speaker from PECO will update us on simple choices we can make to protect the environment and will offer us some energy-saving discounts.

March 29: Active Hope: Rethinking and Re-energizing Responses to Climate Change

As always, we invite everyone to grab a coffee cup and come to forum, and we also encourage you to bring friends in your community to this series.

A Post Script: Are you contemplating a green commitment this Lent? You might want to use the Lenten devotional resources at presbyearthcare.org, or commit to reducing the amount of plastic you use or food you waste.

As a follow-up to his adult forum discussion of suicide, parishioner Brendan Hickey has offered, if there is enough interest, to present "Question, Persuade, Refer" (QPR), an instructional program designed to train non-clinicians how to spot the warning signs of suicide and what to do if they see any. QPR is not training in suicide assessment--that is a task for professionals. Instead, QPR trains the rest of us to become "gatekeepers" able to recognize someone who may be at risk for suicide and to know what to say and do to help. The training lasts approximately one hour and includes two printed resources; the only cost for this program is approximately \$3, for reproducing the copyrighted materials for each participant. If you are an adult parishioner interested in QPR training, please contact Brendan (brendan_hickey@hotmail.com) or Melissa Shaner (myshaner@verizon.net).



Wawa "Shorti" Coupons in March

If you love hoagies or know someone who does, you will want to buy a \$5 coupon good for a 6" Wawa Shorti from a youth group member to benefit the youth mission trips. Supplies are limited, so the "early birds" will get the coupons. And since the coupons never expire, you can buy a bunch . . . until we run out!



Thank you to everyone who ordered our Valentine's Day chocolate-covered Oreos. You helped us raise more than \$550 toward funding our summer mission trips. And we send a huge thank you to Suzanne Casey for guiding us as we created the cookies.

Outreach News and Notes

Sharing Easter Joy with Darby Mission

Have you been to Darby Mission to serve dinner, or have you talked with someone who has? Darby Mission is not a church in the conventional sense; led by the Rev. Doris Rajagopal, it is the coming together of the Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania, Episcopal Community Services, and Darby Borough, and uses facilities at the Darby Recreational Center to build multi-generational community. Children and youth go to the center after school; the mission offers programs and serves meals to several hundred people each week. Three times each year, parishioners from St. Peter's prepare and serve dinner at Darby Mission, and at Easter we have an opportunity to share dinner with families in Darby.

Here's how the Easter meal works. On March 15, thirty sturdy grocery bags with shopping lists will be available in church for parishioners to take, fill and return. The listed items are staples, including scalloped potato mix, the makings for string bean casserole, and of course Easter candy. With some of the generous gifts the food ministry received from Alternative Christmas, we will purchase a ham or roasted chicken for each bag, along with an Easter flower. Volunteers will deliver the bags to Darby Mission on Good Friday.

While we have many opportunities to give food around Thanksgiving and Christmas, there is no better way for us to share the joy of Easter than to provide dinners to Darby Mission! Watch for the grocery bags in the gathering places, take and fill one, return it by **March 29**, and share in the joy.

Gesundheit! God Bless You!

We thank all the children of St. Peter's who decorated fifty white sandwich bags to cheer up patients at the Clinic suffering with colds and the flu, and later filled them. And we thank the generous parishioners who supplied the variety of soothing items with which the children filled their cheerful bags. Truly an intergenerational effort!

If You'd Like to Know More . . .

In her recently published book *Courage to Care*, Lorna B. Stuart, M.D., outlines the history of The Clinic, which she and the Rev. Marie Swayze (both familiar faces at St. Peter's) envisioned and founded in 2002 to provide medical care to the uninsured and underinsured in the Phoenixville area. Along with the story of the Clinic's genesis and functions, Lorna includes some personal stories about folks who have come through the doors of the Clinic. The book is available in both print and electronic versions from Amazon.



for All You Do

- Linda Huggler for leading the *Gesundheit* bag project again this year, and the Knupp and Mannon families for delivering the bags to the Clinic;
- Bruce Glenny, the choir, and guest oboist Adella Brady for Compline, and Mary Anne Morgan for selecting the readings.
- Eileen Klein for leading the vestry dinner auctioned off at the barn dance; Peter Gilmore for preparing the main course and salad; Sue Gilmore, vestry members, and spouses Randy Klein and Jim Markee for decorating, serving, and cleaning up; Ryan Battin and Kate Mallon-Day for providing the entertainment;
- Suzanne Casey for leading the youth group's Valentine cookies summer mission trip fundraiser;
- Holly Hardester for updating the stewardship posters weekly until we reached our 2020 pledge goal.

March 4
Lenten Soup Supper
6 to 8 p.m.

March 6
Stations of the Cross
7:30 p.m.

March 7
Needlework Ministry
10 a.m.

March 8
DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS
Bishop's Visit
10 a.m. (barn)
ONE SERVICE ONLY

March 11
Lenten Soup Supper
6 to 8 p.m.

March 13
Stations of the Cross
7:30 p.m.



March 14
Gathering of Women
9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

March 17
Centering prayer
6:15 to 7 p.m.

March 18
Lenten Soup Supper
6 to 8 p.m.

March 20
Stations of the Cross
7:30 p.m.

March 25
Lenten Soup Supper
6 to 8 p.m.

March 27
Stations of the Cross
7:30 p.m.

March 28
Habitat for Humanity workday
8:30 a.m.

January Financial Snapshot

	January 2020	Year-end Projection	Budget 2020
Parishioner Contributions	\$ 75,387	\$607,712	\$611,305
Other Income*	1,750	135,165	135,190
Total Income	77,137	742,877	746,495
Total Expense	59,499	748,922	746,495
Surplus/ (Deficit)	17,638	(6,045)	0

**Interest, rentals, endowment distributions, fundraiser*

Parishioner contributions were substantial in January, with a number of parishioners paying part or all of their 2020 pledge in the beginning of the year. At this time, we expect a small year-end deficit, primarily because of adjustments in our employees' health insurance plans. — Eric Lien for the Finance Commission



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The Rev. Abigail Crozier Nestlehutt, Rector
 The Rev. Chris 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
 April Beacon
 is **March 15.**

Every Week at St. Peter's

Sunday

8 A.M. *Holy Eucharist**
 9 A.M. *Holy Eucharist***
*(Nursery care available**)*
 10:20 A.M. *Christian formation***
 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



REMINDER

**On March 8, when the Bishop visits,
 we will have only one service,
 at 10 a.m. in the barn.**

Light refreshments follow.

(This is also the day we "spring ahead"!)