

# The Beacon

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

*June 2020*

## *Opportunities in Obstacles* *by the Rev. Abigail Crozier Nestlehutt*

Last summer, when vacations were free of virus-related vexations, my family took an RV trip in California. Since planning is one of my husband's strengths, a fact I came to appreciate long ago, Mark did most of it. For our first day of hiking at Yosemite, our first stop, he had arranged to hire a guide to go with us; despite my faith in him as a vacation planner, though, I was pretty sure that this extra expense was unnecessary. Besides, as an eager outdoors person I found it somewhat embarrassing to need accompaniment on a hike. I made my position known quietly, the way one does when one wants to reserve the possibility of being right about something without making someone else feel bad about having made a mistake.

After we filled out the obligatory Park Service forms, we were joined by our guide, a scrappy young man named Owen who turned out to be about the best thing that could have happened to us that day. Owen was technically qualified to lead a hike anywhere in Yosemite (and probably almost anywhere in the country), but more importantly, he offered us a fresh way to see the world.

Owen was tasked with leading four somewhat stressed-out family members with varying degrees of enthusiasm but lots of ambition on an eight-hour hike. In the hands of a less skilled guide, this could be a recipe for disaster but not with Owen. In his eyes every moment, large or small, that could have been a nuisance, a frustration, or even a danger was an opportunity. Whenever one of us needed to pause to get a tenth drink of water, complain about the heat, or nurse a minor scrape, Owen told us, with genuine care, how glad he was that we stopped there because we gave him the chance to point out a rare flower or unusual rock or to tell us the story of that particular section of the trail. Moreover, Owen was never tired, but not in the "I am better than you are" way that someone feeling bedraggled finds so annoying. He was never tired in a reassuring "we are all in this together" way, in an "if you are feeling pooped, I am happy to lift your spirits" way that energizes people, including the four of us.

That first hike set the tone for our whole vacation, and on all our subsequent outings we brought Owen along in spirit. He had offered us a fresh way to see the world, and we grasped it with eagerness. Following his example, we allowed challenges to morph into opportunities – not always perfectly, but we tried.

Owen's attitude will serve us all well in the weeks ahead at St. Peter's. Pandemic-related restrictions are beginning to ease, but uncertainty remains. You and I will find ourselves in places where we did not expect to be this summer. While in-person worship might resume, the experience will not be the same as before, when we sat side by side and shared the peace with a hug or

*[Cont. on p. 4]*

## *Planning for the Next Phase*

As time goes on we will keep hearing more about the reopening of various aspects of our society, but right now I invite you to visit [www.diopa.org](http://www.diopa.org) to learn about the reopening plan that Bishop Gutiérrez has proposed for our diocese.

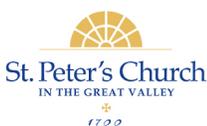
A few weeks ago I created a “post-pandemic planning team” to assist me in addressing the many elements we need to consider before St. Peter’s returns to in-person worship or other activities. By now you should have received a brief survey the team designed to assist our planning, and I hope you will help by completing and returning it in a timely way. (Please let the parish office know if you haven’t received your copy.)

Relying on science and guided by love for our community, the planning team and I will work together to create a proposal to be approved first by the vestry and then by the bishop. St. Peter’s will be cautious and faithful, and will return to gathering in person only after receiving the bishop’s permission. I will soon report on the specific measures that we will take to ensure the safety of parishioners, staff, and visitors. Virtual worship, events, and meetings will continue for as long as necessary and will happen in conjunction with some in-person offerings.

The return will take place slowly and some things will feel different from the way they felt before. One thing that has not changed, and will not change, is the abundance of God’s love and our call to love God and neighbor. Thank you for all that you are doing to help one another and the broader community at this unprecedented time. Thank you to those who are working hard to make our online offerings robust and beautiful. Thank you for your continuing support of St. Peter’s Church in the Great Valley. It is a privilege to serve among you.

## *Outdoor Activities Coming Up in June*

Abigail is planning to resume several outdoor activities in June, all adhering to the diocesan requirement that face masks be worn at all events, including those outdoors, and all dependent upon the bishop’s approval. Since we must limit the number of participants, please let Abigail know ([abigail@stpetersgv.org](mailto:abigail@stpetersgv.org)) which of these opportunities you wish to participate in for some exercise, fresh air, and in-person fellowship.



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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](mailto:parishoffice@stpetersgv.org)  
Web site: [www.stpetersgv.org](http://www.stpetersgv.org)

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David Graves

### **ATWATER WALK – June 15, 9:30 a.m.**

A 45- to 60-minute walk through the neighborhood next door to St. Peter’s. This is a great chance to get some exercise while chatting and becoming familiar with our community.

### **SUMMER SOLSTICE COMPLINE – June 20, 8 p.m.**

A simple spoken prayer service at the labyrinth by candlelight. Please bring your own seating.

### **BYOB SOCIAL HOUR ON THE LAWN – June 24, 6 p.m.**

An hour of convivial conversation in the “rector’s grove” alongside the parish house. Bring a beverage of choice and a blanket or chair for comfortable (and spaced) seating.

## *We Can Help You "Get to Church" by Phone*

While many parishioners participate in our streamed Sunday worship, we know that some cannot do so for a number of reasons, including not owning or using a computer and not having Internet access at their residence. So we want to help everyone "get to church" via telephone while we are apart. Currently, a handful of parishioners call friends who have expressed their desire to simply *hear* the services over the phone, but we suspect that other "unconnected" parishioners whom we don't know about would appreciate doing this as well. So, we ask everyone:

- If you cannot access Facebook Live or the website for any reason, please let Trudi Graves (610-687-1242 or [beacon@stpetersgv.org](mailto:beacon@stpetersgv.org)) know who you are so that you too can "get to church" on Sunday via phone.
- If you are willing to call a fellow parishioner a little before 10 a.m. on Sunday and then place your phone near the computer speaker during the service, please let Trudi Graves know (610-687-1242 or [beacon@stpetersgv.org](mailto:beacon@stpetersgv.org)).

Since virtual worship will continue throughout the summer and into the fall, we want to make sure that everyone who wants to "come to church" can do so. Once we know who all the callers and "calles" are, we can make this one-on-one arrangement work while our church family remains separated from one another.

### *Morning Prayer & Bible Study*

We continue to gather virtually at 10 a.m. every Wednesday for Morning Prayer and Bible study. If you would like to start attending, contact Chris ([chris@stpetersgv.org](mailto:chris@stpetersgv.org)) for Zoom access information.



### *Centering Prayer*

Abigail practices centering prayer on Tuesdays at 5 p.m. and invites you to join her virtually. Even though we cannot pray together in person, we can pray together in spirit. If you want to join in prayer at that time, please let Abigail know ([abigail@stpetersgv.org](mailto:abigail@stpetersgv.org)).

### *Noonday Prayer*

To help keep us grounded during the pandemic, Abigail and Chris offer noonday prayer virtually at 12 noon, Monday through Thursday, and invite you to join them on Facebook Live.

Also, if you would like to spend time in either the historic church or barn for private prayer, please contact Abigail ([abigail@stpetersgv.org](mailto:abigail@stpetersgv.org) or 410-829-4180) to schedule a time.

### *Join Our Virtual BYOB Social Hour!*

Our convivial Wednesday evening Zoom social hours hosted by Abigail and Mark continue. We post the Zoom access information on Keynotes every Tuesday or Wednesday, so pop a cork or pour some lemonade, and "Zoom" into fellowship and relaxing, light-hearted conversation at 6 p.m. any Wednesday. If you don't get Keynotes, ask a friend who does to give it to you, or email Abigail for the information.

### *Can We Help with Your Shopping?*

Several parishioners have volunteered to shop for groceries, stop at a drug store, or run similar errands for someone who needs such a service. This is one way we can be a community that cares for others by keeping them safe.

If you would find this service helpful, please contact Holly Hardester ([hahardester@gmail.com](mailto:hahardester@gmail.com) or 484-319-6323), who will then pair you with one of the volunteer shoppers. You and your shopping partner will then make your own arrangements.

## Christian Formation News

### *Youth Sunday*

On **June 7**, the youth are almost completely taking over Morning Prayer—serving as readers, presiding at the service, and even preaching. So be sure to tune in at 10 a.m. that day and observe the future of our church as the young people lead us in prayer and praise.

### *Youth Group*

The youth group has been meeting regularly on Sunday evenings (via Zoom, of course), doing a combination of check-in and games (recently we acquired “Jackbox” games), and we will continue to meet online regularly during the summer. We are also making plans to begin to meet in person when we are allowed to do so and we will implement all precautions. We don’t know yet when this will come to pass, but will let everyone know as soon as possible.

### *Vacation Bible School*

While pandemic regulations necessitated postponing VBS, originally scheduled for June, we are currently considering both virtual VBS offerings and possibly an in-person VBS in August, provided such a gathering is allowed then. Please watch for information about VBS during the next two months.

### *Sunday School*

On Sunday, June 7, we will recognize the three teams of Sunday school teachers who prepared lessons and crafts for our children every week: Betsy Comstock, Katie Franz, Sharon Holt, Paige Infortuna, Mary Kreek, Molly Kulp, Gail Malcolm, and Linda Parkyn. We thank them for their caring commitment to our children during the past year.

We especially recognize Holly Hardester for the invaluable work she has done since mid-March and her unwavering commitment to our children: each week she sent multiple emails containing crafts, coloring pages, and lessons to all Sunday school families. Please take a moment to thank Holly for caring so much for the children of the parish.

On a related note, Holly will step down as Sunday school director at end of the 2020-21 program year, as noted in the annual report. So this summer we plan to begin conversations that will help shape future Sunday school programs, and we hope that someone will work alongside Holly during her final year. If you have ideas, comments, questions, or concerns, please get in touch with Holly (hahardester@gmail.com or 484-319-6323) or Chris (chris@stpetersgv.org).

*[Opportunities in Obstacles,” cont. from p. 1]*

handshake. While we might gather for picnics on our beautiful campus, we will not bring our usual “dish to share.” While the needs of the community will become increasingly clear, addressing them safely will not be simple. It will be tempting to feel discouraged, but I invite us all to look for the blessings, as Owen did on our hike, and to notice things we would not otherwise have seen.

The weeks and months ahead will not be easy, but we will support one another along the way, and as always, we are not alone, we join Jesus in ministry. We will continue to be the beloved church, following Christ, loving God and neighbor, and together living into the new ways we are being called.

### *Bedtime Story Hour*

Abigail and Chris, along with some parishioners, have videotaped themselves reading some of their favorite bedtime stories to your children and you. Just go to our Facebook page at 7 p.m. any day of the week to hear a different 5-minute story.

If you have a favorite bedtime story you would like to videotape for this series, please let Chris know (chris@stpetersgv.org).



### *High School Class of 2020*

- **Alexander Cheetham** graduated from Conestoga with both the Principal’s Award for Character and Integrity and the President’s Award for Academic Achievement and Growth. He plans to major in sociology at Brandeis University.
- **Rachel Dwyer** graduated from both Technical College H. S., and Great Valley, and was elected to the National Honor Society and the National Technical Honor Society. She will study nursing at Pennsylvania College of Technology.
- **J.P. Infortuna** graduated from Conestoga, with the DAR American History Award. He will attend George Washington University as a Presidential Scholar and plans to study political communications in GW’s School of Media and Public Affairs.
- **Asa Nestlehutt** graduated from Interlochen Arts Academy (MI). He will major in theater performance at the Lincoln Center campus of Fordham University.
- **Aleta Ross** graduated from Conestoga with the President’s Award for Academic Achievement and Growth.
- **Colin Shannon** will attend Millersville University in the fall.

### *College Class of 2020*

- **Jack Franz**—Delaware County Community College, A. A. S. (Hotel and Restaurant Management). He plans to continue as a chef at Wegman’s and aims to move into management.
- **Charlie Jordan**—Fordham University, B. S. (Business).



Grandmothers **Martha Nelson** and **Pat Harvey** also celebrated new college graduates:

- Elizabeth Hamilton—N. Y. U., B. S. *summa cum laude*, Phi Beta Kappa
- Ford Harvey—Elon University (NC), B. S. (Business)

### *Gathering of Women*

Thank you for joining our virtual gathering last month. It was good to see so many of our fellow women parishioners, and to enjoy spirited conversations about the wisdom we have gained during the quarantine and about what has made us smile.

Our next gathering is on **June 10**, and we will “Zoom” it again. We are exploring a few interesting topics for that evening’s gathering, and once everything is set we will send out a timely email with details and will also publish them in Keynotes. If you don’t receive an email by **June 3**, or if you have questions, please contact Lynn Mander (lsmander@gmail.com or 610-613-5358).

Remember to keep an eye on the “While We’re Apart” link on our website. It is an easy, one-step way to keep abreast of late-breaking changes to our virtual offerings. There you will also find a list of video resources that may help you deal with some of the stresses of the pandemic experience.

- Susan House, Joe Herbst, Peter Kreek and Eric Lien for their ongoing work on the SBA payroll protection loan;
- Atwater resident Steve D'Angelo for taking the initiative to clean up the labyrinth, and parishioner Patti Conway, also an Atwater resident, for her ongoing work clearing the shoulder of the exit road;
- Preschool director Leigh Pavoni and all the preschool teachers;
- The parishioners who have recorded bedtime story videos;
- The children who pray the Lord's Prayer at our virtual Sunday worship;
- Those who donate food for Alianzas, those who deliver it to Phoenixville, and Helen Ockenden who arranged for us to team up with Alianzas;
- Paige Infortuna, Peter Kreek, and Eric Lien, for their comprehensive presentation at the May vestry budget process and financial overview retreat;
- Laurel Veitch, Sarah Tellefsen, Heidi Fowler, and their committee, for organizing the virtual newcomers gathering;
- Mary Ann Tatum for her oversight of the weekly deposits and administration of the database, especially during the pandemic restrictions;
- Holly Hardester for sending the Sunday school children lessons each week, and Susan Dovey for the Good Shepherd Sunday lesson she created for them;
- The BB&G for faithfully maintaining our grounds and buildings;
- The family and gallery choirs, section leaders, choral scholar Adella Brady, and Bruce Glenn for creatively providing music for our virtual worship;
- Michael Trycieckj for his skillful mixing and editing of the pre-recorded music;
- Lynn Mander for arranging the May virtual BYOB gathering of the women of St. Peter's.



### *April Financial Snapshot*

	<b>April 2020</b>	<b>Year to Date April</b>	<b>Year-end Projection</b>	<b>Budget 2020</b>
Parishioner Contributions	\$ 51,448	\$240,679	\$576,757	\$611,305
Other Income*	8,033	20,795	155,806	135,190
Total Income	59,481	261,474	732,563	746,495
Total Expense	61,160	241,197	732,604	746,495
Surplus/ (Deficit)	(1,679)	20,277	(41)	0

*\*Interest, rentals, endowment distributions, fundraiser*

St. Peter's received especially good news several weeks ago: thanks to the diligent efforts of Joe Herbst, Susan House, and Peter Kreek we received a Payroll Protection Plan loan from the Small Business Administration. We anticipate that a substantial portion of the loan will be converted to a grant; these funds are significant as an offset for the rental, fundraiser, and pledge income that we included in the 2020 budget but that may not materialize this year. We do, however, still expect to end the year with a nearly balanced budget. — Eric Lien

## ***St. Peter's Food Ministry during the Pandemic***

Having access to food is of primary importance to families who experience scarcity even in the best of times, but these days providing them with food is especially critical. The continuing loss of jobs increases daily the number of families facing not only food shortages but also the loss of health insurance. The effects of the pandemic will be with us for a long time, even in our "new normal."

Because the outreach commission recognizes that we have resources with which to meet food needs, it has created an *ad hoc* committee to research and discuss new ways of meeting the rising levels of food insecurity. But even as we re-envision new ways of helping, we continue our food ministries already in place. Here is a summary of the status of those ministries at this time.

### **Phoenixville Ecumenical Meal Program (PEMP)**

- All monthly dinners at St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Phoenixville, were suspended because the kitchen is too small for mandatory distancing. Boxed cold lunches are being distributed five days a week instead.

### **Darby Mission Dinners**

- The Darby Borough recreation center is a designated food distribution site.
- Vicar Doris appreciates how valuable our donation of grocery gift cards is for vulnerable families. Recently a new resident of Darby walked his two young children to the rec center to pick up food boxes, and when Doris gave him one of our gift cards, he was overwhelmed and exclaimed, "I came and I met God!"
- We had to cancel our May and June dinners, but hope to be able to provide boxed takeout meals at the end of the summer. Our September dinner remains on the calendar at this point.

### **Alianzas de Phoenixville**

- Our food drive continues to collect non-perishable food for Alianzas. Its executive director Nina Guzman appreciates our donations, since her families continue to face food shortages.
- If you are willing and able to transport the food bins from the parish house porch to Alianzas' porch, please contact Helen Ockenden (helenock@verizon.net; 610-296-9451).



***June 3***

BYOB social hour (Zoom)  
6 p.m.

***June 6***

Needlework ministry (Zoom)  
10 a.m.

***June 7***

Youth Sunday (Facebook Live)  
10 a.m.

***June 10***

Gathering of Women (Zoom)  
6 p.m.

***June 15***

Atwater walk  
9:30 a.m.

***June 17***

BYOB social hour (Zoom)  
6 p.m.

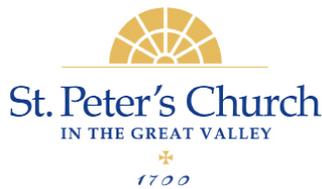
***June 20***

Summer solstice compline  
4 p.m.

***June 24***

BYOB social hour on the lawn  
6 p.m.

*Our full weekly schedule of virtual worship offerings appears on page 8.*



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 2475 St. Peter's Road, Malvern, PA 19355  
 Telephone: 610-644-2261 Fax: 610-644-7967  
 E-mail: parishoffice@stpetersgv.org Web site: www.stpetersgv.org

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  
 July Beacon  
 is **June 18.**

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

- Sunday**
  - 10 A.M. *Morning Prayer\**  
*Virtual coffee hour\*\**
  - 5 P.M. *Youth Group\*\**
  - Monday thru Thursday**
  - 12 NOON *Noonday Prayer\**
  - Wednesday**
  - 10 A.M. *Morning Prayer & Bible Study\*\**
  - Thursday**
  - 10:30 A.M. *Intercessory Prayer Group\*\**
  - Friday**
  - 8 A.M. *Gathering of Men\*\**
  - Daily**
  - 7 P.M. *Storytime with Abigail & Chris\**
- \* Facebook Live or Website  
 \*\* Zoom

To reach the staff, please call the office; if no one answers, leave a message or send an email. We are working from home as much as possible but we check for messages often. Thank you for your patience as we work from home, and please know that we love to hear from **you.**



***"You Oughta be in Pictures,  
 St. Peter's!"***

To keep us from missing seeing one another, Abigail and Chris ask you to please send photos or short (15- to 30-second) videos of you and your family for us to post between 9:45 and the start of our service at 10 a.m. Just email them to Chris (chris@stpetersgv.org). For your submission to appear on Sunday, he must receive it no later than Thursday of that week.