

The Beacon

In thy light shall we see light.

Psalm 36:9



June ~ *July* 2022

Refreshment and Renewal

by the Rev. Abigail Crozier Nestlehutt

The words "Pick Your Own" on a roadside sign are, to me, a good reason to pull over for a while. I love to don sturdy attire and go into fields to harvest whatever is in season, from strawberries to apples. What I do with my haul depends on the year: I have fallen into a pattern of making jam in even years and in odd years carefully freezing what we don't consume or give away.

One does not take a quick trip to a pick-your-own orchard—I don't, at least. I allow time for each step, the drive there, the walk from car to field, the picking, the trip home, and then the processing of the fruit. There is something almost ritualistic about all of this. It requires me to slow down, gives me the opportunity to pay attention to the natural world, and invites me to live "elementarily," to coin a word. Picking my own fruit is one of the ways that I savor summer.

I invite you to join me this summer in intentionally seeking refreshment for the purpose of renewal. This might mean doing less than you do at other times of the year. It might mean doing something new. Whatever you try, you might begin by praying these words 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.

In the pages that follow you will find opportunities to be meaningfully, but not hectically, engaged at St. Peter's. I want you to stay connected, and also have time to breathe.

One way to do both is to simply make time to visit. Linger over lemonade after the 10 a.m. service. Come walk the labyrinth with a friend. Participate in a holy hike. Perhaps even invite me to your backyard for a glass of lemonade or come to mine for Sunday supper. (You will find the details of my invitation on page 3). Time spent together is precious, even holy, and it need not be complicated.

Many of our ministries will happen as usual throughout the summer. Bible study and the prayer group will meet, as will the needlework guild, and outreach will continue to bring God's love to our neighbors. Worship will be beautiful. Also, we will savor this season of long days and lightened obligations, opening our spirits to the goodness of God.

The Day of Pentecost



At our first-Sunday service at 10 a.m. on **June 5**, we will celebrate the birthday of the church in our traditional ways, hearing the polyglot version of Acts that describes the first Day of Pentecost, wearing **RED**. After the service we will enjoy our traditional celebratory birthday cake as well.

On this, the choir's final day of singing until kick-off Sunday in September, we will, as usual, thank them for leading our services this year. We will also thank the Christian formation leaders for their service during the program year that just ended: Sunday school teachers Katie Franz, Holly Hardester, Sharon Holt, Gail Malcolm, Linda Parkyn, and Leigh Pavoni, and Melissa Shaner, who organizes both adult

forum and our evening offerings in Advent and Lent.

.The day will end with a 4 p.m. choral evensong and a "picnic" reception afterwards. Since our new assistant, Rachel Eskite, will be with us that day (a week before she begins her ministry here), the simple but tasty reception will give her and us a jump on getting to know each other over *hors d'oeuvres*, sweets, sherry, and assorted sparkling waters. (Please note: the "picnic reception" format is a change from the allout picnic announced earlier.)

If possible, please let us know that you are coming, to help us plan the gathering, either by using the link in Keynotes or by letting Abigail know (abigail@stpetersgv.org or 610-647-2261). But if you discover at the last minute that you are free to come, just come anyway!

Pilgrimission Prayers

At the 10 a.m. service on **June 19**, we will prayerfully send off our youth group members and adults going on the diocesan Navajoland mission trip from June 26 through July 6. Please also keep Allegra Evans, Hannah Evans, Abigail Hacker, Emily Hacker, Tom Lockner, Honor Nestlehutt, Callie Stoltz, and Dylan Stoltz, and chaperones Beth Hacker, Jeanne Lockner, and Tracy Patches, in your prayers as they serve on this "pilgrimission."



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 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

Publication date: First of month Deadline: 15th of month preceding

Staff: Trudi Graves (editor), Charlotte Mark,

David Graves, Katharine Campbell

Holy Hike

At 4 p.m. on Sunday, **June 26**, Abigail will lead a walk along Valley Creek, the fairly level trail visible from route 252 in Valley Forge Park. Our group of "holy hikers" will stop for prayers and readings along the way. If you have never joined a holy hike, do think about doing this worshipful walking with fellow parishioners in

a lovely, shaded setting beside the stream.



Please use the sign-up link in Keynotes or just email Abigail (abigail@stpetersgv. org) to let her know you will

be there. (As with all outdoor activities, thunder will necessitate canceling this, so she needs to know whom to contact in the event of stormy weather.)

Return of the Diocesan Youth Jam

The second annual diocesan "Youth Jam" takes place on **June 11**, from 1 to 3 p.m. As the host parish, we need volunteers to help set and clean things up and also to welcome people to our campus. Abigail also would appreciate help spreading the word beforehand, namely some volunteers willing to make phone calls to churches in the diocese or to their friends who attend other churches in the diocese. Please let her know (abigail@stpetersgv.org) if you can help in any way.

The event is aimed at young people in grade 5 and above, but families are welcome and encouraged to come. If, for instance, a family has both a 6th- and a 3rd-grader, all of them are heartily invited to join the fun.



WHO: All Sunday-school-age children *WHEN*: 10 to 10:30 a.m., starting June 5

WHERE: Parish hall (barn on 6/5)

Watch Keynotes for additional details.

Summertime Nursery Care

We offer nursery care during the 10 a.m. service between Memorial Day and Labor Day. The preschool gathering area in



the parish house provides a wonderful space where the youngest children can play safely under careful supervision. They are also welcome to join us for the service if you prefer.

Independence Day + Sundae Sunday



•

On Sunday, **July 3**, trumpeter Peter Neu will once again join us to provide stirring music during our observance of Independence Day at the 10 a.m. service. Following the service, everyone is invited to enjoy fellowship and ice cream on this celebratory "Sundae Sunday." We will provide a variety of "fixin's" so that all can create the sundae of their choice!





Youth Sunday is the day when the young people of the parish lead our worship, including preaching,

at both services. This year it will take place later in the summer, after they have returned from their mission trip. Please watch Keynotes and the leaflets for more information, so that you can be there, either in person or virtually, to support the young leaders of the Church.

Let's Visit! Summer Sunday Supper

You are invited for a simple supper at Abigail's home on Sunday, **July 17** from 5

to 6:30 p.m. Please bring a dish that goes with fare from the grill for everyone to share. Please sign up using



the link in Keynotes or by contacting Abigail (abigail@stpetersgv.org or 610-644-2261).

Meet the Class of 2022!

Every year, St. Peter's celebrates the newly minted high school and college graduates in our parish family. This year we recognize a large group of young people embarking on new adventures in learning and growing, Congratulations to all these young people and their families, on the successful completion of another stage of their education:



- **Max DiMedio**, a 2022 alumnus of Great Valley H.S., heads off to Penn State's main campus and its College of Health and Human Development there.
- Ella Jordan, who graduated from Episcopal Academy, will attend Denison.
- **Abby Laurence**, a Henderson H.S. grad, will major in English in the College of Liberal Arts at Penn State's main campus.
- Chris Laurence, also a Henderson H.S. grad, will major in business at Penn State's main campus.
- **Kathryn Lynn**, a brand new Episcopal Academy alum, is off to Georgetown, where she plans to major in biology.
- Callie Stoltz, who graduated from Baldwin, will attend Swarthmore College and plans to major in engineering.
- Mary Wirtel will enroll in the Honors College at West Chester. She began high school at Notre Dame and completed it through home-schooling as a result of Covid.
- Choir scholar **Adella Brady** received a Bachelor of Music degree from West Chester, where she majored in music education; she is currently seeking a position as a music teacher.
- On the grandparent front, **David and Trudi Graves**' granddaughter Nora Graves graduated from Radnor H. S. and will attend Princeton.
- Roy and Shannon Almquist's granddaughter Sylvie Bergquist graduated from Hawthorne Valley Waldorf School (Ghent, NY) and is headed to Barnard.

City Camp (Formerly Known as Camp Get-Along) Returns

After a two-year hiatus, the children attending City Camp (formerly known as Camp Get-Along) will return to our holy hill on Wednesday, **July 13**! As we did for so many years before the pandemic, we will offer games, music, crafts, book fair, lunch and the ever-popular waterslide to our inner-city



friends attending four camps run by the Episcopal diocese. We can do this because of the participation of our joyful volunteers. Please mark the date on your calendar and watch for volunteer sign-up sheets where you can tell us how you will help.

Also returning this year is our give-away book fair, so please drop off new or gently used children's books in the book collection bin that will be placed in both the church and barn later this month. In the past, the children were thrilled to take home these treasures to enjoy during the hot summer months.

If you have questions about this rewarding, fun-filled, one-day outreach event, please contact Gail Guthridge (guthgirl60@gmail.com).

Feel the History this Summer!

We at St. Peter's don't have to travel far to revisit American history, since we are privileged to connect with the three centuries of living history intertwined with our parish every time we come for worship or fellowship. As we pass the sign at the foot of St. Peter's Road that proclaims our church home as a National Historic Landmark, it is daunting to realize that some trees on our hill likely witnessed the circuit-riding priests



on horseback who served the Anglican Welsh colonists in the Great Valley and stood guard over our historic graveyard, where the first recorded burial took place in 1703 (when a log cabin housed St. Peter's).

This summer, as you arrive in your air-conditioned car, imagine yourself guiding your horse up the drive, alighting at the stone steps on the lawn near the red doors and then leading the horse to the pasture (now blacktop parking lot) to graze during the service. Even before setting foot inside the building, let yourself feel the three hundred years of history here!

As you enter the foyer, imagine receiving the Eucharist from the colonial pewter vessels displayed there, and in your mind's ear, hear the service in the archaic English of the 1662 prayer book that the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts gave this missionary outpost in the wilderness west of Philadelphia. Imagine praying for "George our King"—regardless whether you are a rebel and not a Tory.

As you pass through the double doors into the sanctuary, look up at the plaque memorializing Daniel Evans by order of the Pennsylvania legislature in 1807. It was he who bequeathed his land, which spanned "Whiteland and Tredyffrin" townships, to St. Peter's and the nearby Anna [sic] Baptist Church. That plaque serves to remind the vestry that, should they ever sell our land, Evans' bequest requires that they return the proceeds of the sale to his descendants!

As you enter "your" favorite pew, you are doing unofficially and casually what our forebears did officially. In the old days, men who contributed to the building of the church were privileged to "own" their pews, and the vestry determined who sat in which numbered pew and how many seats each man was entitled to. Allocating space—and awarding it appropriately—to everyone who deserved it was a vestry agenda item that often had to be tabled until a man's death (or non-payment) made a pew available. The pews where we sit today also connect the "quick and the dead" in a way, for under them may be the final resting place of forebears privileged to be buried where they worshiped while alive.

Although these days the sanctuary is climate-controlled, in the early days worship was not a particularly comfortable experience. Each box pew served to capture what little warmth there was in an unheated eighteenth-century stone building. (A photo of the modernized 1856 church on display in the archive room above the sacristy shows a serviceable but aesthetically challenged potbelly stove in the transept.) And the narrow staircase to the choir loft, designed in the 1750's, still provides access to the gallery, albeit for people significantly larger in stature than 250 years ago.

St. Peter's continues to honor its historical roots even in its newer furnishings. The altar is a twentieth-century reproduction of the one the vestry commissioned in 1750, for the sum of twelve pounds, from John Wayne (who inherited pew 14 after his brother died). Today's readers stand at a reproduction of the colonial era reading desk. And we continue to sing words and melodies that date as far back as the Middle Ages, Reformation, and Renaissance, accompanied by a 2004 re-creation

[Cont. on p, 10]



WHEN: Saturday, June 18, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

WHERE: St. Thomas Episcopal Church, 7020 Camp Hill Rd., Fort Washington

WHY: Our diocese has partnered with the American Red Cross to host the "United As One" blood drive to raise awareness of gun violence and safety. The sad facts about gun violence are: every two seconds someone in the U.S. needs blood; in 2020 (a setting year for gun-related deaths), suicides accounted for more than 54% of U.S. gun deaths, and gun-related murders accounted for 43%; gunshot victims require an average of ten times more blood than other trauma patients.

WHO: Everyone can help save a life by donating blood and also by learning about gun safety. Please register as a blood donor on June 18, either by visiting **redcrossblood.org** and entering "United As One" in the find-a-blood-drive box, or by calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

Unraveling the St. Peter's "Art Mystery"

In the February 2020 *Beacon*, Susy Baum reported that her serendipitous discovery of two artists' renderings of St. Peter's, one stashed in the archive room above the sacristy and the other in a filing cabinet in the parish house, both of which were framed and hung in the parish house workroom for all to enjoy. Little was known at that time about either artist, other than the fact that both favored the historic structures of Chester County as subjects for their work.

But the serendipity story does not end there for one of them, Carmen Camarota's 1975 gouache of St. Peter's! Recently, Susy found a special commemorative issue of the *Daily Local News*. dated September 9, 1976, on a table in the archive room. Suspecting that someone had put it there perhaps because it pertains somehow to St. Peter's, she opened it and discovered a photo of that Camarato drawing now displayed in the parish house. The caption under the photo reads, "A work in the Bicentennial show at the Chester County Art Center by Carmen Camarota." Even though we still have no idea who donated either the drawing or that Bicentennial issue of the *Daily Local* to St. Peter's, we now do know more about the work itself.

Further research into Carmen Camarato (1920-2001), who lived in West Chester from 1969 until his death, has revealed that he was skilled in both commercial and fine art. He attended the Museum School in Philadelphia and taught drawing and illustration as well as painting at the Philadelphia Art Alliance. After the birth of his children in the 1950's, he supported his family as a commercial artist and illustrator of children's books and cartoons but continued to create art in oils, watercolors, pastels, gouache, and pen-and-ink.

When more information about Camarato's gouache turns up, you will hear about it in *The Beacon*. In the meantime, when you stop by the parish house, do take a look at it in the workroom!

Martin McElroy and his volunteers for organizing the May blood drive; Susy Baum for her service as secretary to the vestry;

Everyone who made possible the annual meeting and the festive reception afterwards;

Tredyffrin Township for re-paving St. Peter's Road to where it ends at our driveway;

The flower guild for their imaginative and engaging arrangements throughout the year; Retiring preschool teachers Mary Ann Furin and Patty Brown, for their many years of devoted service to St. Peter's Preschool and its children.



Upcoming Stucco Restoration

St. Peter's historic building has served the parish well for two hundred and seventy-seven years, and we anticipate that it will continue to do so for many more. But for this to happen, we must take care of the building and repair it when necessary. We have therefore engaged a firm that specializes in repairing historic buildings to restore the compromised stucco on the south wall that faces the graveyard. Fortunately, both a parish family and a private foundation interested in the preserving our historic church will fund most of the work. The finance and property commissions are deeply grateful for their participation in this important project.

A Word of Thanks from Abigail

Thank you for a beautiful celebration of my five (plus!) years as rector of St. Peter's Church in the Great Valley. Your gracious words, incredibly thoughtful gifts, and festive fellowship were all so special. It is a privilege to serve among you. Thank you!





COMMUNITY BARN DANCE RETURNING IN OCTOBER

Our community barn dance is coming back this fall by popular request. We hope that you will join us for its fourth appearance on Saturday evening, October 22 and bring your friends and neighbors. We also encourage you to help invite the larger community to come together for an evening of dancing, conversation, dining, and good old-fashioned fun in our barn.

The barn dance will begin at 5 p.m. with some basic instruction from our callers Chloe and Rick Mohr. It's easy—as long as you can walk and follow their simple directions, you'll be dancing in no time! A dinner of barbeque is back on the menu this year, and throughout the evening there will be a silent auction.



Tickets for the barn dance are \$25 for adults, \$10 for children 12 and under, and \$65 for a family of four or more. They can be purchased using the form on the next page of this *Beacon*; through our website (www.stpetersgv.org); and in person after services in October.

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

- Inviting family, friends, and neighbors to join us on October 22nd and encouraging them to bring others.
- Distributing postcards giving details about the event to individuals and establishments that may be interested in joining us that evening.
- Donating items for our silent auction, directly or by soliciting a favorite local business. We are compiling items to offer on their own or as part of a gift basket. Some ideas: give us a gift certificate for merchandise or services that you solicit from a favorite restaurant, shop, or gym, or gift cards stashed in a drawer, or unused credit card points, or even simply cash; no home furnishings, please. In exchange, you will receive full credit for your donation and recognition at the event. Your donation is tax-deductible. Let us know and we will gladly pick up your donation. (You will find a donor form on the reverse of the ticket form.)
- Becoming a sponsor of the event at any of the levels available to support this event.
- Creating something for the auction if you are an artist or artisan, or donating a painting, special craft, or collectible for someone else to enjoy.
- Donating a case of beer or wine would be great too!
- Volunteering to help during the event. This is truly an event where many hands make it happen. Please consider helping with the auction, serving at the bar or food line, greeting people, or any number of other ways. . .

As before, this event gives us a wonderful opportunity to work together and to welcome people to St. Peter's. We expect to host approximately two hundred guests for dancing and dinner, and the funds we raise will support the ministries and missions of St. Peter's in the local community and beyond. October will be here before we know it, so please start thinking about how you would like to be involved in this parish-wide event. *We cannot do it without you!*

Thank you in advance for taking this opportunity to strengthen our parish community by bringing friends and neighbors to St. Peter's! Questions can be directed to Paige Infortuna (pinfortuna@msn. com or 610-608-2093).

Community Barn Dance Ticket and Sponsor Information

COMMUNITY BARN DANCE SPONSORSHIP LEVELS Bonfire Sponsor: \$250.00 Promenade Sponsor: \$1,000.00 Includes: 10 tickets for the event Includes: 4 tickets for the event Logo or name on any printed material, inclusion Logo or name on any printed material, and in social media, and recognition at the entry way recognition at the beverage stations and in the event Pumpkin Sponsor: \$100.00 Harvest Sponsor: \$750.00 Includes: 2 tickets for the event Includes: 8 tickets for the event Logo or name on any printed material, inclusion Logo or name on any printed material, and in social media, and recognition at the recognition at the dessert table food stations Scarecrow Sponsor: \$500.00 Individual Tickets: Includes: 6 tickets for the event \$25.00 per person Logo or name on any printed material, inclusion \$10.00 children 12 and under in social media, and recognition at the auction \$65.00 per family of four or more table and during the live auction Admission to the event, food, and beverage

I/WE WOULD LIKE TO ATTEND THE COMMUNITY BARN DANCE ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2022

Name:				
City:	State:	Zip:		
Email:	Phone:			
	Number of Tickets			
\$25 Adult:	\$10 Child	\$65 Family:		
	(12 & under)	(4 or more)		

I/WE WOULD LIKE TO SPONSOR THE COMMUNITY BARN DANCE ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2022

Name:Address:				
City:	Zip:			
Email:	Phone:			
Sponsorship Level:	Amount:			
Checks can be made out to St. Peter's Church in the Great Valley, or you can register online at www.StPetersGV.org				
Company logos or tributes can be emailed in a print-ready PDF or JPEG to Paige Infortuna at pinfortuna@msn.com				

Questions can be directed to Paige Infortuna at pinfortuna@msn.com or 610-608-2093

Proceeds from the Community Barn Dance benefit the mission of St. Peter's Church in the Great Valley.

COMMUNITY BARN DANCE

Donation Request Form

Name:		
Company Name:		
Address:		
City:	State:	Zip:
Telephone #:		
Email:		
Description of Item:		
Value:		

Thank you for your support!

Please return this form and corresponding item/s by Sunday, October 9, 2022



Barn Dance Committee at St. Peter's

2475 St. Peter's Road

Malvern, PA 19355

Please contact Paige Infortuna 610-608-2093 or pinfortuna@msn.com with any questions.

June 4

Needlework ministry 10 a.m. (parish hall)

June 5 Pentecost

1st Sunday Holy Eucharist 10 a.m. (barn) Choral evensong 4 p.m. (barn) Reception follows

June 11

 2^{nd} annual diocesan "Youth Jam" 1 to 3 p.m.

June 18

Reading Phillies game

June 26

Holy hike, Valley Forge 4 p.m.



June 26 to July 6

Navajoland "pilgrimission" trip

July 2

Needlework ministry 10 a.m. (parish hall)

July 3

Independence Day Eucharist 10 a.m.(church) "Sundae Sunday" follows

July 13

City Camp (aka Camp Get-along) 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

July 17

Summer supper at Abigail's 5 to 6:30 p.m.

April Financial Snapshot

	April 2022	Year to Date April	Year-end Projection	Budget 2022		
Parishioner Contributions	\$ 49,312	\$235,029	\$581,390	\$563,900		
Other Income*	12,880	45,287	152,859	132,100		
Total Income	62,192	280,316	734,249	696,000		
Total Expense	59,617	216,884	685,838	696,000		
Surplus / (Deficit)	2,575	63,432	48,411	0		
*Interest, rentals, endowment distributions						

The parishioners of St. Peters continue to support the parish in many ways, and one of these is by keeping their pledges up to date. Financial support is particularly important at this time when we have added the Rev. Rachel Eskite to serve as assistant rector. Thank you! — *Eric Lien for the finance commission*



St. Peter's Church in the Great Valley 2475 St. Peter's Road, Malvern, PA 19355 Telephone: 610-644-2261

E-mail: parishoffice@stpetersgv.org Web site: www.stpetersgv.org

The Rev. Abigail Crozier Nestlehutt, Rector

The Rev. Rachel Eskite, Assistant Rector (as of June 12)

The Ven. Jeff Moretzsohn, Deacon Dr. Bruce Glenny, Organist/Choirmaster Rachel Martin Swartz, Parish Administrator

Denise Nuttall, Preschool Director Gail Malcolm, Event Coordinator

Mario Delano, 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**.

Weekly Summer Offerings at St. Peter's

Sunday

8 A.M. Holy Eucharist, Rite 1* Holy Eucharist, Rite 2*

Sunday school and nursery care

1st Sunday

10 A.M. Holy Eucharist, Rite 2*

Fellowship follows all services

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**

* Church ** Virtual

Parish office open Mon. thru Thurs., 9 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.

["History," cont. from p. 6]

of a 1775 Tannenberg organ still in use in Zion Lutheran Church in Spring City.

As you worship in the historic church this summer, take time out to relive that history with your family. If you stop by the church office during office hours, a staff member will be happy to open the church so you can explore at your own pace. Harold D. Eberlein and Cortlandt V. Hubbard's 1944 illustrated monograph, *The Church of St, Peter in the Great Valley, 1700-1940: The Story of a Colonial Country Parish in PA*, is available through the parish office. While recent historiographic methodology has questioned some of its accuracy, it nevertheless remains an engaging glimpse into the early life of the parish.

Even though we cannot boast that George Washington slept—or even worshiped—at St. Peter's, we have a vibrant history, one that we celebrate and continue to write today.