



The Beacon

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

October 2022

Shining with the Light of Christ
by the Rev. Abigail Crozier Nestlehutt

Fall is Chester County's most flattering season, in my opinion. Seven years ago this month, my husband, children, and I came up to Pennsylvania from the Eastern Shore of Maryland to take care of all the things that a family preparing to move into a new community needs to do. The previous months' weather must have been just right, because stunning autumnal foliage greeted us at every turn. As a New Englander I figured this was a sign that all would be well. Not every fall has lived up to the splendor we experienced in those days, but that is just how it is. Sometimes the rain, sun, and temperature are just right; sometimes they are not. Always, we carry on.

I do not know what the natural world has in store for us in the days ahead, but I am sure that St. Peter's will be shining with the light of Christ. As you know, our theme for this program year is "Called into Community," and October is brimming with opportunities, beginning with our annual Blessing of the Animals on the lawn of the historic church on October 2. This marvelous event combines worship and hospitality in a way that is accessible to longtime church members as well as casual campus visitors. As you will learn noted on page 3, the vestry made the difficult decision to postpone the October 22nd barn dance for a year. Once again we are reminded that whenever we connect as a community we must do so inclusively and healthfully. On October 30, we close out the month by hosting a "Trunk or Treat" event in the parking lot, followed by a spooky All Hallows' Eve service around the fire pit. This is another combination of hospitality, worship, and fun for all ages. I encourage you to join us for our outdoor events this month and to participate as fully as possible. Maybe this is your year to host a trunk! The following week we look ahead to a moving service of Evensong for All Saints' Day on November 6.

In addition to these special events, our usual ministries continue to flourish. In the pages that follow you will learn about the current work of our outreach commission and how you can be involved in its work, as well as the latest news about Christian formation, stewardship and more. St. Peter's is an active community of people eager to address the needs of the communities around us, attend to the needs of those among us, and welcome all to join and become involved, as desired.

For many of you this fall has descended with all the busyness of pre-pandemic times. Please read the programs, services, and events of St. Peter's as invitations to be involved in meaningful experiences. We realize that you cannot do everything, but always you are welcome to join in as you can. Your presence makes a difference, and you will notice a difference when you are present. Here you will find the light of Christ in one another, and together we will bear it into the world. Happy Autumn!

Blessing of the Animals



Please join us at 4 p.m. on **October 2**, with your furry, feathery, scaly, or stuffed friends in tow (caged or leashed, please) as we honor St. Francis—rain or shine! We will gather on the lawn in front of the historic church for a brief service with blessings. It is customary to mark St. Francis' feast day with this service, as this lover of animals is known for having devoted his life to caring for the poor and for all creation.

Treats will be on hand for animals as well as their human caretakers. This is a great opportunity to invite a friend to St. Peter's. All are welcome!

First Sundays

On October 2 and November 6, we will have one morning service at 10 a.m. Sunday school takes place at 10 as well, and adult forum begins after the service.



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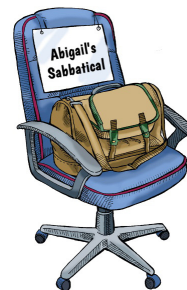
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Sabbatical News

As announced at the annual parish meeting in May, the vestry has approved a sabbatical for our rector, the Reverend Abigail Crozier Nestlehutt, this coming February, March, and April. The word "sabbatical" has its roots in the biblical concept of Sabbath, a Hebrew word meaning "to rest" or "to cease." A sabbatical leave is a time to shift gears: a time to rest, disengage, study, reflect, and travel in order to return and minister refreshed and renewed in body, mind, and spirit. For clergy, it is a time to receive spiritual nourishment and a change in perspective, to deepen relationships with God, family, and friends—a season of spiritual growth. For the congregation, its rector's sabbatical is also a season of growth. Abigail's sabbatical will include study, travel, and rest. With "Be Thou My Vision" as her sabbatical theme, time with family and with God will be her priorities.



A sabbatical committee, made up of former wardens Paige Infortuna, Steve Mark, Sarah Tellefsen, and Wilson Smith, will assist with preparations. Along with the current wardens and vestry members, they are also available to answer questions. To learn more, please join us for one of our four information sessions, each of which will begin with the same brief presentation about sabbatical plans and then move on to questions and answers. These sessions are scheduled for Sunday, **October 2** at 8:45 a.m., Monday, **October 17** at 5:30 p.m., Sunday, **October 23** at 12:30 p.m., and Tuesday, **October 25** at 9:30 a.m. To sign up for the session that aligns with your needs, please use this link, rsvp.church/r/8OKiZt95, or call the office if you don't use a computer. Thank you!

Diocesan Convention

The theme for this year's Diocesan Convention at the Philadelphia Episcopal Cathedral is *The Field is Holy*. Convention opens with a 6:30 p.m. Eucharist on Friday, **October 21**, and the business meeting begins at 8:45 a.m. on Saturday, **October 22**. St. Peter's three elected delegates will represent us, along with our clergy, but everyone in the diocese is invited to attend. For more information please go to the diocesan website, <https://www.diopa.org/convention>.

Trunk or Treat!

For the fourth year in a row, St. Peter's is hosting "Trunk or Treat," a simple, safe version of traditional trick-or-treating at 5 p.m. on **October 30!** We invite the children in the parish and in the neighborhood to visit festively decorated car trunks to collect their treats. This is both a fun-filled way to gather as a community and a great opportunity to invite people to campus. At 5:45 we will gather at the firepit for an All Hallows Eve service as daylight wanes. Please plan to join us and bring your friends, family, and neighbors.

To ensure success, we need your help as suppliers of trunks and treats! Please sign up to decorate a trunk and stock it with treats. Please sign up by following the link in Keynotes or contacting Abigail.

Everyone who hosts a trunk is eligible to win the St. Peter's "perpetual trophy" for the best trunk. Will the 2021 winners, the Bright family, hold onto their title or relinquish it and the trophy to a new winner? Come and see!

For more information or to sign up to host a trunk, contact Abigail (abigail@stpetersgv.org).



Breaking News

We are sad to report that this year's community barn dance planned for October 22 has been canceled. This was not an easy decision for our parish and event leaders, but they felt it was the right thing to do in light



***Covid strikes again!
Barn dance is postponed.***

of the persistence of Covid-19 and upswing of cases in Chester County. Since dancing remains on the list of high-risk activities, we did not want to host a potential "super-spreader" event. Paige Infortuna will get in touch with everyone who had already signed up as a sponsor, donor, or attendee.

Thank you for your continued support of this event, which we hope to bring back when the time is right! If you have questions or concerns, please contact Paige (pinfortuna@msn.com).

Boxers, Bloomers, and Briefs

One of the items most requested by people in need is clean, new underwear. Really, why should anyone be without? Recognizing this need and the fact that many are reticent about asking for "unmentionables," our diocesan deacons have organized the "*Boxers, Bloomers, and Briefs*" drive as our annual diocesan convention outreach program.

Here is how St. Peter's parishioners can help: simply buy a pack or two of underwear as if for yourself (in size and style), and another set as if for your partner. (Maybe even buy some to fit your children, uncle, or grandmother too.) This approach should provide much diversity in what will be distributed to clothing closets around the diocese.

**BOXERS,
BLOOMERS AND
BRIEFS**



Bring purchases to St Peter's and place them in the "underwear bins" in the historic church, barn, or on the porch of the parish house by **Thursday, October 20.** Deacon

Jeff will transport them to the Philadelphia Episcopal Cathedral, where there is another collection point.

Last year, with your help the diocese was able to distribute well over two thousand pairs of donated blue jeans, many of them to Phoenixville and Coatesville. The deacons believe that with your continued support, this year we can collect ten thousand pairs of boxers, bloomers, and briefs to show our generosity and love for others while offering dignity to those who need it the most. Thank you for participating in this ministry!



There are five Sundays in October, and we offer adult formation in the barn on **all of them**, including the first one.

• **October 2—*An Introduction to REALM*.** After the single 10 a.m. service ends, Jan Himmelreich and the stewardship commission will explain what REALM, our new database/financial software, offers in terms of online and mobile giving, directory searching, and more. Bring your cell phone or laptop! Youth group members will be on hand to assist with technology.

- **October 9—*Stories of LGBTQIA+ Episcopalians and the Diocesan LGBTQIA+ Committee*.** As part of this year's focus on LGBTQ issues, Alex Ames, Messopotamia LeFae, and parishioner Tim Hepp, members of the committee's executive team, will share testimonials from anonymous LGBTQIA+ Episcopalians about their experiences in church and the importance of inclusion. The speakers will also outline the origins, vision, mission, core values, and activities of the committee, as well as ways to get involved in this work.
- **October 16—*The History of St. Peter's Church*.** Have you ever wondered how our church has survived for over three hundred years, who the rectors have been, what historical events occurred in the area, or who influenced the changes to the property over the years? If so, come for an informative presentation by Dave Tatum on how the St. Peter's of today evolved.
- **October 23 —*United as One: The Episcopal Diocese and Red Cross Partnership*.** The Red Cross has named St. Peter's a Red Cross "Premier Partner" for its successful sponsorship of blood drives to replenish the waning supply of blood in this area. The diocese and Red Cross also share humanitarian and social justice ministries and missions—curbing gun violence, combatting racism, and promoting community health and safety and entry-level employment in health care in underserved communities. Representatives from the diocese and Red Cross will discuss the scope and impact of this emerging partnership.
- **October 30 —*Convention update*.** Abigail and our diocesan convention delegates will report on past and upcoming activities at the diocesan level and on the experience of serving as a convention delegate.

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Sunday school for all children in pre-K through fifth grade is in full swing, full of activities to help our children learn about God's love for us each week, including practicing Bible verses that help them remember to share God's love with others. We invite to join us on any Sunday of the month.

The youngest class (pre-K through 2 nd grade) would benefit from having a few volunteer helpers. Please consider serving, even just one Sunday a month, whether you have young children or are living in an empty nest and let Judy Jones (sundayschool@stpetersgv.org) know if you can assist.

As we look ahead to the not-too-distant future, we see that Christmas is only thirteen weeks away. And Christmas means the pageant, for which we always need some volunteers. So please start thinking about how you can help with that. Details will follow.

Popcorn Theology: Method Acting, Brando, and "Stella!"

This month's film is *A Streetcar Named Desire* (1951), starring Vivien Leigh, Marlon Brando, Kim Hunter, and Karl Malden, and directed by Elia Kazan. Even though *A Streetcar Named Desire* made Marlon Brando a household name, his three co-stars were the ones awarded Oscars for the film. In 1999, the Library of Congress preserved this film for its significance "culturally, historically, or aesthetically."



Join us via Zoom at 6 p.m. on **October 10** to discuss the moral, ethical, spiritual, and cinematic aspects of *A Streetcar Named Desire*. The movie is available on Amazon Prime Video, Apple TV, YouTube, Vudu, HBO Max, and Google Play Movies, as well as on DVD; the Zoom link arrives via Keynotes on Sunday. For more information, contact Mark Nestlehutt (mark.nestlehutt@gmail.com) or Steve Ockenden (steveock@verizon.net). All are welcome.

Let's Teach Our Rooster to Sing!



Yes, there is a new rooster on the weathervane atop the parish house., and the stewardship commission has a new rooster too! It reminds us of the beautiful sunrise picture we used last year, and we are reprising “Rise and Shine and Give God the Glory, Glory” this year as well. If you have any suggestions about getting the rooster to sing our song (perhaps via the handbell choir, Sunday school classes, the youth group, barn dance), we welcome your ideas. Just get in touch with Amy Fisher, Lyndsay Knupp, or Jan Himmelreich.

This year we will celebrate time, talent, and treasure—all of which are happily shared abundantly in the parish. The stewardship season kicked off on September 11 with a cake featuring our rooster as its decoration, and there is more to come at adult forum after the service on **October 2**. Helpers will be on hand to answer questions about our new parish management system (last month you were sent an email about setting up your Realm account on your computer). Realm offers a mobile app too, and those helpers will be able that day to assist you in setting that up as well if you wish. The app promotes our sense of community by putting tools like the parish calendar and directory right at your fingertips.

If you prefer using familiar tools, we offer those too. We will send out traditional pledge cards for 2023 before the October 2nd forum. Also available is the familiar online pledging option: simply visit www.stpetersgv.org/online-pledging.

Whatever pledging method you choose to use, please consider prayerfully how you would like to support the parish this year. Thank you for all you do, and “Rise and Shine!”

Accompany the Choir to Dublin!

All parishioners are heartily invited to join the choir trip to Dublin next August! Below are the itinerary and details about the cost. Note: this trip is not funded through either our annual budget or endowment. Contact Bruce (orgelboy@hotmail.com) for more information.

Saturday, August 12

Overnight flight to Dublin

Sunday, August 13

Arrive Dublin
Trim Castle, the Hill of Tara
Check in at hotel
(Included meal: D)

Monday, August 14

Guided tour of the cathedral
Evensong, 17:30
(Included meal: B)

Tuesday, August 15

Trinity College, the Book of Kells
Evensong, 17:30
(Included meals: B, D)

Wednesday, August 16

Powerscourt House, gardens, distillery
(Included meal: B)

Thursday, August 17

Tour Guinness brewery
Evensong, 17:30
(Included meals: B, D)

Friday, August 18

National Museum of Ireland
Evensong, 17:30
(Included meal: B)

Saturday, August 19

Free day in Dublin
(Included meal: B)

Sunday, August 20

Choral Eucharist, 11:15
Evensong, 15:15
Irish dancing and song, Taylor's 3 Rock Pub
(Included meals: B, D)

Monday, August 21

Airport transfer for the return flight
(Included meal: B)

Land-only Price: \$3104, double occupancy. Single supplement, \$1150

Price includes:

- 8 nights, Radisson Blu Hotel, Golden Lane, Dublin
- All breakfasts, four dinners
- Private coach for sightseeing and airport transfers
- Tour directors accompanying the group throughout
- Admission to all italicized sites on the itinerary
- All taxes

Not included but recommended: travel insurance
for medical expenses, unavoidable cancelation, and baggage loss or damage



Outreach Notes

Our Return to Darby Mission

Twenty-one food ministry volunteers stepped up to prepare, assemble, and deliver a hundred “take-out” Darby Dinners early last month—and had a lot of fun doing it! On the morning of the dinner, they gathered in the common room and parish hall to pack up the nutritious southwestern salads and goodie bags filled with red grapes, a corn muffin, and homemade cookies for the drive to Darby Borough.

Our visit to Darby was surprisingly brief—we distributed the one hundred meals to an appreciative community in 40 minutes! After the lengthy hiatus in this ministry necessitated by the pandemic, it felt so good to interact once again with our friends at Darby Mission.

Thank you to the many helpers who made our first Darby dinner “take-out” experience a success.

Being There for the Community

The outreach commission coordinates several collections during the year to meet the needs of appreciative recipients and bring them joy. These drives give us the opportunity to connect with the wider community and share the light of Christ.

In addition to the deacons’ collection of underwear (see p. 3) and our weekly deliveries of food donated by parishioners, in the coming months the commission is planning to collect socks, Thanksgiving meal ingredients, and winter coats. And St. Peter’s is again invited to participate in the St. James School 5K Run/Walk on November 12 (see p. 9). The gifting tree will also arrive in November, offering us the chance to fulfill some Christmas wishes. There are so many ways we can spread the light of Christ this fall!

A Warm Way to Show You Care

If you know someone facing a health challenge or grieving, St. Peter’s needleworkers invite you to give that person one of the items they created. Comforting prayer shawls and lap blankets in a variety of sizes and shapes are packaged with a prayer booklet in a cloth gift bag; they are stored in the coat closet of each worship building for you to take. The needlework ministry asks you to record, in the nearby notebook, which item you have chosen. If you have questions, contact knitters@stpetersgv.org.

- Kathryn Evans and Susan Reading for helping facilitate the discussion of the proposed kitchen in the barn;
- David Graves for writing up instructions for using the new projector;
- Judy Jones for heading up the Sunday school ice cream and pizza social and the volunteers who served the goodies;
- Gail and Frank Guthridge, Jeff Moretzsohn, Abigail Nestlehutt, Dave Tatum, Misty Turner, and Rich Warren, for staging the Sunday parish picnic and lawn games;
- Dave Lockner, electrician John Mario, and all who helped resolve last month’s electrical power outage with minimal effect on our staff and parishioners and no effect on the weekend’s events;
- Dave Tatum and Doug Jones for quickly tending to a water leak in the historic church building, cleaning up the affected space, and acting to prevent future leaks;
- Dom Gerard of the Mazzoni Center for his presentation to the vestry about the LGBTQIA+ community, in advance of its presentation at a November adult forum;
- Patti Hagstrom, Holly Hardester, and Eileen Klein, who bought and prepared the ingredients of the Darby take-out dinner for the food ministry volunteers to pack up and deliver to Darby Mission;
- Jeanne Lockner, for curating and presenting an outstanding array of photos from the Navajoland youth mission trip at adult forum, and Chris Exley for his tech support;
- Judy Jones for leading the project to clean out the Sunday school closet with fellow workers Gail Malcolm, Steve Ockenden, and Cathy Terlescki, also Doug Jones and Dave Tatum who provided “disposal support”;
- Mary Ann Tatum and Abigail Nestlehutt for reviewing and updating data to prepare for the email to all active members informing them about Realm and how to log into it;
- Wilson Smith for serving as our liaison with Robert Ryan Catering to continue a rewarding relationship.



OCTOBER



October 1

Needlework ministry
10 a.m.

October 2

Sabbatical meeting
8:45 a.m. (church)
Holy Eucharist Rite II
10 a.m. (barn)
Blessing of the Animals
4 p.m. (church lawn)

October 10

Popcorn theology
6 to 7 p.m. (Zoom)

October 17

Sabbatical meeting
5:30 p.m.

October 20

Last day to drop off underwear

October 21-22

Diocesan convention

October 23

Sabbatical meeting
12: 30 p.m.

October 25

Sabbatical meeting
9:30 a.m.

October 30

Trunk or Treat
5 p.m.
All Hallows Eve service
5:45 p.m..



SAVE THESE DATES!

Choral Evensong for All Saints

November 6, 4 p.m.
Music by Edgar Bainton,
Richard Shephard, and
Sir Charles Villiers Stanford

St. James School "Huskies Hustle"

5K Walk/Run
November 12, 9:30 a.m.

Register now to run or
to sponsor a student runner!
Contact Maggie Sanborn
(smsanborn@stjamesphila.org
or 215-226-1276, x 106).

*Thank you to my St. Peter's friends
for remembering my big #90! Your cards are
greatly appreciated and will remain in my
memory book forever.
With love and many thanks,
Florence Watson*

August Financial Snapshot

	August 2022	Year to Date August	Year-end Projection	Budget 2022
Parishioner Contributions	\$ 44,466	\$370,288	\$542,944	\$563,900
Other Income*	11,450	90,816	151,164	132,100
Total Income	55,916	461,104	694,108	696,000
Total Expense	47,334	427,306	669,490	696,000
Surplus / (Deficit)	8,583	33,799	24,619	0

**Interest, rentals, endowment distributions*

Our budget continues on track for 2022. The treasurers and finance commission have started to work on the 2023 budget. At the beginning of October, all of us will receive a letter requesting pledge of support for the church in 2023. A timely response to the request will greatly assist the commission as it plans for the coming year. —Eric Lien for the finance commission



St. Peter's Church in the Great Valley
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The Rev. Abigail Crozier Nestlehutt, Rector
 The Ven. Jeff Moretzsohn, Deacon
 Dr. Bruce Glenny, Organist/Choirmaster
 Rachel Martin Swartz, Parish Administrator
 Erinn White, 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
 November *Beacon*
 is **October 15.**

Weekly Offerings at St. Peter's

Sunday

8 A.M. Holy Eucharist, rite 1*

9 A.M. Family Eucharist**

Sunday School**

11:15 A.M. Holy Eucharist, rite 2*

1st Sunday of the Month

10 a.m. Holy Eucharist ** (single service)

~ 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***

***** Barn***

****** Virtual***

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



Food and fun abounded for all who attended the end-of-summer picnic on September 4 . . . especially for longtime parishioner Bea Jordan, who celebrated her 100th birthday at the picnic on our holy hill with her family and St. Peter's friends.