

The Beacon

*In thy light shall we see light.
Psalm 36:0*

November 2023

November Sonnet

by the Rev. Abigail Crozier Nestlehutt

Daylight hours dwindle at this time of year as we begin to turn our attention toward the inbreaking of the light of Christ. This is no mistake. The church follows the rhythm of the natural world. The brilliant colors of early autumn fade into browns as we bring evergreens into our homes. English poet Elizabeth Jennings wrote of this time of transition in her “November Sonnet.”

Spirit of place. Spirit of time. Re-form
The rugged oaks and chestnuts. Now they stand
Naked and pallid giants out of a storm
And out of sorts. It is the Autumn’s end

And this is Winter brought in by All Saints
Fast followed by All Souls to keep us in
Touch with chill and death. Each re-acquaints
Us with the year’s end. Yet now we begin

A life of realism, watching out
For a red sunset, grateful for a dawn
Of rich light now. Tall shadows step and strut

Facing the big wind daily coming on
Faster. This is the season of right doubt
While that elected child waits to be born.

At St. Peter’s we begin November with a beautiful service of Evensong for All Saints’, and by the end of the month Advent will be upon us. Throughout the month we offer a variety of ways to create, care for others, learn, and worship. I invite and encourage you to participate in our offerings. You will find details in the pages that follow.

Let St. Peter’s help transform this sometimes hectic time of year into a holy time of thanksgiving and prayerful preparation. You and I are called into community, and we bear the light of Christ in the world. Pause now to feel grounded in God’s love. Allow yourself a moment or two to breathe and reflect as you enter this time of transition. Look eagerly for the “elected child” even now, and find the places where you are called to shine.

All Saints' Sunday - November 6

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

We will observe All Saints' Sunday with one 10 a.m. service followed by the adult forum.

4:00 p.m. Evensong

A service of Evensong, sung by the choirs of St. Peter, will take place on Sunday, Nov. 6 at 4pm in the barn. The choirs will sing some of the music which they will take on their residency to St. Patrick's Cathedral (Church of Ireland) in August of 2023. Music of Sir Charles Villiers Stanford, Edgar Bainton and Philip Radcliffe will be featured. Refreshments will be offered following the service. Please plan on coming and invite a friend. This is a perfect way to introduce folks to St. Peter and its wonderful music program.

Thanksgiving Day Morning Prayer via Zoom

You are invited to start your day with grateful prayer and the St. Peter's community **at 10 a.m.** on Thanksgiving Day. Abigail will lead a simple service of Morning Prayer via Zoom. so put your turkey in the oven and join us in offering thanks to God.

Please watch Keynotes for the Zoom link. Please remember, one of the benefits of online worship is that we can be together while in different places, so be sure to invite family and friends to attend as well. All are welcome.

Adult Forum

Following up on the LGBTQ Fundamentals vestry training in September and the presentation by the diocesan LGBTQIA+ Committee last month, on **November 6**, Dom Gerard from Philadelphia's Mazzoni Center will offer an "LGBTQ+ Power Hour" presentation covering LGBTQ+ history, LGBTQ+ 101 concepts and terminology, and gender-neutral language and pronoun best practices. Q&A and recommended materials for further learning will round out the session. The Mazzoni Center's mission is "to provide quality comprehensive health and wellness services in an LGBTQ-focused environment, while preserving the dignity and improving the quality of life of the individuals we serve." Please join us for this important grounding in our efforts to become a more actively welcoming and affirming parish.

On **November 13**, we will have our annual finance commission update on the state of parish funding, pledges, and plans.

On **November 20**, the newcomers commission will discuss the initial steps it is taking to welcome newcomers to St. Peter's. Chair Heather Edelblute says, "We want to engage members of the congregation in a discussion surrounding our values as a church community and to propose some ways in which we all can assure that St Peter's is a friendly place for newcomers. We also look forward to hearing congregational experiences and suggestions."

There will be no post-service Christian formation on November 27, as that is the day of our intergenerational wreath-making workshop.

Retreat Opportunity, January 20-22

We have the opportunity to participate in a retreat at Holy Cross Monastery in West Park, New York on the weekend of January 20 to 22. We can also opt to add a night either before or after the retreat.

Holy Cross is a community of Anglican Benedictine monks, and their guesthouse on the banks of the Hudson River offers beautiful views in a serene setting. Our time together will be focused on the theme of Epiphany, and we will have ample opportunity for individual prayer and reflection.

The cost for two nights is \$350. For more information or to sign up, please contact Abigail (abigail@stpetersgv.org or 610-644-2261). For planning purposes please indicate your interest by December 11. Thank you!

Coats For Coatesville

The *Farmer's Almanac* foresees a stormy winter with extremely cold temperatures in our area. The woolly bears are already seeking warm shelter, and with food and fuel prices so high, the underserved in Coatesville will be facing an especially hard winter.

For the past two years, St. Peter's has provided new warm winter coats and socks to the community served by CYWA. Being able to select a new coat, either for themselves or a family member, before Christmas has brought such joy to these people, who really need and appreciate those warm coats and socks.

We are going to begin our third coat and sock drive a little earlier this year in order to take advantage of pre-holiday sales as well as find a warm coat for \$25 to \$35 at a buying club. If you prefer not to shop, please consider donating funds with which we do the purchasing. If you like to shop, please select a warm coat or socks in any size for men, women, or children on your own and drop your purchase off at the parish house. Please send your donation, clearly marked "coat drive," or drop off your purchase before **December 1**. If you have questions, please contact Queenie Northrup (qnorthrop@verizon.net or 610 639-8589).

November is Pasta Month

Weekly, for over two years, members of St. Peter's have contributed generous porch donations in response to neighbors who experience food insecurity. Thank you for your support!

Regrettably, hunger continues to grow in our area. Today, three hundred families in Coatesville receive weekly food donations at the CYWA distribution center. That's double the number of families served only a few years ago. Seeing our Coatesville neighbors lined up around the 4th Street corner awaiting their boxes of food is certainly a poignant experience.

So in addition to our generous weekly porch donations, our food ministry wants to ensure that certain needed food items reach each food box on distribution days. We have identified **November** as **PASTA MONTH** and ask that you please bring just one box of spaghetti or other pasta to church and place it in the shopping cart in each building. What a difference each of St. Peter's families can make in alleviating hunger! Thank you.

Thank you...

- Dave Tatum, for his adult forum presentation on the history of St. Peter's, and Mark Clark for recording it for future viewing;
- Melissa Shaner, for developing a rich schedule of speakers for adult forum;
- Messopotamia LeFae, Alex Ames, and Tim Hepp for their involvement in presenting information concerning the LGBTQIA+ community at adult forum;
- Jan Himmelreich, along with Paige Infortuna, Tom Lockner, MaryAnn Tatum, and Laurel Veitch for imparting information at adult forum about accessing Realm;
- Lily Shaner, for cleaning up litter on our campus while she walked her dog;
- Don Cheetham and Jeff Moretzsohn for representing our deanery at Diocesan Council;
- Linda Holden for making and distributing treats for dogs and cats at the Blessing of the Animals, and Cathryn Cheetham, Abigail Hacker, and Jeanne Lockner their help that day;
- Paige Infortuna, for her following up with the barn dance donors, patrons, and ticketholders after the event was canceled;
- All the contractors who responded quickly and proficiently to repair gravestones (Mike Dougherty), electrical systems (John Mario), plumbing (Dreisbach and Bosler), the Magnolia Garden windows (Frank Aliva), and do needed painting (Augustine Fiscus).

Looking Ahead to Advent 2022

Intergenerational Advent Wreath-Making

We always know we are in Advent when a wreath with four candles stands at the front of the church and watch as one, two, three and finally four candles are lit (and wonder why one of the candles is pink). During Advent we watch, we wait, and we prepare for the celebration of the birth of Jesus. We prepare for Christmas both at church and in our homes.

On **November 27**, the first Sunday in Advent, everyone will have the opportunity to make an Advent wreath to use at home. We will provide all materials (straw wreaths, fresh greens, and candles), but if you prefer to freshen up a wreath or ring of your own, you are welcome to do so. We will also provide materials to help guide readings, reflections, and conversations as each candle is lit. And in them you will also learn why there is one pink candle. Contact Holly Hardester (hahardester@gmail.com) if you want additional information or have questions.

Advent Art

Advent is a season of watchful waiting and prayer preparation. This year one of the ways we will journey together to the manger is by creating a special advent calendar. We will color images and respond to prompts designed by an Episcopal artist to make each "window." Over time a beautiful quilt or mosaic of Advent images will emerge from our collective contributions.

Instructions and supplies will be available on the **last Sunday before Advent (November 27)** and then throughout the season. This project is for people of all ages and abilities. Please give it a try. You just might find that it helps keep you focused in the days leading up to the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Wednesday Evenings in Advent

•December 7, 7 to 8:30 p.m.—Chrismons and Cookies

If you hang traditional glass ornaments, tiny candy canes, and tinsel on your Christmas tree, try doing something different this year—create chrismons you create instead! These handmade white and gold ornaments are all about the meaning of Christmas, using symbols Christmas and like crosses, Chi Rho figures, crowns, fish, and butterflies. No matter your age, come enjoy both the craft and the fellowship while creating your own chrismons. We will provide the supplies, but feel free to bring your own gold or white sparkles, sequins, and cording.

•December 14, 7 to 8:30 p.m.—Quiet Evening of Prayer

Settle into the season with a contemplative evening of prayer in the candlelit historic church. Give yourself the gift of a little time to look toward the birth of Jesus.

•December 21, 6 to 8 p.m. —Supper and Singing

Ryan Battin takes to the piano bench to lead us in a rollicking evening of Christmas caroling. A very simple supper will be served so that you can enjoy yourself and then get home for bedtime or homework or whatever else you need to do.

Also in Advent

Installation of the Rev. Christopher Exley at All Hallows' Church, Wyncote.

Your prayers are requested and your presence is welcome on December 10, 6 p.m. Please contact Abigail for more information at 610-644-2261 or abigail@stpetersgv.org. Thank you!

September Financial Snapshot

	September 2022	Year to Date September	Year-end Projection	Budget 2022
Parishioner Contributions	\$ 29,740	\$400,028	\$536,353	\$563,900
Other Income*	9,943	100,759	139,132	132,100
Total Income	39,683	500,787	675,485	696,000
Total Expense	44,736	472,042	664,645	696,000
Surplus / (Deficit)	(5,054)	28,745	10,840	0

**Interest, rentals, endowment distributions*

The September financial snapshot shows that our expenses were greater than our income. The finance commission requests that parishioners keep their pledge payment up to date so that we can achieve a balanced budget at year's end. Thank you! —*Eric Lien for the finance commission*

November 2022 Calendar

Weekly Offerings

Monday 9:30 a.m. – Atwater Walks – Contact Abigail to sign up.

Monday 3:00 p.m. – Echo Lake Bible Study

Monday-Thursday 12:00 p.m. – Noonday Prayer via Facebook Live

Wednesdays 10:00 a.m. via Zoom –. Mid-week Morning Prayer and Bible Study

Thursdays 10:30 a.m. via Zoom - Prayer Group– contact Jeff

Fridays 8:00 a.m. via Zoom – Gathering of Men

Sunday Worship Services Schedule

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite I -- historic church

9:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite II – Enriching our Faith -- barn

11:15 a.m. Sunday, Holy Eucharist Rite II -- historic church

fellowship follow each service

First Sunday of every month one 10 a.m. service – barn

Saturday,
10 a.m.

November 5
Needlework – historic church

Sunday,
9 a.m. - 2 p.m.
10:00 a.m.
4:00 p.m.

November 6
Red Cross blood drive – historic church
Holy Eucharist Rite II All Saints' Sunday – barn
Evensong – bank barn

Tuesday,
7:00 p.m.

November 8
Finance – via Zoom

Tuesday,
7:00 p.m.

November 15
Vestry – historic church

Friday,

November 18 - 25
Preschool closed for Thanksgiving break

Thursday & Friday,

November 24 - 25
Parish office closed for Thanksgiving break

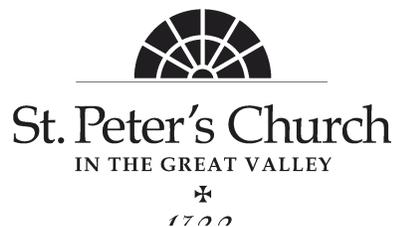
Monday,
5:00 p.m.

November 28
Worship Commission – via Zoom

Tuesday,
1 p.m.- 6:00 p.m.

November 29
Red Cross blood drive – barn

The Rev. Abigail Crozier Nestlehutt, Rector
The Ven. Jeff Moretzsohn, Deacon
Dr. Bruce W. Glenny, Organist/Choirmaster
Rachel Martin Swartz, Parish Administrator
Erinn White, Preschool Director
Gail Malcolm, Event Coordinator
Mario Delano, Weekend Facilities Manager



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