



The Beacon

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

September 2023

Welcome, Fall!

by the Rev. Abigail Crozier Nestlehutt

This summer, two people reminded me of the value in embracing the future with open eagerness. One was a priest with whom I had a conversation about ministry. He remarked that whenever his vestry becomes bogged down in what once was, he reminds them that while their history is a strong foundation, the best days of their ministry lie ahead. The other was a fictional character I encountered in a book: a music executive who warned himself of the danger in clinging to old styles, musing that “nostalgia was the end—everyone knew that.”

This month bridges a seasonal and programmatic transition. Our summer schedule ends on the Sunday of Labor Day weekend. When our three-service schedule resumes on September 17, Sunday school, youth group, and adult formation return as well. You will find details in the pages that follow.

To be honest, I dislike the point when we shift from asking, “How is your summer going?” to “Did you have a good summer?” I love the warm weather and relatively slower pace of June, July, and August. I also happen to adore autumn, but each September it takes a moment for my heart to adjust. Changes can be uncomfortable, even small ones. They can also be exciting. Most importantly, they are essential to our growth as individuals and as a community.

Our theme this year is, “Deep and Wide,” and we will embrace it with open eagerness. In ongoing offerings like prayer group and Bible study, we will be intentional about the opportunities they provide to explore our faith. We will also expand new offerings, like our “third place” events that began over the summer. On the third Wednesday of each fall month, we will enjoy the music of Jazz Sanctuary, share a simple meal, and connect through conversation. Each evening is designed to offer a meaningful experience while also ensuring that everyone is fed and on their way home before it gets too late. On the final Sunday of the month our youth will meet for Sunday supper and fun with youth from two neighboring parishes. These gatherings will give them a chance to develop relationships with people of faith beyond St. Peter’s. Throughout the fall we will discuss both the elements of our Sunday experience that we treasure most and the ministries into which we are being called. Every investment of time and attention is part of developing our engagement with one another, with the community around us, and with God.

Together we will explore and share the depth and breadth of God’s love. I invite you to read the pages that follow with that in mind. Whether you are rushing toward fall or lingering in summer, I invite you to join me in eagerly welcoming a new program year at St. Peter’s. Your presence makes a difference.

Godspeed, Bruce Glenny

Be sure to join us at 10 a.m. on Sunday, **September 10**, when we will worship together in the barn and celebrate Bruce’s twenty years of faithful ministry as organist and choir director, sending him into retirement with our prayers and blessing and, of course, with celebratory refreshments after the service.

TIMELY MESSAGES FROM THE RECTOR

“Deep and Wide”—Our Program Year Theme

“Deep and Wide,” our theme for 2023-24, builds on last year’s “Called into Community” theme. Throughout the year we will explore how we experience and share the depth and breadth of God’s love through our deeper participation in the community and wider engagement with our faith.

In our conversations about the barn kitchen project, we talked about St. Peter’s as a “third place,” one different from home or work, one where all are welcome and can expect people to care and where connections are made. There are certainly various “third places” in our communities. But what makes St. Peter’s uniquely appealing is that here we model, embrace, and discuss the breadth and depth of God’s love.

The Sunday Experience

Last year, the vestry surveyed the parish to learn about people’s experience of St. Peter’s and their hopes and dreams for the future of the parish. Many of you participated in the process and provided lots of helpful feedback, for which your leaders are grateful.

The vestry organized and analyzed the input from the survey and has begun to respond to your suggestions. As a result, for instance, Women on the Hill has been reinvigorated and resumes this month; more information on this appears on page 6. This fall we will also address the positive comments we received about worshipping together in a single combined Sunday service. With the goal of providing an inspiring Sunday experience that brings the community together, a small group of vestry members, in coordination with the worship commission, is working with me on evaluating all that we do on Sunday mornings. We plan to speak intentionally with individuals and groups of you throughout the fall to hear more about your thoughts and are also planning an adult forum on the topic in October. We look forward to this process of exploration together.

Encore! Encore! for Jazz Sanctuary

The well-attended and much enjoyed “third place” appearance of Jazz Sanctuary on the third Wednesday of August definitely called for an encore! So we are welcoming the group back for performances on the third Wednesday of September, October, and November. The combo will begin playing at 6 p.m., everyone will break for supper and conversation at 6:30, and the music will resume at 7 and run until 7:30. So plan to join us on **September 20**. Weather permitting, we plan to hold this month’s event outdoors on the patio behind the barn, but will move it inside if need be.

Each evening will offer delightful music, good food, and a chance to connect with others as we explore our theme of going deeper and wider with God. To let us know that you plan to attend, please use the sign-up sheets in both gathering spaces or the links in Keynotes. We invite you to bring a super-simple dish to share if you are able, and a friend. (See page 7 for photos of the August evening.)



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The Beacon is produced monthly by
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Next Steps for the Music Program

We are in the final stages of calling a new organist/choir director, so please watch for an announcement later this month. During September, Michael Trycieckyj, one of our tenor section leaders, will serve as interim choir director and will arrange supply organists as needed. Michael has extensive experience as a musician and educator, and throughout the pandemic, he implemented the technology that fused the prerecorded voice of each choir member, singing in the safety of home, in a recording that blended individual voices into one choir for our broadcast services.

St. Peter's is blessed to have a strong music program with dedicated singers who care about one another and the parish. Visitors often tell me that our choir sounds like a group of people who are not only highly skilled but who also enjoy singing together, and that is special. I am excited for the days ahead.

Episcopal Visitation—October 22

Our bishop, the Right Reverend Daniel G.P. Gutierrez will visit St. Peter's on Sunday, October 22, when we will have one service at 10 a.m. followed by a reception. Please mark your calendars and plan to join us. It is always a blessing to hear from our bishop, and it is wonderful for him to be greeted by a full church!

If you wish to be confirmed or received, or if you would like to reaffirm your baptismal vows before the bishop, please contact either Abigail (abigail@stpetersgv.org) or Jeff (jeff@stpetersgv.org).



Youth Confirmation Class

Confirmation class for our youth will be scheduled at a time mutually agreeable to its participants. We encourage young people in eighth through twelfth grade to join the class for excellent conversation and fun. Participants are free to decide at the end of the class whether they wish to be confirmed during the bishop's visit on October 22. For more information and to sign up, please contact Abigail (abigail@stpetersgv.org).

Become an Acolyte!

Third- through twelfth-graders are invited and encouraged to serve as acolytes. This is a great leadership opportunity, as well as a cool way to participate in the service and also play an essential role in the liturgy. Please contact Abigail (abigail@stpetersgv.org) for information or to let her know you would like to serve.

Wanted: Cupcakes for Darby Mission

On September 5, our food ministry will once again serve a sit-down dinner at Darby Mission. Darby families participate in this annual back-to-school evening, which includes fun-filled activities, free school supplies, and haircuts before the start of school.



We need lots of cupcakes for dessert and invite parishioners to bake a batch (one box of cake mix makes two dozen cupcakes). We would like to offer a variety of flavors and an array of colorful icing. The food ministry team will collect your donations at St. Peter's on Sunday, **September 3** and on Labor Day, **September 4**, and transport them to Darby the following day

with the rest of the meal.

Please contact Holly Hardester (484-319-6323 or hahardester@gmail.com) to let her know that you will add a batch of cupcakes to the dinner.

Pizza and Ice Cream Social

All Sunday-school-age children and their parents are heartily invited to come to the barn patio for pizza and ice cream at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, **September 5**. We will kick off the new school year with food and games and catch up with old friends after the long summer break as well as make new friends.

Sunday school resumes at 9 a.m. on **September 17**, and we look forward to seeing all of you both at the social and in the classrooms!



Youth Ministry Kick-off Meeting

All sixth- through twelfth-graders are invited to join Abigail in the youth room for donuts and conversation after the 9 a.m. service on Sunday, **September 17**. We will talk about our summers, our schools, and our plans for youth group.

This fall we will team up with St. Francis in the Fields and St. John's Church, Concord, for monthly Sunday evening suppers and programming. The first of these will take place on Sunday, **September 24**.

In addition, our youth will supply the leadership for some favorite events like the Blessing of the Animals on October 1 and "Trunk or Treat" on October 29.



On **September 17**, the coming year of adult formation begins with a report from our choir members about their August residency at St. Patrick's Cathedral in Dublin. While serving at the 800-year-old national cathedral of the Church of Ireland, which is part of the Anglican Communion, they sang Evensong daily and also led Sunday services. Needless to say they also took advantage of the chance to do some sightseeing in and around Dublin.

On **September 24**, writer and disability activist Elrena Evans will speak about making church more accessible for people with special needs like her children as well as for their loved ones. Her presentation should spur us to ask what we at St. Peter's can do to make everyone feel included, supported, and fully participatory as members of the body of Christ.



The preschool year begins on September 6, and all of our wonderful teachers are returning! A few spaces are still available in our 3-year-old and pre-K classes, so please pass the word along to friends and neighbors who may still be looking for a preschool.

Some physical changes took place over the summer for which we are grateful. Our additional classroom space on the first floor of the parish house will add to the community feel of St. Peter's Preschool. A new security system for the school has been installed, and having it place before the beginning of the school year is a blessing.

Outreach

Life-giving Outreach: Our Red Cross Blood Drive Ministry

A vital aspect of St. Peter's outreach ministry is our partnership with the Red Cross in sponsoring and promoting periodic blood drives on our campus as a way of sharing God's love for us and for those around us. In 2022, the four blood drives St. Peter's sponsored drew over 200 donors to our campus and yielded 191 life-saving units. The 61 units collected during our March and May 2023 drives earned us a Red Cross honorarium of \$330 for helping to offset the always predictable Memorial Day spike in demand; they also fulfilled half of our 2023 donation goal!



But there's much more to the story of this St. Peter's ministry than such statistics. The rest of the story involves our stewardship of our time!

THIS MINISTRY IS PART OF A BROAD, MEDICALLY NECESSARY COMMUNITY EFFORT.

To reach our goal of thirty-five units (the net number after cancellations, no-shows, and medical deferments that occur in each drive), we need forty-five registrations. Typically, only about eight donors (about 20% of the total) are our own parishioners, aside from our platelet donors and those who donate at other sites. Furthermore, not all donors can participate in every drive. The bottom line is clear: "fresh blood," and lots of it, is always needed, and donor ambassadors are the key to a successful drive!

THIS MINISTRY ASKS US NOT ONLY TO BE DONORS BUT ALSO TO BE AMBASSADORS WHO RECRUIT DONORS IN THE COMMUNITY.

The primary reason that prompts people to register is the invitation to donate extended by a family member, friend, neighbor, or colleague. Our parish ambassadors reach out to the community because blood donors are needed every single day of the year. Our success in this role is measured by each "yes" response to the requests we make.

THIS MINISTRY IS AN UNOBTRUSIVE FORM OF EVANGELISM THAT BRINGS MEMBERS OF THE WIDER COMMUNITY TO OUR CAMPUS FOR THE FIRST TIME.

Donors visiting St. Peter's are typically stunned by the beauty of our campus and intrigued by the history of our parish. Many return, and some come back to worship with us and become parishioners.

THIS MINISTRY IS PART OF THE LARGER DIOCESAN EFFORT TO ALLEVIATE SUFFERING IN THE DELAWARE VALLEY.

The regional Red Cross uses St. Peter's as a model to encourage other parishes in the diocese to become "premier partners" that sponsor recurring blood drives. All Hallows (Wyncote), Christ Church (Collegetown), St. Christopher's (Oxford), St. John's (Essington), Trinity Church (Coatesville), and both St. James School/The Welcome Table and Church Farm School have become post-pandemic channels for collecting life-saving blood. The diocese is "United As One" with the regional Red Cross on biomedical and humanitarian outreach and helps the Red Cross fulfill its mission to "prevent and alleviate human suffering in the face of emergencies by mobilizing the power of volunteers and the generosity of donors." Our diocesan affiliation with the Red Cross aligns with community health and wellness, anti-gun violence, anti-racism and other Episcopal ministries.

Now that you have an overview of the importance of our blood drive outreach ministry, we urge you to prayerfully consider sharing your time as a donor if your circumstances permit and/or serving as an ambassador



for our fall drives, encouraging acquaintances to donate even if you cannot give blood yourself. Our first fall drive is scheduled for Wednesday, **September 13**, from 1 to 6 p.m., the second for Sunday, **November 5** from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. You can register as a donor, either by visiting stpetersblooddrive.com or by using the QR code (*left*). For more information about participating, please send an email to info@stpetersblooddrive.com.

Women on the Hill to Resume This Month



This summer, several St. Peter’s women met to revive our Women on the Hill group and planned programs for its first 2023-24 meetings on September 18 and October 2. These gatherings have given the women of the parish (and the friends they invite) the opportunity to converse, getting know each other better, laugh, learn new things, and deepen their spirituality, and the time has come for the gatherings to resume on a regular basis. (Details about the first two exciting programs appear below.)

Women on the Hill will usually take place in the parish hall at 7 p.m. on the first Monday of the month. As always, all women will be welcomed, so bring a friend. If you have a suggestion for a program or would like to lead an event, please send an email to womenonthehill@stpetersgv.org.

“Backstage with Melissa” September 18, 7 p.m.

Our reinvigorated Women on the Hill gatherings begin on **September 18** with a talk by Melissa Shaner about community theater and the play she is currently rehearsing with Barley Sheaf players. She performed with St. Peter’s Players, an amateur troupe of parish and community thespians during all of its nine years, that ended when its director, a talented parishioner, retired to upstate New York. Melissa remained active in local theater groups and will appear this month in the Barley Sheaf Theater production of *“Too Much Light Makes the Baby Go Blind (30 Plays in 60 Minutes)”*. According to the program notes, the play is “on its surface, an ‘ever-changing attempt to perform 30 plays in 60 minutes’ but, at its core, this ‘ensemble experiment’ creates a shared experience between the audience and the performers, resulting in an evening of breathless, hilarious, collaborative chaos. Audience members can dive into the action headfirst, calling out show numbers in an attempt to get all 30 plays in before the 60-minute timer buzzes.”

As a bonus, ten of us will have the opportunity to attend the 8 p.m. performance of the play on Friday, September 22, at Barley Sheaf Theater (810 N. Whitford Rd., Lionville) for \$19. If you are interested in one of these discounted tickets that Melissa acquired for us, please contact her (myshaner@verizon.net or 610-296-7621). Seats for other dates are available at the box office as well.

“Our Neighbor, the Wharton Esherick Museum” October 2, 7 p.m. NOT for Women Only!

On **October 2**, Women on the Hill will welcome Ethan Snyder, Public Programs & Collections Manager of the Wharton Esherick Museum, to St. Peter’s. Located a few miles east of St. Peter’s just off Yellow Springs Road, the museum celebrates and preserves the legacy of renowned American sculptor Wharton Esherick, whose works appear in major museum collections here and abroad. Working primarily in wood, Esherick created furniture, furnishings, utensils, interiors, buildings—including the one that houses the museum.

Everyone is invited —**men and women alike**—to hear Ethan talk about Wharton Esherick’s life, work, studio, *and* his connection with St. Peter’s. So save the date and plan to join us in the parish hall at 7 p.m. on Monday, **October 2**, to learn about a local notable and his work.

September Book Club Selection

All are invited to join the book club’s online discussion of Josh Ruxin’s *A Thousand Hills to Heaven* at 7 p.m. on **September 25**. While the book is primarily a memoir of love, adventure, and family, it also provides a glimpse into how rethinking foreign aid programs related to health, jobs, and economic growth can help end poverty worldwide. The Zoom link will be sent out via Keynotes. (If you have questions, please contact Brenda Grove.)

We See Jesus in the Kitchen

Last month, Fr. Todd Cederberg's sermon dealt with the miracle of the five loaves and two fishes: Jesus and the disciples fed multitudes with what had appeared to be a meager amount but proved to be more than enough. This gospel story reminds that we can do much more than we think possible and that our faith in God will see us through, and it applies to our barn kitchen project as well. The installation of a kitchen in the barn will offer St. Peter's new ways to expand how we connect with each other and our neighbors. A place of welcome, and a place to be, it will give us new opportunities to seek, serve, share, and celebrate.

Our collaboration with Warfel Construction continues. Over the summer, the firm dispatched a variety of tradesmen to campus to scope out the job and provide a design and its associated construction costs. The vestry has received preliminary plans; we are now awaiting the final architectural renderings and look forward to sharing them and other details with all of you this fall.

The project has two main goals—raising \$200,000 through a capital campaign to complete the space and 100% parish participation in the effort. (The total cost is \$250,000, and we have already received a \$50,000 grant from the Pew Charitable Trusts.) In addition to sponsoring the capital campaign, we continue to seek outside funding opportunities and have already completed applications for grants from the diocese and the Chester County Community Foundation. This is an exciting time for St. Peter's, and we ask that you prayerfully consider how you are being called to become involved in this project. When we work together, all things are possible, especially with God's love.

Multiplying God's Love

There is so much to be thankful for at St. Peter's—always—but especially this year! Our journey toward becoming a "third place" has begun through our barn kitchen campaign, and this year's 2024 pledge campaign kicks off soon, with a new theme. While we children of the Lord still rejoice in "rising and shining to give God our glory, glory," our theme this year is "Multiplying God's Love." Inspired by Jesus' transformation of five loaves of bread and two fishes into enough food to satisfy 4,000 faithful people, we will respond to and demonstrate God's love with gratitude.



Our parishioners are already involved as stewards by giving of their time, talent, and treasure. A simple walk around the campus on any day of the week reveals that. Examples of faithful ministry abound. We are also deeply involved in outreach in the community beyond our campus. And we expect to expand our ability to address the community's needs through a newly created kitchen, the center of our "third place."

Living into our ministries and doing all that we do takes money or "treasure"! Your contributions through annual giving are essential. The members of the stewardship commission invite you to consider prayerfully the breadth and depth of God's love and to join them in pledging generously. Thank you for that.

Jazz Sanctuary: Great music, food, and conversation for all ages on a balmy August evening





- The flower guild members who enhance our altar each week;
- Abigail Nestlehutt for leading the “Rule of Life” series;
- Peter Neu for playing the trumpet playing on July 2;
- Holly Hardester and Bill Keltz for providing ice cream and toppings for Sundae Sunday on July 2, and Florence Watson for her homemade chocolate and butterscotch sauces;
- The choir for their additional rehearsals during the organist/choirmaster auditions;
- The Bad Boys and Girls for repairing and painting the preschool’s outdoor playhouse;
- 18th Century Restoration for its ongoing work on the windows and shutters of the historic church;
- Gail and Frank Guthridge and Tim Hepp for leading Camp Day, and all the volunteers who gave the children from Coatesville a special day;
- Hal Kulp for teaching the Bad Boys and Girls how to replace the ceiling bulbs in the church;
- Peter Moretzsohn, for playing the guitar at our “third Wednesday” supper in July;
- Everyone who helped rearrange and reorganize the parish offices, especially Gail Malcolm, Jeff Moretzsohn, Melissa Shaner, and Luci Russell, and Mike and Michele Harman, who arranged the sale and removal of excess office furniture;
- The Revs. Ned Sherrill, Terry Dinovo, and Todd Cederberg, for presiding at services during Abigail’s absence;
- Beth Hacker and Stan Orr for playing the organ during Bruce’s absence;
- Susy Baum for substituting as vestry secretary in July.
- The BB&G4J volunteers who mentored the youth team members.
- The musicians of Jazz Sanctuary for their August concert, Gail Malcolm and Jeff Moretzsohn for setting up the event, parking director Larry Malcolm, and all who provided food for the supper.

Plastic-free July in Retrospect

St. Peter’s joined six other area churches in a worldwide effort to curtail the damage done by single-use plastics, and reviewed their efforts with a joint Zoom meeting at the end of the month. Both individuals and groups at Peter’s faithfully rose to the July plastic-free challenge:

- Five parishioners viewed a film about the detrimental effects of the fashion industry’s overproduction of items made mostly of plastic.
- Our food ministry volunteers, vestry, and camp coordinators avoided single-use plastic.
- On Sundays, worshipers shared recycling tips at Green Stewards’ informational display.

The Green Stewards hope that this environmental network will continue to grow. It helped us see how much plastic we unthinkingly use and reminded us of the detrimental effect of single-use plastic items. To learn more about the damage that plastics do to the environment, the Green Stewards invite you to visit www.plasticfreejuly.org or www.lessplastic.co.uk.

Popcorn Theology to Resume in October

This fall’s “popcorn theology” Zoom series is scheduled for three Mondays—October 9, November 13, and December 11 —from 6 to 7 p.m.. The fall’s overall theme and movie selections will be announced in the coming weeks, but meanwhile reserve these times for our lively discussions of ethical, spiritual, and religious questions that the films raise. For more information, please contact Mark Nestlehutt (mark.nestlehutt@gmail.com) or Steve Ockenden (steveock@verizon.net). All are welcome!

September 2
Needlework ministry
10 a.m.

September 3
Services at 8 & 10 a.m.

September 5
Darby Mission dinner
6 p.m.
Sunday school social
6 p.m.

September 6
Preschool re-opens
9 a.m.

September 7
Choir supper and first rehearsal
6:30 to 9:30 p.m.



September 10
Single worship service
10 a.m.
Bruce's retirement celebration
follows

September 13
Red Cross Blood Drive
1 to 6 p.m.

September 17
3-service schedule resumes

September 18
Noonday prayer resumes
12 noon
Women on the Hill
7 p.m.

September 19
Sandwich-making for Coatesville
10 a.m.

September 20
Jazz Sanctuary and supper
6 to 7:30 p.m.

September 25
Book club

Coming October 1
Blessing of the Animals
4 p.m.



July Financial Snapshot

	July	Year to date	Year-end forecast	2023 Budget
Parishioner Contributions	\$ 64,116	\$327,964	\$549,438	\$530,504
Other Income*	16,951	82,350	196,424	208,637
Total Income	81,068	410,314	745,862	739,141
Total Expenses	43,204	374,892	725,632	739,141
Surplus / (Deficit)	37,864	35,442	20,230	0

*Interest, rentals, endowment distributions

As of the end of July, our total income projections continue to track slightly above forecast, as a result of the higher yields on interest income. Our total year-end expenditure forecast is under budget, largely thanks to not needing snow removal in the first quarter, along with other savings this year. —*Dave Lockner for the finance commission*



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

The Rev. Abigail Crozier Nestlehutt, Rector
 The Ven. Jeff Moretzsohn, Deacon
 Michael Tryciecky, Interim Choir Director
 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
 October Beacon
 is **September 15.**

Weekly Offerings at St. Peter's

- Sunday, September 3**
 8 A.M. Holy Eucharist, Rite 1*
 10 A.M. Holy Eucharist, Rite 2*
Sunday, September 10
 10 A.M. Holy Eucharist, Rite 2**
Beginning Sunday, September 17
 8 A.M. Holy Eucharist, Rite 1*
 9 A.M. Enriching Our Worship & SundaySchool**
 10:20 A.M. Christian Formation**
 11:15 A.M. Holy Eucharist, Rite 2*
 Fellowship follows all services
- Monday thru Thursday**
 12 NOON Noonday Prayer***
- Wednesday** Morning Prayer & Bible Study***
 10 A.M.
- Thursday**
 10:30 A.M. Intercessory Prayer Group***
- Friday**
 8 A.M. Gathering of Men***
 * Church
 ** Barn
 *** Virtual

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

Blessing of the Backpacks, August 27
Goodbye, summer! Welcome, fall!



The 2023-24 program year begins on **September 17**, when our 3-service schedule and Christian formation for all ages resume, along with both familiar and new weekday and weekend offerings.