
July-August 2025

Why Do We Need a Prayer Committee?

by Becky Dempsey, Rector's Warden

You have all been hearing that during the transition to a permanent Rector we will have three committees, Prayer, Profile and Search. The need for a Search Committee for a new Rector is obvious, but why do we need a Prayer Committee?

The Prayer Committee is meant to serve as our spiritual anchor during this time of transition, so that we don't get so caught up in the nuts and bolts of the process that we forget about what's really important. The Prayer Committee will commit to being in prayer and will encourage all of us to join in praying for guidance and direction. In addition to praying together regularly, the Committee will collect and share available resources. The Committee may also decide to write prayers that can be used by the three Committees and by other members of the congregation.

A period of transition in a parish can be a time of excitement as we engage in renewal and look to the future. It can also be a time of anxiety about what comes next.

With that in mind, here is a prayer that is included in the *Rector Transitions* book that Canon Jane Gober presented to the vestry:

Teilhard de Chardin's Prayer

Above all, trust in the slow work of God.
We are quite naturally impatient in everything
To reach the end without delay.
We should like to skip the intermediate stages.
We are impatient of being on the way to something
Unknown, something new.
And yet it is the law of all progress
That it is made by passing through
Some stages of instability ---
And that it may take a very long time.

And so I think it is with you;
Your ideas mature gradually—let them grow,
Let them shape themselves, without undue haste.
Don't try to force them on,
As though you be today what time
(that is to say, grace and circumstance
acting on your own good will)
will make of you tomorrow.

Only God could say what this new spirit
Gradually forming within you will be,
Give Our Lord the benefit of believing
That his hand is leading you,
And accept the anxiety of feeling yourself
In suspense or incomplete.
Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, S.J. (1881-1955)

Special Liturgical Season Services

Celebrate the 4th on the 6th!

There are celebratory activities on the first Sunday of July with trumpet offerings during the service and ice cream afterwards.

Summer Schedule

The **summer schedule** began on May 25, Memorial Day weekend, with services at 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. in the Historic Church. August 3 is the first Sunday of the month, with worship at one morning service at 10 a.m. in the church.

Nursery care continues throughout the summer during the 10 a.m. service. From Memorial Day through Labor Day care is provided in the Parish House. The preschool gathering area provides a wonderful space in which children may play safely. Our youngest worshipers are always welcome to join us for the service, or you may choose to have them cared for in the nursery.

Sunday School and **Adult Education** are on recess until September.

Reminder: All ages always are welcome at all services. The differences in the worship spaces in the Bank Barn and Historic Church may promote some interesting conversations, and there are soft bags with children's activity items and "The Sunday Paper" provided for them in both locations.

Transition Update

The Rev. Canon Jane Gober from the Diocese is assisting us with the transition from Abigail's departure to the installation of a permanent rector for St. Peter's. She has already been extremely helpful and her involvement will be invaluable as we move forward. In the transition period between now and when we have a new permanent rector, St. Peter's will be served first by supply priests over the summer, then an Interim Rector.

We also have lined up local priests to assist us with pastoral care needs over the summer. Canon Gober has identified priests who are interested in serving as an Interim at St. Peter's. Candidates for the Interim position will be presented to the vestry.

Three committees will be established to guide us through the process of finding a permanent rector, including a Prayer Committee, a Profile Committee, and a Search Committee. The Prayer Committee will serve as a spiritual anchor throughout the process. The Profile Committee will collect and summarize information about St. Peter's to be reviewed by prospective candidates. The Search Committee will review and select candidates to be considered for the permanent rector position with the assistance of the Diocese. The Committees will be composed of vestry members and other parishioners.

The entire process of discernment is expected to take about 12 to 18 months. During this time of transition, please feel free to contact Rector's Warden, Becky Dempsey, Vestry Warden, Amy Fisher, or any vestry member with questions or concerns you may have.

Summer Supply Priests

July 13 – The Rev. Canon Jane Gober

July 20 – The Rev. Frank Allen

July 27 – The Rev. Timothy Gavin

August 3 – The Rev. Peter Stube

August 10 – The Rev. Paul Reid

August 17 – The Rev. Paul Reid

Parish Updates

Vestry Thanks and Appreciation

- To all involved with the celebrations to recognize our Rector, The Rev. Abigail Nestlehutt for her 9 1/2 years of service and dedication to St. Peter's church, its parishioners, mission, and community as she leaves for her new calling.
 - To Michael Smith, Steve Barthelemy, and all who helped them with the catered reception after Abigail led her final Sunday service at St. Peter's church.
 - To Paige Infortuna, Nick Allen, and The Rev. Paul Reid, who led toasts and prayers as part of the special thanks and celebration.
 - To all who contributed gifts for Abigail, including those who wrote messages on stars as part of a special frame.
 - To Amy Fisher and all parishioners who submitted photos of St. Peter's events, members, and community used to create an album for Abigail.
 - To Steven Patchell and the Choir for their work throughout this program year, ending with an Evensong.
 - To Pattye Benson and Susan Davis for hosting the reception after Evensong.
 - To all teachers, leadership, and students for their participation in the Sunday school throughout the program year.
 - To Adult Forum leader Seretha Curry, for leading discussion on "The Image of God in the Garden of God," part 2.
 - To three Shipley student volunteers, Dylan Stoltz, Chris Nascimento, and Grayson Clemons, who worked with the Bad Boys & Girls for Jesus on property maintenance and improvement.
 - To Linda Parkyn, Holly Hardester, Suzanne Briar, and Seretha Curry for the tremendous effort to design Vacation Bible School which unfortunately was canceled this summer.
 - To supply priests The Rev. David Laquintano and The Rev. Paul Reid for leading services in June and July.
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Weekend Facilities Manager - St. Peter's Church in the Great Valley

We have an opening for a Weekend Facilities Manager who works in communication with the Rector, Parish Administrator, and Property Chair to ensure the two churches and parish house (three main buildings) are clean and ready for use on Saturday for activities and Sunday for services in accordance with the needs of the parish. The new hire will set up events and run the livestream of Sunday services as needed.

Hours: 11.5 hours, primarily on the weekend, including Saturday and Sunday morning into early afternoon.

Compensation: \$18-\$20/hour, dependent upon experience. No benefits.

Required: High school education or equivalent.

Experience in Building Maintenance preferred. Ability to lift and move chairs and tables required.

To apply, please send a cover letter and resume to jobs@stpetersgv.org.

Calling All Creatives!

I would like to create a “parishioner resource library” of creative, faith-oriented work going on in our congregation. If your art, writing, music, podcasts, videos, Instagram, and so much more, are connected to, or reflect, your faith, I would like to know more about it! Please send me your websites, email lists, art portfolios, Medium accounts, Minecraft builds, or whatever it is you are into. Contact Seretha Curry at slcurry@stpetersgv.org.

Christian Formation

Christian Formation Commission

At present, St. Peter's does not have a parish commission for Christian Formation. We would like to form one to help guide the formation efforts here at St. Peter's. That commission would help influence and execute a wide array of formation efforts at St. Peter's, for adult, youth, and children. Together, we will need to discern and decide what our initial goals are. You may desire to serve on this commission or know someone whose gifts might suit this way of serving the St. Peter's community.

The commission will meet not less than quarterly, but may meet more often in the beginning as we are fleshing out what we want to do here. Of particular importance is helping our community be intentional about how we respond to the ongoing cultural crises in the United States. Please contact Seretha Curry (slcurry@stpetersgv.org) for more information.

Children and Youth Ministries

Backpack Blessings, August 24

Holly Hardester



Every student and all of those who teach them are encouraged to come to church on Sunday, August 24, with their backpacks, briefcases, or devices, where they will receive a blessing as another school year begins. Each participant will receive a colorful backpack tag to carry through the year to remind them that the year began with God's blessings. Consider inviting your neighbors, your grandchildren, or someone you know who is about to begin another school year.

Summer Preview

Back to School—Backpack Blessing (late August)

Sunday School Kick-Off (early September)

During the summer, there will be kid-friendly toys and activities outside the Historic Church after the 10 a.m. service. While people do tend to travel during the summer, I would love to have a couple of kid-friendly activities available each month (including the Third Wednesdays) if we have interest and participation. Please contact Seretha Curry (slcurry@stpetersgv.org) for more information.

Outreach Commission

There are many ways we invite you to become involved with serving our neighbors. Consider volunteering with or supporting one of our outreach opportunities.

CYWA Volunteers Needed Briefly

All people who come to the Community Youth and Women's Alliance (CYWA) for food distributions must be re-registered beginning in July. The Chester County Food Bank, which provides excellent varieties and quantities of food, has this requirement. Volunteers are needed to register our Coatesville neighbors.



Registrations will take place on Wednesdays and Thursdays, between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. They are easy to complete, requiring only names and household sizes. Identification is not required. It is a very friendly community. We especially need a few volunteers who speak un poco Español.

If you are available for midday any Wednesday or Thursday in July and would like the opportunity to see a community in which St. Peter's is active, please contact Holly Hardester (hahardester@gmail.com, 484-319-6323). You can learn more about food distribution at CYWA by following the QR code to the left.



July is Peanut Butter and Jelly for the Shopping Cart Ministry

We held the inaugural outreach use of the barn kitchen on Tuesday, June 17, when we made lunches for the Coatesville Youth and Women's Alliance! We are now in compliance with all of the Chester County Health Department regulations thanks to the new kitchen, and are planning additional outreach cooking projects.

In the meantime, we gather at 10 a.m. on the third Tuesday of each month in the barn kitchen to make lunches and are always looking for more volunteers. No cooking experience necessary! On the third Wednesday, we distribute the lunches in Coatesville and welcome volunteers there as well.

St. James School Supply Collection



We will be collecting school supplies for the St. James School through the month of July. If you are interested in participating, please refer to the wishlist included here, buy whatever items you would like to donate and look for the drop off box in the historic church.

Many thanks in advance for your generosity. There is a great need!

School Supplies

- Crayola Markers - 8 pack
- Crayola Crayons - 24 pack
- Pencils
- Erasers
- Glue sticks
- Highlighters
- Loose leaf - wide rule
- Pencil cases (fit in 3 ring binder)
- White board markers

Classroom Supplies

- Paper towels
- Hand sanitizer
- Sanitizing wipes
- Tissues

Chester Children's Chorus Summer Concerts - Channel Surfin'

Thursday, July 24 - 2 p.m.

Our Mother of Good Counsel, Bryn Mawr

Saturday, July 26 & Sunday, July 27 - 4 p.m.

Swarthmore College



Go Channel Surfin' with the Chester Children's Chorus this summer! More than 120 Chester children will take the stage for a joyful journey through TV's greatest theme songs. From "The Love Boat" and "The Brady Bunch" to "The Jeffersons" and "Friends," it's sure to be a tuneful tribute to the shows you know and love.

Free admission. Seating is limited and on a first-come, first-served basis.

For more information visit ChesterChildrensChorus.org.

Ongoing Outreach

Habitat for Humanity

Habitat for Humanity volunteers on site on the third Saturday of every month. You can access more information or sign up for Habitat for Humanity by clicking here or pasting this link into your browser:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050548AEAB22A5FA7-49713154-brandywine#/>). For more information, please contact outreach@stpetersgv.org.



Volunteer at the St. James School

Go for the Gold Saturdays. Tutors are needed to assist individual students or small groups with academics. Staff is present to support you. Select Saturdays, 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Contact Maggie Sanborn at msanborn@stjamesphila.org for further information.

Welcome Table. Volunteers are needed every Saturday morning, 8-11 a.m., to help organize and distribute food and clothing. Weekday volunteers are also needed, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., to pick up donations, organize, and manage storage. Contact Tiana Jones at tjones@stjamesphila.org for more information.

July and August Parish Events

Book Club

July 21, 7 p.m.; Zoom



For July, we will be reading *Days at the Morisaki Bookshop* by Satoshi Yagisawa. We plan to meet on July 21. Join us for reading and conversation! Contact Brenda Grove (brendabgrove@gmail.com) for more details. (See QR code to the left.)



We've even planned *further* ahead: our August pick is *Traveling with Pomegranates: A Mother and Daughter Journey to the Sacred Places of Greece, Turkey, and France* by Ann Kidd Tylor and Sue Monk Kidd. (See QR code to the right.)

Save the Date: Shakespeare is Coming!

August 16

On August 16, St. Peter's will be hosting ACT Players who will be performing William Shakespeare's *A Mid-Summer Night's Dream* here on campus. Details forthcoming!

Italian Night

August 20, 6-7:30 p.m.



Italian night has been rescheduled to Wednesday, August 20, 2025, from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. in the barn. The choir will provide all the food. All you have to do is come! We'll be cooking pasta in the new kitchen. Musical entertainment will be provided by Stefan Xhori, the violinist who played for us at church earlier in the summer. He will be playing Vivaldi as well as other pieces of music.

Future Events

Save the Date: Installation at the Cathedral

The Right Reverend Daniel G.P. Gutiérrez will install Dean-elect Abigail Crozier Nestlehurst on Saturday, September 13, 2025, at 10 a.m. at the Philadelphia Episcopal Cathedral. Your prayers and presence are requested. More information to follow regarding transportation and other details.

Cabaret Choir Fundraiser

October 25



Please SAVE THE DATE, October 25, 2025, at 7:30 p.m. and join us for a cabaret fundraiser for our choir's residency at Norwich Cathedral in July 2026. The theme of the cabaret is: Stories and Songs: My Life in the Theatre, with Suzanne Briar, choir member. Refreshments provided. Information on tickets coming later!

2026 Choir Residency



The Choirs of St. Peter's will be engaged in a week-long choral residency at Norwich Cathedral in July 2026. Parishioners and friends are invited to join us. Speak to Steven Patchel or any choir member if you are interested in joining in this choral pilgrimage. Deposits of \$500 will be required by July 2025 in order to hold your place, with the balance due in 2026. Past residencies have been deeply rewarding experiences of music-making and historical and spiritual enrichment.

Communications Corner

Do you have information to distribute to the St. Peter's community? Please see the information below to make sure your information goes to the right place. And remember, sending information to one publication **does not** constitute sending it to all. You should be specific about where your information should go.

Publication / Platform	Deadline	Send to
"Keynotes"	end of day, Tuesday prior	Parish Administrator (parishadministrator@stpetersgv.org)
The Sunday Leaflet	end of day, Tuesday prior	Parish Administrator (parishadministrator@stpetersgv.org)
<i>The Beacon</i>	end of day, 21st of previous month	Beacon General Editor (beacon@stpetersgv.org)
Announcement*(during Sunday services)	With the Sunday Leaflet, see above	---

**All announcements for Sunday morning should be submitted to the Sunday Leaflet by the end of day on the Tuesday prior. To request your announcement be highlighted by the presider, include that request with the leaflet submission.*

May Financial Snapshot

Paige Infortuna and Eric Lien

	Month of May	May Year to Date	Forecast (year-end)	Budget (2025)
Parishioner Contributions	31,504	171,998	373,700	390,000
*Other Income	15,140	152,236	294,325	290,547
Total Income	46,644	324,234	668,025	680,547
Total Expense	89,188	329,425	673,229	680,550
Surplus/(Deficit)	-42,544	-5,191	-5,191	-3

**Other Income: Interest, Rental, Endowment Distributions*

Expenses for the month of May were significantly higher than normal due to some annual costs for insurance and the 2023 audit. Income continues to be steady, and we are grateful to everyone for keeping their pledges paid timely.

June Financial Snapshot

	Month of June	June Year to Date	Forecast (year-end)	Budget (2025)
Parishioner Contributions	33,102	279,644	387,446	390,000
*Other Income	11,802	89,129	331,547	290,547
Total Income	44,904	368,773	718,993	680,547
Total Expense	46,765	376,190	664,732	680,550
Surplus/(Deficit)	-1,861	-7,417	54,261	-3

**Other Income: Interest, Rental, Endowment Distributions*

Transition can be a challenging financial time for the church; we are thankful that pledge payments continue to be timely, which helps us keep our finances in line and our programming going. Your continued commitment to St. Peter's Church in the Great Valley is very much appreciated! We will experience a bit of savings through the summer while we await the arrival of our interim rector.

July/August Dates

July 6
 "Sundae Sunday", Combined
 Service, 10 a.m.,
 Historic Church

July 21
 Book Club, 7 p.m., Zoom

July 24
 Chester Children's Choir,
 2 p.m., Bryn Mawr

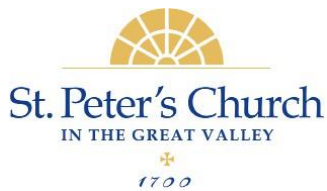
July 26-27
 Chester Children's Choir, 4
 p.m., Swarthmore College

August 3
 Combined Service, 10 a.m.,
 Historic Church

August 16
 Shakespeare in the Park
 Bank Barn

August 20
 Italian Night, 6 p.m.-7:30
 p.m., Bank Barn

August 24
 Backpack Blessings



Becky Dempsey, Rector's Warden
Amy Fisher, Vestry Warden
Steven Patchel, Organist/Choirmaster
Seretha Curry, Assistant for Christian Formation
Rachel Martin Swartz, Parish Administrator
Erinn White, Preschool Director
Gail Malcolm, Event Coordinator
Mario Delano, Weekend Facilities Manager

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

Deadline for the
September *Beacon*:
August 21

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*

Weekly Offerings at St. Peter's

Sunday Summer Schedule, starting May 25

8 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite I*
10 a.m. Family Eucharist

First Sunday of the Month

10 a.m. Combined Service

Wednesday

10 a.m. Morning Prayer & Bible Study***

Thursday

10:30 a.m. Intercessory Prayer Group***

Friday

8 a.m. Gathering of Men***
* Historic Church
** Bank Barn
*** Virtual

Parish office hours: 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday
through Thursday. Closed Monday, July 7.