



The Beacon

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

October 2019

The "Path of Plenitude" Ahead

by the Rev. Abigail Crozier Nestlehutt

Autumn is awesome as far as I am concerned. I love the way the leftover warmth of summer creates a kind of softness in the air. The quality of the light in October is gentler than in, say, July and the colors are subtler than at other times of year but still glorious. Some people do not like fall because it ushers in winter. I am willing to overlook this fact because of everything else the season has to offer – new beginnings being one of them.

Fall is a starting point in much the same way as Advent is in the church year or January 1 in secular time; it is an opportunity to set new intentions. By October we are settling into whatever the new season has brought. This autumn has taken a different shape for me than usual because now both of my children are off at boarding school. As Mark and I live into the resulting shifts in our family rhythm, I appreciate a prayer by the Irish teacher and poet John O'Donohue, "For a New Beginning," which reads in part:

In out-of-the-way places of the heart,
Where your thoughts never think to wander,
This beginning has been quietly forming,
Waiting until you were ready to emerge.

Then the delight, when your courage kindled,
And out you stepped onto new ground,
Your eyes young again with energy and dream,
A path of plenitude opening before you.

Though your destination is not yet clear
You can trust the promise of this opening;
Unfurl yourself into the grace of beginning
That is at one with your life's desire.

Awaken your spirit to adventure;
Hold nothing back, learn to find ease in risk;
Soon you will be home in a new rhythm,
For your soul senses the world that awaits you.

Beginnings are both rich with promise and also complex with nostalgia for the past. The trick is to let the best of what has been strengthen us to live into wherever we are being called without pulling us back to where we no longer need to be. Spending more time with God helps me achieve this balance. Right now this means I am learning again about centering prayer, both for myself and to share it with you in the months to come (more on that later).

In the following pages you will find opportunities to connect and learn, invitations to have fun, and ways to help; some are new offerings and some familiar ones. I encourage you to reach beyond what you usually do and try something new. I encourage you to engage and be part of all that St. Peter's has to offer and all that we at St. Peter's offer to others through the ministry of this parish. Together we are joining Jesus in seeking, serving, and striving to make our world look more and more like the kingdom of God.

Autumn is awesome, and I am so glad to be spending it with you.

"Interfaith Create!" on October 19

In the wake of last year's violence against synagogues and mosques, Abigail helped form an interfaith group of religious leaders who meet regularly for support and community building. Believing that conversation and understanding are crucial in our difficult times, the group has organized an interfaith opportunity called Interfaith Create! On **Saturday, October 19**, please join us at Temple Beth Chaim (398 Conestoga Road, Malvern), when we will join in the celebration of Sukkot, the Jewish harvest holiday. Worship begins at 10 a.m., and after the service, at 11:15 a.m., we will share a community lunch and create a mosaic together, led by artist Jessica Gorlin Liddell.

Please contact Abigail (abigail@stpetersgv.org or 610-644-2261) for more information or to let her know that you plan to attend.

Blessing of the Animals

Humans and pets alike are heartily invited to join us on the lawn at the historic church at 5 p.m. on **Sunday, October 6** for our annual highly pet-friendly Blessing of the Animals, and to ask your friends and neighbors to come too. In a brief service we will thank God for the gifts of companionship and beauty that pet animals bring to our lives and homes and ask God's blessing on them. Needless to say, bring your pets – either caged or on a leash, please, for their safety and happiness! If your pet is not easily transportable, bring a photo or a stuffed animal facsimile instead. There will be refreshments for both humans and pets afterwards, as well as a personal blessing of each animal.

The Faithful Friends Animal Society (with which our own Elizabeth Dwyer works) will join us and may bring a cat or dog or two, depending on the animals in the shelter that day. This is a good opportunity to learn about their mission of placing pets in "forever" homes; they will also gladly accept donations of blankets, pet beds, towels, sheets, kitty litter, and toys for their shelter. If you have questions, contact Rev. Chris!



Build St. Peter's



Thank you to all who have already pledged to support St. Peter's in 2020! You have moved us towards reaching our goal of \$459,000.

Since 77% of the income that St. Peter's needs to meet expenses in 2020 comes from pledges by the congregation, pledging is vital to the planning of next year's church programs for the coming year. We ask you to prayerfully consider increasing your previous pledge by 10% or more. With God's help, we will meet our goal. We invite you to look at the stewardship posters in the church and barn to follow our progress this month.

You will find pledge cards in both the church and barn gathering spaces; if you prefer to submit your pledge online, use the "Giving" link at **www.stpetersgv.org**. We will bless all pledges at the three worship services on All Saints Day, November 3.

God has done good work in and through us, and God has more for us to do. Thank you for pledging.



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The Beacon is produced monthly by
St. Peter's Church in the Great Valley
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Staff: Trudi Graves (editor), Charlotte Mark,
David Graves

CHILDREN'S CHRISTIAN FORMATION

Three elements working in unison comprise an effective and engaging Sunday school: God; committed teachers, leaders, and resources; and children. We know that God is in the middle of all that we do. We have the teachers and leaders (although more would be welcome), superbly led by Holly Hardester, as well as a curriculum, classrooms, and a dedicated time slot. Lastly, we need the presence of the children.



**Christian Formation
for All Ages**

Both parents and caregivers and the church are responsible for helping children grow in faith. Just as we don't leave our children to figure out important aspects of life like death, friendship, and love on their own, we don't want to let them figure out faith on their own. In a world that increasingly presses in on our children, Sunday school gives them tools that help them create meaning and hope by grounding them in Jesus' teaching. Sunday school gives children, who are often naturally curious about God and spirituality, the opportunity to have their questions answered and to grow in a spiritual atmosphere. While the teachers look forward to engaging with the children each week, they also realize that "perfect attendance" is not always feasible and welcome them when they are present. Since children watch both what we say and what we do, getting them to church and Sunday school as intentionally as possible is the best way to help them understand its importance in their lives. As always, if you have questions, please call or email Chris Exley.

YOUTH GROUP

In September the youth group led an adult forum, during which they talked about their June mission trip to Chicago, sharing highlights in pictures as well as words. It was wonderful to see how engaged the young people were both in their service and in their times of fun.

The fall term is well under way, with weekly meetings in the youth room between 10:20 and 11:05 on Sundays. We plan to explore a variety of topics: relationships (October), spirituality (November), peace and justice (December), and difficult decisions (January). Additionally, we want to redecorate the youth room with fresh paint, pictures, and furniture, and also to come up with a list of fun activities, like the upcoming haunted house and hayride outing. All young people are invited to bring their ideas about activities to formation time as well as to ask Rev. Chris any questions they may have. Watch for more information about upcoming events.

INQUIRERS' CLASS

If you are new to St. Peter's and the Episcopal Church, or if you are a lifelong Episcopalian but are curious about the church, this group is for you. Bring your questions about faith, the structure of the church, the liturgy, or anything else, and we will explore and learn together. For more information, contact

ADULT FORMATION IN OCTOBER

The first two weeks of the month give us the opportunity to meet with two visiting members of the clergy: on **October 6**, the Rev. Ned Sherrill, Head of School at nearby Church Farm School, will join us, and on **October 13**, the Rev. Canon Dr. Robert Droste, Canon for Congregational Development and Mission in the Diocese of New Jersey. Rob led the June vestry retreat with great enthusiasm, and returns this month to lead a session for all of us entitled "Remembering Why We Are Here: The Power of Clear Purpose," talking about discipleship and church growth through joining Jesus in mission and ministry.



In the last two weeks of October, adult forum will focus on health care issues. On **October 20**, parishioner Luci Russell, M.D., will address opioid use and abuse and their

[Cont. on p. 4]

[“Christian Formation,” cont. from p. 3]

relationship to addiction, discuss medication use, and touch on what happens when street drugs are added to the mix.

On **October 27**, Holly O’Connell, executive director of A Path to Hope, will discuss her organization’s mission to offer guidance and support to parents and caregivers navigating the mental healthcare system; raise awareness about this medical issue and open up dialogue; improve access to information and affordable resources in our community; and improve educational opportunities for our children to learn about mental health. She believes that “the mental health crisis needs to be discussed so that the stigma associated with this disease will end, allowing more people to seek help. Information is the first step on the path to hope.” Holly’s presentation will serve as a springboard for further discussions of mental health during the winter.

Everyone is welcome, and as always, we invite you to bring your coffee and your curiosity to the barn on Sundays at 10:20 a.m. If you did not pick up a fall program brochure at the ministries fair, copies are available in both gathering spaces and in the parish office. If you have questions, feel free to contact adult forum coordinator Melissa Shaner (myshaner@verizon.net).



**Christian Formation
for All Ages**

There’s Still Time to Join a Foyers Group

We are in the process of rearranging our Foyer dinner groupings for this year, so now is the time to sign on to enjoy getting to know other parishioners in small groups over a shared meal. Once you let us know you are interested in participating and answer a few questions, we create groups of six to eight. It helps us to know, for example, where you live, whether your home is child-friendly, how many you can seat comfortably for a meal, and whether you have any mobility issues or food or pet allergies. Once we form the groups, we let each participant know by email.

Each group works out its own details, including when and where to meet. Some meet monthly, some quarterly; some opt for dinner, others for brunch or lunch. Typically, the host serves the entrée and the others bring an appetizer, a side or salad, and dessert; everyone brings a beverage of choice.

To join a Foyer group, simply contact Lynn Mander (lsmander@gmail.com or 610-613-5358). If you already participate in Foyers, please respond to the email we sent in September—and also let fellow parishioners know how much fun these meals are!

All Saints’ Day Worship

We will mark All Saints’ Day at all three services on Sunday morning, **November 3**. At the 11:15 service, the choir will offer special music for All Saints. That is also the day when we will hold our stewardship ingathering and bless all pledges at each service.

That afternoon, the chamber choir will offer choral evensong at 4 p.m. in the historic church (see the article to the right for more about that).



All Saints’ Day Choral Evensong

Everyone is invited to choral evensong sung by the chamber choir at 4 p.m. on All Saints’ Sunday, **November 3**, in the historic church. The program will focus on music celebrating St. Cecilia, the patron saint of music. The service music will feature *Hymn to St. Cecilia* by Herbert Howells (1892-1983) as the anthem, as well as his *Gloucester Evening Canticles*. After the service, the chamber choir will perform the more expansive *Hymn to St. Cecilia* composed by Benjamin Britten (1913-1976). A reception will follow in the common room. This serene, late afternoon service is a wonderful way to introduce friends and neighbors to St. Peter’s, so please invite folks to join you.

Chester Children's Chorus Returning to St. Peter's

What could be better than forty young people raising their voices in jubilant song on an October afternoon? Forty young people raising their voices in jubilant song on an October afternoon with YOU in the audience in the barn!

Take an afternoon off from raking leaves, watching football, or doing homework, and head to St. Peter's to welcome the Chester Children's Chorus and revel in their exuberant singing at 4 o'clock on Saturday afternoon, **October 12**. They will perform an exciting, diverse program of choral music that includes selections from George Friedrich Handel's *Messiah* and Maurice Duruflé's *Ubi Caritas* sung jointly with our combined choirs. They will also offer their own arrangements of songs from The Beatles, Queen, Stevie Wonder, and Aretha Franklin. Then plan to stay on and meet the chorus members at a light dinner reception after the concert. Admission is free (donations will be gratefully received following the concert or at any time!)



The CCC, founded by Swarthmore music professor Dr. John Alston, uses the joy of choral music to give the children of Chester tools and skills needed to succeed in our complex world. The children grow up together during their ten years in the chorus, with older choristers serving as role models and mentors to the younger ones. During the school year, weeknight and Saturday rehearsals keep the 125 children connected to one another; in the summer, a six-week learning program that includes instruction in reading, science, math, and other subjects strengthens this connection even more.

This year CCC is celebrating its twenty-fifth anniversary, and it has been one of St. Peter's outreach focus ministries for many of those years.

Do set aside Saturday afternoon, **October 12**, on your calendar now. Plan to bring your children, grandchildren, parents, and your neighbors and their children to share in this truly uplifting and inspiring event! Please contact Kate Mallon-Day for further information or to volunteer to help by donating food, ushering, or setting or cleaning up (kantakate@aol.com or 610-613-8965).

"Trunk or Treat" and All Hallows' Eve Service

Hey, kids, come dressed in your best Halloween costume to the "Trunk or Treat" St. Peter's is hosting from 5 to 6:30 on **Sunday evening, October 27!** This updated version of trick-or-treating replaces the traditional going from house to house to trick or treat with walking from car trunk to car trunk in a safe parking lot, with parents and guardians looking on. While trunk-or-treating still involves classic trick-or-treating by children in costume, it eliminates safety issues like encountering strangers while strolling or running from house to house in the dark.

To make this work, we need people to "host" a trunk that evening! This event is a great way to bring our parish together for some fun (and treats) and also to invite our neighbors to join us! If you have questions or are willing to host a trunk, please contact Rev. Chris!

Everyone is invited to stay afterwards for a "Service for All Hallows' Eve" in the graveyard when trunk-or-treating ends. Appropriately enough, we will hear scripture stories in the graveyard about the Witch of Endor and Ezekiel's "dry bones."

We invite all parish children to this low-key, highly inclusive event and encourage them to invite their school and neighborhood friends to join them as well.



Trunk or Treat

Coming Next Month--Our Community Barn Dance



Our third annual community barn dance will soon be here! We hope you are planning to join the fun on Saturday evening, November 9, and also to invite friends and neighbors to an evening of square dancing, conversation, dining, and old-fashioned fun—in the barn, of course!

Dancing begins at 5 p.m., when callers Chloe and Rick Mohr provide some basic instructions and walk us through some easy moves to get us dancing in no time! To sustain our energy, Robert Ryan Catering is donating a kicked-up barbeque dinner, and a silent auction will run throughout the evening. Tickets can be purchased by mail, using the form on the barn dance insert in this issue; after all services in October; and through our website (www.stpetersgv.org); they cost \$25 (adults), \$10 (children 12 and under), and \$65 (families of four or more).

To ensure the success of this event, we need the help of the entire parish. Here are some of the many ways to help:

- Invite family, friends and neighbors to come, and encourage them to bring others.
- Distribute postcards about the event to individuals and establishments that may be interested in joining us.
- Donate items for our silent auction directly or solicit them from a favorite local business. We are compiling a list of items to offer either individually or as part of a gift basket, things like gift certificates from favorite restaurants, shops, or sports venues; unused gift cards or credit card points; or plain old cash. In addition to recognition at the event, you will receive full credit for your tax-deductible donation; if you wish, we will pick up your donation.
- Become a sponsor of the event at any level (for details, see the barn dance flyer insert).
- Create something for the auction if you are an artist or artisan, or donate a painting, special craft, or collectible.
- Donate a case of beer or wine—that would be great too!

November 12 will soon be here, so please think about how you will get involved in this parish-wide event. We cannot pull it off without you! Since we anticipate about having two hundred guests for dancing and dinner, the barn dance gives us a great opportunity to work together, welcome guests to St. Peter's, and raise funds to support St. Peter's ministries and missions in the local community and beyond.

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



Barn Dance Wine Pull

A new feature at this year's barn dance is a wine pull, in which every participant will win a bottle of wine! Chances for a bottle of either red or white wine (your choice) will sell for \$20; there will be a variety of wines, each with a minimum value of \$20 and some much more. The bottle you win will be randomly chosen, and you take home a bottle of good wine that evening.

To prepare for this, we need your help. Will you contribute a bottle of wine worth at least \$20 and deposit it in one of the yellow containers in either gathering space? Alternatively, will you contribute money towards wine purchases that we will make on your behalf? For more information contact Holly Hardester (hahardester@gmail.com or 484-319-6323).

October 5
Needlework Ministry
10 a.m.

October 6
Blood Drive
8 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Blessing of the Animals
5 p.m.

October 12
Chester Children's Chorus Concert
Supper follows
4 p.m.

October 19
Interfaith *Sukkot* Celebration
10 a.m (at Beth Chaim)



OCTOBER

October 26
Kairos Outside
9:30 a.m.

October 27
All Hallows Trunk or Treat
5 to 6:30 p.m.

COMING NOVEMBER 3

All Saints Day
In-gathering Sunday
8, 9, & 11:15 a.m.
Choral Evensong
4 p.m.

- The volunteers who worked on the September Darby dinner;
- Abigail Nestlehutt for leading the holy hikes;
- All who committed to supporting the "Assistant Rector Fund," and Eileen Klein who hand-wrote thank you notes to them all;
- Everyone who participated in the Labor Day wood-splitting extravaganza;
- Gail Guthridge, Paige Infortuna, and the team members who organized Fall Fest;
- Greg Bright for organizing the vestry summer suppers and for serving as recording secretary in August;
- Donna Fabius, Eileen and Randy Klein, and Laurel Veitch for orchestrating the ministries fair;
- Robert Ryan Catering for inviting St. Peter's marketing commission and the vestry to its vendors' fair;
- The preschool children, teachers, and director whose presence enlivens St. Peter's daily;
- The adult formation, children's chapel, Sunday school, and youth group leaders;
- Dixie and Queenie Northrop for harvesting and marketing St. Peter's honey.


Thanks
from the Vestry

for All You Do

August Financial Snapshot

	August 2019	Year to Date August	Year-end Projection	Budget 2019
Parishioner Contributions	\$ 39,755	\$352,041	\$508,263	\$506,166
Other Income*	6,001	47,759	142,860	128,319
Total Income	45,756	399,800	651,123	634,485
Total Expense	51,344	435,485	656,815	634,485
Surplus/ (Deficit)	(5,588)	(35,685)	(5,692)	0

*Includes interest, rentals, endowment distributions, fundraiser

*[The finance commission has reviewed this snapshot.
Please direct any questions to its chair, Eric Lien.]*



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 Telephone: 610-644-2261 Fax: 610-644-7967
 E-mail: parishoffice@stpetersgv.org Web site: www.stpetersgv.org

The Rev. Abigail Crozier Nestlehutt, Rector
 The Rev. Chris Exley, Assistant Rector
 Dr. Bruce Glenny, Organist/Choirmaster
 Susan House, Parish Administrator
 Elizabeth Dwyer, Parish Secretary
 Leigh Pavoni, Preschool Director
 Gail Malcolm, Event Coordinator
 Liam Reid, 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.**

Every Week at St. Peter's

Sunday

8 A.M. *Holy Eucharist**
 9 A.M. *Holy Eucharist***
 *(Nursery care available**)*
 10:20 A.M. *Christian Formation, all ages***
 11:15 A.M. *Holy Eucharist**

Monday

11:30 A.M. *Rector's Atwater Walks****

Wednesday

10 A.M. *Morning Prayer & Bible Study**

Thursday

10:30 A.M. *Intercessory Prayer Group ****

Friday

7 A.M. *Gathering of Men****
 12 NOON *Parish office closes*

* Church
 ** Barn
 *** Parish House

Expanding St. Peter's Reach through Social Media

The communications commission is exploring additional ways of spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ and expanding St. Peter's visibility in the community. While personal conversation remains an effective way to spread our message, the commission also believes that using social media to expand our reach can also benefit us. So it is inviting parishioners already using social media to disseminate information that appears on St. Peter's pages via their personal social media accounts.

If you use Facebook, for example, please "like" our page. When upcoming events (like this month's Trunk or Treat and Blessing of the Animals) appear on Facebook, please share those announcements on your personal news feed. As the holiday season and all its services and special events approach, sharing that information with your circle of friends can help us spread the word about St. Peter's to an even wider audience than we currently reach.

Thank you for participating in this effort.

COMMUNITY BARN DANCE TICKET AND SPONSOR INFORMATION

<i>Community Barn Dance Sponsorship Levels</i>	
Promenade Sponsor: \$1,000 Includes: 10 tickets for the event Logo or name on any printed material, inclusion in social media, and recognition at entrance and in the event	Bonfire Sponsor: \$250 Includes: 4 tickets for the event Logo or name on any printed material, and recognition at the beverage stations
Harvest Sponsor: \$750 Includes: 8 tickets for the event Logo or name on any printed material, inclusion in social media, and recognition at the food stations	Pumpkin Sponsor: \$100 Includes: 2 tickets for the event Logo or name on any printed material, and recognition at the dessert table
Scarecrow Sponsor: \$500 Includes: 6 tickets for the event Logo or name on any printed material, inclusion in social media, and recognition at the auction table and during the live auction	<u>Individual Tickets</u> \$25 per person \$10 per child 12 and under \$65 per family of four or more Includes event admission, food, and beverage

I/WE WOULD LIKE TO ATTEND THE COMMUNITY BARN DANCE ON SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Email _____ Phone _____

NUMBER OF TICKETS NEEDED

\$25 (adult over 12) _____
\$10 (child 12 & under) _____
\$65 (family, 4 or more) _____

I/WE WOULD LIKE TO SPONSOR THE COMMUNITY BARN DANCE ON SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ 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.
St. Peter's Church in the Great Valley is a registered 501(c)3 Tax ID: 23-6265609

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 27, 2019



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.