



The Beacon

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

May 2020

Steady-state Strength

by the Rev. Abigail Crozier Nestlehutt

Being a rower in high school and college meant year-round training, which I could count on to be challenging no matter the season. Winter days brought either a test of strength, usually accomplished on an ergometer, or a test of endurance, usually accomplished in the rowing tanks. Since these sessions were just part of my life, I never thought to complain, but still I enjoyed fall and spring rowing more than winter workouts. But that was the point. Those seemingly endless indoor hours made spring racing fun because all that hard work in the gym translated into success on the water. A 2000-meter race began with a quick start and a fast 500 meters, and then settled into the middle 1000 meters before the final 500-meter sprint at the end. The exact strategy varied depending on the weather conditions, course particulars, and opponent, but the gist was the same. Start fast, end fast, and power through the middle.

These weeks of pandemic living have made me especially grateful for my time as a rower. It sounds almost silly, but even all these years later I rely on that training. I know that I can survive six two-minute pieces on an ergometer even after my legs have begun to burn and my hands to bleed and that I can survive two hours of steady-state rowing in a cement boat that goes nowhere. I know that hard work yields excellent results and that I am capable of hard work. Most importantly, I know that in a race teamwork is the essential element that gets the boat to the finish line first. How hard I pull does not matter if I do not pull in sync with the rowers in front of me and behind me. We must work together.

When physical distancing rules and then stay-at-home orders were put into place, we at St. Peter's adjusted quickly, in order to continue to offer worship and programming as fully and meaningfully as possible while also ensuring the safety of parishioners, staff, and clergy. At first this was like a sprint. We had to go hard and fast to make changes and to address new needs. I knew that eventually we would settle into the powerful pace that would get us through the longer, second stage of the pandemic, which is about where we are now. We have become more comfortable with online worship and now can add elements—music came first, then additional readers—and we will continue to adapt and offer you the very best that we can. Our usual programming is humming along in a virtual way. The additions we made immediately, noonday prayer and bedtime stories, have been well received and are continuing. Newer options like food ministry to assist our outreach partners and a weekly social hour are addressing both our call to serve and our desire to stay connected. We will continue to respond to needs, dream creatively, and be the church wherever we are.

Like you, I long to be together again and look forward to a big celebration, but I know that must wait. Restrictions will ease, gradually. We will develop meaningful, faithful, and fun-filled ways to gather in smaller groups that are safe—but not exclusive. All are welcome at St. Peter's and we will maintain that sense when the time comes to transition away from complete isolation. The next sprint is on the horizon, but right now we are in the middle part of the race. Finding new ways to live into our baptismal promises to seek, serve, and love. Powering through each day with all the strength we can muster and supported each day by God. Thank you for your support. Know of my prayers.

Noonday Prayer

To help keep us grounded at this time, Abigail and Chris offer noonday prayer virtually at 12 noon, Monday through Thursday. Please join them on Facebook Live as you are able.

Also, if you would like to spend time in either the historic church or barn for private prayer, please contact Abigail (abigail@stpetersgv.org or 410-829-4180) to schedule a time.

Centering Prayer

Abigail practices centering prayer on Tuesdays at 5 p.m.. and invites you to join her virtually. While we cannot pray together in person, we can pray together in spirit. If you want to join in prayer at that time, please email her (abigail@stpetersgv.org) so that she can connect with you during that time.

Morning Prayer and Bible Study

Throughout this stay-at-home period in our lives, we continue to gather every Wednesday at 10 a.m. for Morning Prayer and Bible study – via Zoom, of course. If you would like to start attending this gathering, just contact Chris (chris@stpetersgv.org) to learn how to join the virtual group.



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The Beacon is produced monthly by St. Peter's Church in the Great Valley
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Sunday School While We are Apart

Even though Sunday school is not meeting now that we are worshipping virtually, we are nevertheless providing the children with engaging materials that teach lessons in a fun way. Twice each week we send emails containing lessons, puzzles, games, coloring pages, activities, and more to the parents of Sunday-school-aged children. These mailings will continue until being together on Sunday mornings can resume. Anyone who wants to be added to the Sunday school email distribution list is invited to let us know at SundaySchool@stpetersgv.org.

"Good Night Moon" ... and St. Peter's

Abigail and Chris have chosen some of their favorite books and have videotaped themselves reading bedtime stories to you and your children. On our Facebook page, you can hear a different story, lasting about 5 minutes, at 7 p.m. every day of the week, so please join them when you can.

Parishioners are invited to videotape their favorite bedtime story too. If you are interested in reading a story, please contact Chris (chris@stpetersgv.org).

Virtual Book Club

The votes are in, and it seems that right now people are mostly in the mood for some light and amusing reading! So we will read or listen to *Being Dead is No Excuse: The Official Southern Ladies Guide to Hosting the Perfect Funeral* by Gayden Metcalfe and Charlotte Hays. Please confirm your participation by emailing abigail@stpetersgv.org. To allow enough time for both getting and reading the book, our first Zoom meeting will be at 5 p.m. on **May 11**.

Will You Be a Shopper?

We have some parishioners who cannot, or should not, go out to shop for groceries or pick up something they have ordered. Is this something you can do for them? Would you like to be helpful in this way that will really make a difference for someone? Please consider this and respond to Holly Hardester (hahardester@gmail.com or 484-319-6323).

Driveway and Megaphone Ministry

Even though they can't sit on your living room sofa to visit, Abigail and Chris are happy to stand on your driveway or lawn to provide some face-to-face company during our mandated isolation. If you happen to live in a fourth-floor apartment, or prefer to converse from a window, no problem—Abigail will just use her borrowed megaphone so you can hear her! That megaphone came in handy last week when she accepted an invitation to visit neighboring Echo Lake. Residents safely came out on amply spaced balconies and patios to share the visit.

But since Abigail and Chris will never show up at your home unannounced, it's up to you to let them know you would like to see them! So if you, or someone you know, would welcome a driveway visit, please contact Abigail (abigail@stpetersgv.org or 1-410-829-4180) to set a time.



Join Our Virtual BYOB Social Hour!

Once was a trial, twice a happening, three times is now a pandemic tradition—our convivial Wednesday evening Zoom social hours hosted by Abigail and Mark have caught on! Not only have they caught on, but Abigail is planning some surprises for them as well, including BYOB with the bishop, who has accepted her invitation to join us on May 6. See the article to the right about the different format of the May 13th social hour.

So pop a cork or pour some lemonade, and “Zoom” into fellowship and light-hearted conversation to relax and unwind together at 6 p.m. any Wednesday. The social hour sign-on information appears in Keynotes by Wednesday afternoon; if you don't get Keynotes, just email Abigail, who will send you the information by return email.

A Gathering of Women—at Last

After the pandemic forced us to cancel our day-long gathering in March, we hoped to hold it as an evening get-together in the parish hall on May 13. Now we are simply holding it as a Zoom gathering that evening, rather than put it off again. And while the women meet that evening during the weekly social hour, Chris will simultaneously host the men of the parish in a stag social hour.

All women in the parish are invited to this gathering and will receive instructions for connecting to Zoom and also the link a few days in advance. So mark 6 p.m. on **May 13** on your calendar, and plan to “join” us despite the pandemic! We usually begin our gathering with a light snack and a beverage of choice, so plan your at-home menu and get ready for virtual fellowship that evening from your favorite easy chair. Please contact Lynn Mander (lsmander@gmail.com or 610-613-5358) if you have questions.

Take a Well-deserved Bow, 2020 Graduates!



This year, when our graduating high school and college seniors have been deprived of so many usual celebrations, we want to celebrate their milestone accomplishment—in a socially distant way, of course. So if you were supposed to don cap and gown this month or next, please let us know (proud parents, you can do this, too). Please email Trudi Graves, the *Beacon* editor, (beacon@stpetersgv.org) by **May 18**, identifying the school conferring the diploma and any honors attached to it, and adding a few words about your post-graduation plans (e.g., the college or grad school you will attend, your intended major, your post-college employment).

Tech Support Hours in May

Chris will hold special office hours from 3 to 5 p.m. on **Monday, May 11**, to offer tech support for navigating our new virtual life at St. Peter's. You can call the office, send him an email, or confer with him via Zoom (email him first to get your link information). He is eager to help everyone make full use of the often complicated virtual tools we have adopted to maintain life at St. Peter's as normally as we can.

Taking Care of Ourselves during the Pandemic

We have assembled the video resources described below to help parishioners deal with some of the stresses of the pandemic experience. They can all be accessed at “While We Are Apart” on our website. We are also considering offering a Zoom discussion about mental health during this global pandemic time, so please contact Abigail (abigail@stpetersgv.org or 610-644-2261) if you are interested in attending such a discussion.

- Betsy Bouvel, MS, NCC, LPC, a parishioner who is a psychotherapist, shares strategies for reducing feelings of stress and anxiety.
- Parishioner Helen Ockenden, a retired registered nurse offers suggestions of things to do to make this time easier on you and your family.
- In a series called “Scenes from a Pandemic,” found at aconspiracyofyoungravens.com, parishioner Brendan Hickey gives tips for navigating a pandemic. He is a disaster and crisis mental health volunteer, an accredited suicide prevention specialist, and a school psychologist currently assisting with Covid-19 relief efforts.
- Holly O’Connell, executive director of A Path to Hope and our forum speaker who offered guidance to parents and caregivers navigating the mental healthcare system, connects us in her video with easily accessible mental health resources for those who need help in dealing with the pandemic.

A LETTER FROM BISHOP GUTIÉRREZ

Knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us. (Romans 5:3-5)

April 24, 2020

My siblings in Christ,

Alleluia! Christ Is Risen!

I would like to thank you for the beauty and faithfulness of Easter Sunday. Each Easter Service was filled with the hope of Jesus Christ. We are proving that we are innovative, creative, resilient, and faithful.

I have been meeting with the clergy on a weekly basis as news and information changes and want to ensure you have the latest developments. In Pennsylvania, there have been 37,053 Covid-19 cases and we hold in prayer the 1,421 who have passed away. We pray for family members, friends and our siblings in humanity who have lost their lives to this horrific virus.

At this time, the state has not eased the restrictions instituted in late March. Our diocese is still in danger due to our proximity to New York and New Jersey. Moreover, the guidelines for reentry have not been met. We cannot take the risk of lifting the temporary suspensions prematurely. We will discern our eventual resumption of services in coordination with health and governmental authorities. All decisions will continue to be made with knowledge, information, and prayer. Naturally, if the government/health officials change the projected dates to allow for an earlier opening, we will adapt and adjust accordingly.

It is important that we not judge our reentry based on what businesses are doing or even what other dioceses are doing. We live within a specific place and context during this pandemic and your safety is of our utmost concern. While there is an anxiousness and longing for us to return to “normal” we must be prepared that our life together may look different for the foreseeable future. However, we face these decisions knowing we are resilient and that we have Jesus Christ.

I say this because we have seen the diocese come together in ways one could not imagine five years ago. Churches are streaming services, and many are working in partnership; laity are leading prayers during the week; innovative curriculums for youth are being deployed; coffee hours are virtual; and calls to each other remain vitally important. The ministry of your clergy in this new time is uplifting as they continue to provide

[Cont. on p. 9]

Looking Ahead
by the Rev. Abigail Crozier Nestlehutt

News changes rapidly these days and it is hard to know exactly what will happen when. I cannot make precise predictions at this time, but I can assure you that as the public health situation evolves, we at St. Peter's will continue to do everything we can to offer meaningful worship and robust programming and will also be attentive to pastoral needs and the needs of the world around us. We will continue to be the church, no matter what.

Perhaps in the not too distant future, some pandemic-related restrictions may ease in some ways, and it is possible that over the summer we may be able to enjoy small gatherings or perhaps outdoor events. As time goes on, more and more options will become available, but I expect it will be many months before we can gather safely in large groups. This is a challenge for a church where Sunday mornings regularly bring over one hundred and fifty people to campus and a community that hosts special events of all shapes and sizes. But this challenge is also an opportunity for us to envision, create, love, and serve in new ways. I have some ideas and am assembling a group of people to work with me as we live into our new reality.

Our world will be forever changed by this pandemic experience. In many ways that is good news. We are learning how to do virtual worship and will now be able to offer a wider variety of options once we can gather in person again. Each of us is more aware than ever of what we consider most important, and perhaps we will not be in a hurry to fill our schedules with things that are not so important. We are more sensitive to the needs of others—to inequalities in health care, education, employment—and will emerge with more clarity about where we need to focus our attention in seeking and serving Christ in all people. We are more willing than ever to share in the responsibility for the well-being of our planet and its inhabitants. No one is glad to be living through a pandemic, but we can be strengthened by the experience.

Pentecost is May 31. It is a glorious day on the church calendar, the day when we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit and the disciples' being sent into the world to share the good news of Jesus. Please save the date. Search your closet for something red to wear—you have a whole month to choose an outfit. I am not sure what our celebration will look like. Maybe I will be able to invite you to campus for outdoor prayer, kite-flying, and picnicking at safe distances. Probably we will worship together, but still in our separate homes, and I will admire your Pentecost red at Zoom coffee hour. Maybe we will enjoy some sort of combination. I do not like the fact that I cannot make precise plans at this time, but I love knowing that all of us together will plan safely and meaningfully and will continue to be St. Peter's Church in the Great Valley where all are welcome, always, no matter what. We will dream and plan new ways of being together and always we know that we are with God.

Here's Looking at You, St. Peter's!

As we become more adept at doing Sunday worship online, we want to include more members of our parish. Since Chris and I realize that we are not the only ones who miss hearing and seeing everyone, we would like to post some photos of you during the fifteen minutes before our service starts. We have merely been showing an announcement that the service begins at 10 a.m., but now we would like to use that screen time to share photos and videos of our parish family.

So please consider sending Chris (chris@stpetersgv.org) some digital pictures or a 15- to 30-second video for us to post during the gathering time before the service. He must receive your submission no later than Thursday to be able to include it that Sunday.

Please Help Us Stay in Touch!

Right now Keynotes is our most efficient way of communicating with most of the parish, but not everyone subscribes to it. So we are asking for your help in two ways.

- If you don't receive Keynotes, please email the office (parishoffice@stpetersgv.org), and ask to be added to the list, even if only temporarily.
- If you know parishioners who do not use a computer, please let the office know so that we can get messages to them by other means.

And remember to keep an eye on the "While We're Apart" link on our website. It is an easy, one-step way to keep abreast of late-breaking changes to our virtual offerings.

Our Food Ministry in Darby and Phoenixville

The Covid-19 pandemic continues to create unanticipated situations, and now more than ever we need to reimagine our food service to accommodate the needs of those groups we serve. During this crisis we are coming face to face with the very real effects of poverty in our area: when hourly workers lose their jobs, we see how quickly food-insecure folks move from being “marginalized” to facing critical food shortages. With so great a need in so many places, we must focus our response in order to manage our resources carefully.

We have been in contact with Vicar Doris Rajagopal from the Darby Borough Mission, Gary Russell of the Phoenixville Ecumenical Meal Program (PEMP), Kathryn Evans of Church Housing, and Nina Guzman of Alianzas Phoenixville, for guidance about how we can best serve. Each of them is aware of the critical needs of individual families.

At the Darby Mission, we can not fulfill our May and June commitments as we usually do, serving dinners to over 100 people in the usually packed recreation center, since such a large crowd is unacceptable under the current circumstances. Vicar Doris suggested the possibility of doing take-out meals, but recommended the safer option of providing the most vulnerable families with gift cards to local grocery stores. The food ministry will honor Doris’ recommendation and provide her with those cards.

Phoenixville churches in the PEMP currently take turns providing daily take-out lunches, but not dinners, to 20 to 35 of the most vulnerable in the area at St. Peter’s Episcopal Church; the food pantry is now open only on Saturday and serves up to 64 shoppers. Mandated distancing precludes serving our monthly Monday night dinners, and we miss our face-to-face contact with community friends and look forward to once again interacting personally with them.

The timing of our recent canned food drive for Church Housing, led by Helen Ockenden, was perfect: Kathryn Evans appreciates the food support we gave the residents of Church Housing in Phoenixville. A combination of food support services has now stepped in and is currently filling Church Housing’s needs, so we are staying in contact with Kathryn for updates. The generosity of St. Peter’s Church in the Great Valley was awesome!

But we are still collecting donations of non-perishable food, and are now taking them from the front porch of the parish house to Alianzas de Phoenixville, a non-profit serving the Hispanic and Latino communities there. Since many of Alianza’s clients are restaurant workers and housekeepers, the pandemic has left them unemployed and facing an unanticipated need for food assistance. The Chester County Food Bank is providing Alianzas with non-perishables and some fresh vegetables, but director Nina Guzman welcomes and appreciates the additional food support that we can provide, especially rice, beans, peanut butter, and other forms of protein. Helen Ockenden invites anyone willing and able to serve as a delivery person to please contact her (helenock@verizon.net or 610-296-9451).

Inbox or Mailbox?

If receiving *The Beacon* electronically during the pandemic has made you think you would like to continue to have it delivered to your inbox rather than your mailbox after the coronavirus crisis has subsided, please let us know. Just send an email to beacon@stpetersgv.org from the email address to which we should send it; if other household members want their own electronic copies, they should do likewise. If enough people want electronic delivery, we will work on implementing this option after pandemic restrictions are eased.

Virtual Newcomer Event This Month

Covid-19 forced us to postpone our March newcomer event, but we can’t wait to welcome you to St. Peter’s any longer. When it is safe, we will invite you for a meal, but now please join us virtually at 3:30 p.m. on Sunday, May 17. Abigail, Chris, and members of the newcomer commission look forward to visiting with you, offering some information, and answering questions about St. Peter’s.

If you were new to St. Peter’s before the pandemic, have returned after some time away, or are worshipping with us virtually lately, please join us. We will email an invitation to newcomers for whom we have contact information, but all are welcome. Please RSVP to Abigail (abigail@stpetersgv.org) or to Laurel Veitch (ljveitch@comcast.net or 610-647-2957).

Annual Parish Meeting via Zoom ~ May 3

Our parish by-laws stipulate that “the annual meeting of the Corporation and the election of vestrypersons shall be held in the Church edifice or such adjacent building of the Corporation at the discretion of the vestry within thirty days after Easter Sunday each year.” On March 31, the vestry voted to suspend this provision for the annual meeting scheduled for May 3, 2020 to enable us to meet virtually, via Zoom, and thus abide by restrictions necessitated by the Covid-19 pandemic.

The parish by-laws define eligible voters at this meeting as “all confirmed persons of the age of eighteen years or upwards who shall have been worshipers in the Church as their usual place of worship for at least one year.” If you have a question about your eligibility to vote, please contact our parish administrator, Susan House. You must be present at the virtual meeting to vote, unless you requested an absentee ballot beforehand.

The nominating committee (Greg Bright, Donna Fabius, Gail Guthridge, Charlene Hanbury, Holly Hardester, Joe Herbst, Steve Mark, and Wilson Smith) proposed the following slate to serve as the vestry class of 2023: Mark Clark, Mike Harman, Lyndsay Knupp, and Dave Lockner. (See their biographies below.)

Please plan to join us on Zoom at the end of the live-streamed service at 10 a.m. for this important event in our parish life. *We have much good news to share and celebrate, and hope to see you virtually on May 3.*



Mark Clark

Mark came to St. Peter’s in 2016 after spending thirty years in Arizona as a police officer. He immediately found a home with the “bad boys and girls,” working in fellowship to help keep the magnificent property and historic structures beautiful for the community.

A resident of the Atwater community, Mark works at the Great Valley Corporate Center as a chief operations officer for a nonprofit leadership training association. He shares his life with his fiancée Sherry, who is a nurse at a local hospital. His two adult daughters attend college out of state and enjoy visiting the church whenever they are in town.

Mike Harman

In 2014 my wife asked me to drive her to the preschool rummage sale, and while there I was invited to come to a Sunday service. Since I had been looking for a church home, I decided to attend an 8 a.m. service in the historic church. Both the Colemans and the Ekbergs made me feel so welcome that I have attended ever since.

Now retired, I worked for over 44 years as a special education aide, teacher, supervisor, director, and state auditor. I worked at the Chester County IU, Coatesville Area School District, Downingtown Area School District, and the PA Department of Education. I now work part-time in special education.

Lyndsay Knupp

Lyndsay first came to St. Peter’s in 2015 via the preschool. Since then, her family has enjoyed the strong sense of community that St. Peter’s offers. She spends most of her time adventuring with her young family and also works part-time in marketing analytics within executive education. At St. Peter’s, she has been involved with Vacation Bible School and children’s chapel and serves as a Green Steward.

Lyndsay and Peter have lived in West Chester with their three children for the past five years.

Dave Lockner

In 2005 Jeanne and I were looking for a place of worship and came to St. Peter’s on Christmas Eve. Over the next few visits we were warmly welcomed by many who shared with us their excitement about St. Peter’s; we were impressed by the many volunteer opportunities, groups, and ministries here. We knew this would become our new church family. We felt at home, and in the summer of 2006 our son was baptized here. At St. Peter’s I have been a member and also chair of the Endowment Commission, volunteered as a Christian formation teacher, and helped with various youth group activities.

I have degrees in finance and work in the finance group of a large institution. My interests are sports and outdoor activities with family and friends, especially fishing with my son. I look forward to serving St. Peter’s in a new role.

- The parish for “showing up” online and embracing new ways of doing things;
- Choir members Ryan Battin, Adella Brady, Ian Brady, Mario Delano, Julie Ferris, Kate Mallon-Day, Denise Shannon, and Michael Trycieckyj, and choirmaster Bruce Glenney who skillfully and creatively provide beautiful music for our virtual worship;
- Abigail Nestlehutt and Chris Exley for leading virtual worship on Sunday morning and weekdays at noon, for virtual Bible study and morning prayer on Wednesdays, and for virtual coffee hours; for their steady, consistent, outstanding leadership; and for their teamwork with the staff, who help make all things possible;
- Holly Hardester for leading Sunday school long distance;
- Liam Reid for sharing his video production skills and Mark Clark for his assistance with filming;
- The young people of the parish for reading the Passion of our Lord on Palm Sunday;
- The Bright family for their Easter appearance, Jason and Beth Hacker for their Bach duet on Easter, and Katie Franz for compiling the Eastertide litany;
- Chris Exley, who orchestrated the virtual Easter egg hunt via drone, and Sandy Mannix, who tipped off a local television news outlet about it (did you catch it on channel 10?);
- Linda Holden for advertising our virtual Easter service in Patch;
- Mark Clark, who carved the log bench along the exit road and crafted Adirondack chairs from wood scraps;
- The Bad Boys and Patti Conway, for clearing debris along the exit road and creating a garden;
- Helen Ockenden for organizing the pandemic food drive;
- Our parishioners for keeping their pledges current at this critical time and for their ongoing support and dedication;
- Finance commission members Joe Herbst, Paige Infortuna, Peter Kreek, Eric Lien, and Wilson Smith, and parish administrator Susan House, for composing our application for a small business loan to the Paycheck Protection Program of the CARES act.
- Outgoing vestry members – Greg Bright, Donna Fabius, Charlene Hanbury, Wilson Smith, and youth representative Callie Stoltz – for their leadership over the last three years.


Thanks
from the Vestry

for All You Do

March Financial Snapshot

	March 2020	Year to Date March	Year-end Projection	Budget 2020
Parishioner Contributions	\$ 68,020	\$189,231	\$605,022	\$611,305
Other Income*	3,262	12,762	132,989	135,190
Total Income	71,282	201,993	738,011	746,495
Total Expense	58,013	180,037	738,624	746,495
Surplus/ (Deficit)	13,269	21,956	(613)	0

**Interest, rentals, endowment distributions, fundraiser*

The finance commission thanks all parishioners who have faithfully kept their pledge payments up to date during this trying and unusual time. Pledges may be paid by sending a check to the church office or electronically (contact either the office or Mary Ann Tatum for details). As treasurer Peter Kreek’s snapshot above indicates, we currently project a balanced budget at the end of the year. But this may change substantially, and the finance commission is maintaining a vigilant eye on the budget as we move through the year. — *Eric Lien*

May 2
Needlework ministry (Zoom)
10 a.m.

May 3
Annual parish meeting (Zoom)
after the 10 a.m. service

May 6
Zoom social hour
6 p.m.

May 11
Tech help with Chris
3 to 5 p.m.
Zoom book club
5 p.m.

MAY



May 13
Women's social hour
Men's social hour
(Zoom)
6 p.m.

May 17
Newcomer event (Zoom)
3:30 p.m.

May 20
Zoom social hour
6 p.m.

May 27
Zoom social hour
6 p.m.

May 31
Pentecost – wear red!
10 a.m. (Facebook Live)
*Our full weekly schedule of virtual
worship offerings appears on page 10.*

[Bishop's letter, cont. from p. 4]

pastoral care, create innovative liturgy, and reach out to those who are isolated. You have had an opportunity to see, from a new perspective, their dedication to prayer, their commitment to preaching and teaching, their willingness to explore new ideas, and most importantly their love for each of you.

Due to our reliance on the health authorities and government for direction, and after consultation with diocesan leadership, I suspect that the restrictions on in-person worship will last into June. Thus, we will continue with the broadcast of video live-streaming of the Daily Offices and Holy Eucharist.

As we look to the future, we can see that this virus will continue to affect our lives for the next 18 months. We will have numerous challenges over this time, and we are now busily preparing for what is to come. There will be a period of re-entry. Safety protocols will still need to be followed; gatherings will start out small, and will come in phases, with some areas starting re-entry before others.

I will be with you all along the way, updating you as things change, and I will coordinate with your clergy and leadership if the conditions for reentry are met. Recently, I have asked clergy to meet with their vestries, and in May will provide a detailed plan and accompanying criteria regarding the next critical phases.

My ministry is committed to supporting you pastorally as well as working with diocesan leaders as we journey into the next phase of life amid the pandemic. I am in meetings with other bishops and governmental leaders and health officials on every level. While I lament not being able to be with you in person, I will continue to lead worship including on Sundays and for parts of the Daily Office. We will also be launching a weekly diocesan Bible study that I will help to lead.

The staff continues to be proactive reaching out to support our clergy and lay leaders. They are coordinating food ministry, fielding questions about the CARES Act, trouble-shooting problems with social media platforms and technology, and leading worship at churches that have no clergy. They also help to ensure that our website has all the current information and relevant resources.

The Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania has demonstrated to the entire Church our profound hope and belief in the power of Jesus Christ to make things new. Our resiliency, our bonds of community and faith has defined us in the past six weeks; and that makes me all the more confident that we are prepared to face whatever challenges lie ahead. We have traveled this far and although we face challenges ahead, we will persevere; for hope does not disappoint.

Please continue to pray for one another. Check on one another, love one another and let us ground our entire being in the one who makes things new – Jesus Christ.

Alleluia! Christ Is Risen!

Easter Blessings,
*Bishop Daniel



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 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
 June Beacon
 is May 18.

Every PANDEMIC Week at St. Peter's

Sunday

10 A.M. *Live-streamed Morning Prayer**
*Virtual coffee hour***
 5 P.M. *Youth Group***

Monday thru Thursday

12 NOON *Live-streamed Noon Prayer**

Wednesday

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

Thursday

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

Daily

7 P.M. *Storytime with Abigail & Chris**

* Facebook Live or Website
 ** Zoom

To reach the staff, call the office and leave a message if no one answers, or send an email. We are working from home as much as possible and check for messages frequently. Thank you for your patience as we follow "WFH" directives, and please know that we love to hear from you.



Please help us prepare a truly celebratory Pentecost service on May 31 by:

- donning your red attire (or accessory) and taking a picture of yourself in it to send to Chris (chris@stpetersgv.org),
- and, if you are fluent in another language and willing and able to create a video recording of yourself reading Acts 2:1-11 in that language, please let Abigail know (abigail@stpetersgv.org).

We must receive both the photo and the recording by Thursday, May 28.