



# *The Beacon*

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

*July 2021*

## ***Refreshment and Renewal***

*by the Rev. Abigail Crozier Nestlehutt*

The rotary at the Sagamore Bridge was outdated by the 1980s and so it became typical to encounter gridlock on the way to Cape Cod. This was especially true on weekends when rentals were changing over. As a result, my first trip to Chatham, at the age of 8, felt endless. Eventually we reached our destination at the end of a narrow, bumpy dirt road and the misery of traffic melted away. I was enchanted. After spending many winter hours looking for a summer rental, my mother had found the perfect place: a summer cottage overlooking Pleasant Bay, with trumpet vines flourishing on an weathered wooden archway that led to the back door. We shared the outdoor shower with toads and only used the bathtub when we needed to wash caked-on dirt off our feet after dancing at the Friday night band concert.

We spent two glorious summers at that house, and since then I have discovered other delights at ends of little serendipitous streets. The diocesan summer camp where I served as a counselor during the ordination process. The almost hidden Chesapeake Bay beach strewn with sea glass treasures. The grand but inviting home of dear friends. I have come to expect that dirt roads lead to good things that often (but not always) include rest.

This month the dirt road I follow will lead me to my parents' home on Nantucket. The potholes and encroaching foliage that we must navigate to reach the place make it all the more special in my mind. I am glad that this year we can greet each other with hugs and enjoy meals around a table together. There will be rainy days for reading and visiting the whaling museum; there will be days when the sun pours through the curtain-less windows and beckons us to early morning walks on the beach. I will be treated to water views while I log my running miles. And sometimes I will do nothing.

Quite honestly, I am tired. My heart is full of hope and gratefulness. I am excited for all that is ahead, but also I need to rest. Maybe you do as well. The parish calendar is intentionally light this month. We will continue to offer beautiful, meaningful worship. We will continue to live into our call to serve others through our outreach ministries. We will continue to gather for fellowship that deepens relationships. In the pages that follow you will find details and you will see that there is enough for you to engage in, but not so much that the programming feels hectic.

As I look back, it seems that every summer I encourage respite. This year is a little different, and I encourage you to pray about the experiences of the past year and your hopes going forward.. As I have done before, I offer you this, from the *Book of Common Prayer*:

O God, in the course of this busy life, give us times of refreshment and peace; and grant that we may so use our leisure to rebuild our bodies and renew our minds, that our spirits may be opened to the goodness of your creation through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## July Holy Hike



Holy Hiking

Plan to join Abigail on a peaceful, late afternoon hike along the shady Valley Creek trail in Valley Forge Park on Sunday, **July 25**. With prayers and readings offered along the way, we will walk worshipfully with fellow parishioners on the basically flat creekside trail among trees and wildflowers, with birds and the creek providing musical accompaniment. We will meet at 4 p.m. in the parking lot on Yellow Springs Road (just west of the covered bridge along route 252).

Please use the sign-up link that will appear in Keynotes, or let Abigail know ([abigail@stpetersgv.org](mailto:abigail@stpetersgv.org) or 610-644-2261) that you are planning to attend.

### *Movies on the Lawn Return*

Having sensed a desire to turn an event that started last year into a new tradition, on Saturday evening, **July 3**, we will once again air *1776: The Musical* outdoors in the rector's grove, beginning at 8:45 p.m. We will project it on our inflatable screen and hear it on the powerful new speakers we acquired since last summer. Just bring whatever seating paraphernalia your family prefers and whatever snacks please your family's palate.



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

*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



On **Sunday, July 4**, trumpeter Peter Neu returns to accompany our 10 a.m. worship service on Independence Day.

### **WANTED:**

#### *Adults to Help at Youth Jam*

As you have no doubt heard, the diocese asked St. Peter's to host the first ever diocesan summer Youth Jam from 1 to 4 p.m. on **July 10**. To carry this off well, we need help from adult parishioners—parents of teens and non-parents alike! Although our young people will play host and welcome their peers, the diocese has made it clear that this is all that our youthful hosts should do; our young people should otherwise be *attendees* at the event, not workers at it. The point of the event is that *all* the youth of the diocese have fun with each other.

This is where you adults in the parish come in: we need volunteers to handle the logistics of the event. Before it starts we need help with set-up; as guests arrive, we need people to direct arriving guests to the parking and also to where all the fun is located, behind the barn; at the end, we will need some help dismantling the set-up. If you are willing and able to help that day, please email Chris ([chris@stpetersgv.org](mailto:chris@stpetersgv.org)).

*To the wonderful people of St. Peter's Church in the Great Valley:*

*I can't thank you enough for the retirement celebration. The cards, the notes, the gifts, the calls and emails, and the purse, are all totally overwhelming and so appreciated. The past 25 years have been such a joy for me. Together we have seen weddings, baptisms, graduations, and funerals. We have laughed and cried and through it all have worshipped. You have built a beautiful new building while maintaining your history. You have landscaped this amazing campus so that it can be used and appreciated by many outside its usual reach.*

*This is such a special place, high up on its holy hill, and so many of you participate in so many ways to do God's will in our community and beyond. Your outreach to the poor, the needy and the hungry, your stewardship of this amazing 16 acres, your care for each other and for your clergy and staff are amazing. Thank you for all you do every day to make Jesus known.*

*You have certainly made me feel loved and a part of St. Peter's special family. I will miss all of you so much and I just want you to know how much I have appreciated your being God's hands and feet in this place, ministering to those around you and to me. You have seen me through bad times and good with your words of encouragement and your prayers. I can't tell you how much that has meant to me and to my family over the years. God bless you for all you do. St. Peter's is a living breathing beacon to the love of Christ because of all of you.*

*Susan*



*Honoring Susan House with gifts from the parish and . . . a celebratory confection, of course!*



## Diocesan Youth Jam

Hey, guys, it's almost here—the first ever diocese-wide Youth Jam, on **Saturday afternoon, July 10!** The diocese has ordered tee-shirts for St. Peter's young people, the official hosts of the this event, which will include a variety of foods and treats, a DJ, both a water slide and a slip-n-slide, and lots of other games and activities! Even though our youth group will be greeters and and welcomers, the folks at the diocese want St. Peter's youth to mingle and have fun that day and to do nothing but welcome their peers in the diocese.

## Youth Group Activities

The youth group is now on its reduced summer schedule, and will meet at 6 p.m. **on July 14** and at 5 p.m. on August 1, both via Zoom. (Chris will be on vacation from July 18 to 31.) The next movie night in our Marvel movie series will be August 8.

Speaking of planning, we have begun to think about our 2022 youth mission trip, a reprise of the one slated for the summer of 2021 that the pandemic forced us to cancel. Next summer we intend to fulfill the original plan to travel to the Navajoland diocese with other young people from the diocese. Chris is working with Canon Betsy Ivey and other diocesan youth leaders on the logistics of the trip, and here at home, our youth group is planning some fundraisers for it. Be on the lookout for more information in the coming months.

## Dismantling Racism Update

The virtual *Dismantling Racism* program this summer for young people thirteen and over has been postponed until the fall. We are working to identify dates when we can offer it in its original, in-person format, so be on the lookout for these dates (most likely in November).

## Youth Sunday Recap

Our young people did a magnificent job of leading youth Sunday. Special thanks go to Emma Campagna for preaching, Abigail and Emily Hacker for their vocal duet, Tommy Lockner for presiding, and Rebekah Campagna, Cathryn Cheetham, Honor Nestlehutt, and Callie Stoltz for reading.

## Sunday School Update

The Sunday school teachers and parents had a productive brainstorming and planning meeting, at which they discussed how best to offer this vital ministry to St. Peter's youngest members. The group also developed a survey which they encourage **everyone** in the parish to respond to, not just the parents of Sunday-school-age children. You will receive the link to the online survey by the first of July. Those who prefer to respond in writing are invited to call Chris (610-644-2261) to request a paper copy that can be filled in and returned to the parish office.

This is an opportunity for all of us to participate in the conversation about how to offer a robust program to the children of the parish. We cannot do it alone, nor can we do it without your voice.

## Vacation Bible School

The time slot for VBS has been decided! It will take place each morning from August 16 through August 20. That's the good news.



The not-so-good news is that so far only a few people have indicated their availability to help make VBS happen, and only one family has indicated that its children may be able to attend. Now that the time slot is set, we hope more of you will be able to indicate both that your children will attend and that you will be able to help!

If you can help (having a young child is not a prerequisite, by the way), or if your children want to attend, please contact Chris as soon as possible by calling the office or by email ([chris@stpetersgv.org](mailto:chris@stpetersgv.org)).



## Sacred Ground: *A New Way of Conversing about Race*

This fall, St. Peter's Church and St. David's Church are partnering to offer *Sacred Ground* to enable members of both historic colonial parishes to continue to explore racial challenges in conversation with each other. Just what is *Sacred Ground*, you ask? As its website explains, it is a ten-part dialogue about race, grounded in faith, that our national church developed as part of "Becoming Beloved Community," its long-term commitment to racial healing, reconciliation, and justice in our personal lives, ministries, and society.

Conceived and designed to help small groups of White people talk about race with each other, the series draws upon a variety of documentary films and readings, all available online, that focus on Indigenous, Black, Latino, and Asian/Pacific American histories as they intersect with European American histories. It invites participants to peel away the layers that have accumulated over time and have contributed to the challenges and divides of the present day—while remaining grounded in our call as Episcopalians to faith, hope, and love. If you want to learn more about *Sacred Ground*, we encourage you to visit [www.episcopalchurch.org/sacred-ground](http://www.episcopalchurch.org/sacred-ground), where you will also find a video message from our Presiding Bishop about the significance of this program.

To develop community, connection, and deep dialogue, the leadership team of this joint undertaking (which includes Abigail and Trudi Graves) plans to create small groups comprised of members of both parishes and facilitated by a pair of table leaders, one from each parish. The series begins and ends with a service for all participants; the opening one is slated for September 19 at St. Peter's and the closing one for February 27 at St. David's. Between those dates, groups of eight to twelve will meet every two weeks from late September until the beginning of Lent, except for a break during Advent and Christmastide.

To help the team gauge parishioner interest and availability, we are asking you to please complete our interest survey if you think you would like to participate in this program. Your responses will help us anticipate how many virtual and in-person groups to plan for and which time slots are most appealing. By answering these two questions, you are not signing up for the program; you are merely indicating your interest in participating and which scheduling options work for you. Sign-ups will come later in the summer, after your responses to these short questions have given us the information we need to proceed with scheduling.

To respond to the questionnaire, you can use either the electronic version that you will receive via Keynotes or, if you prefer, you can mail the questionnaire below to the parish office, in care of Rachel Swartz. Thank you for your input. If you have questions about this series, please contact Trudi Graves ([gertrude.graves@villanova.edu](mailto:gertrude.graves@villanova.edu)).



### *Sacred Ground Interest Survey*

If you think you would like to participate in this series, please respond to these questions and mail this to the parish office, in care of Rachel Swartz:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address or phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

I am interested in attending on (check as many as work for you):

- \_\_\_\_\_ Tuesdays, mid-day, in person
- \_\_\_\_\_ Tuesdays, mid-day, virtual
- \_\_\_\_\_ Wednesday evenings, in person
- \_\_\_\_\_ Wednesday evenings, virtual

If you prefer in-person meetings only, where would you like them to be held?

- \_\_\_\_\_ At St. Peter's
- \_\_\_\_\_ At St. David's
- \_\_\_\_\_ In a parishioner's home near either parish
- \_\_\_\_\_ I am happy to attend at any of these locations



## *Picnic Fun, Games, and Food on a Glorious Pentecost Sunday*





## *Outreach*

### *A Trinity Quiz for Everyone*

1. Is it acceptable for low-income families to pay over \$1,000 for poorly maintained, one-bedroom apartments and for a mother to sleep on a couch while her children share the only bedroom?
2. Does Habitat for Humanity offer a housing alternative for low-income families willing to invest 200+ hours of “sweat equity”?
3. Can you spare a few hours wielding a hammer, saw, power tool, or paint brush at a new construction site in Cambridge Terrace in Coatesville?

Please send your answers to Randy Klein ([randolphklein@hotmail.com](mailto:randolphklein@hotmail.com)), especially your affirmative response to the third question. Experience is useful, but not required to volunteer for Habitat, as long as you are willing to learn. This outreach opportunity is available to anyone in the congregation who is at least 16 years old—and there’s no upper age limit! Now that pandemic restrictions have been lifted, St. Peter’s is looking forward to resuming its work with Habitat for Humanity, and welcomes new volunteers.

### *Three Franklinias Grow in the Churchyard*

When St. Peter’s was in its infancy, Benjamin Franklin and John Bartram were two highly visible colonial-era Philadelphians. While Ben Franklin needs no introduction, horticulturalist, botanist, and explorer John Bartram is not quite as familiar to many of us. He traveled throughout colonial America, collecting specimens of trees and other botanicals and brought them back to Philadelphia to study them.

Among them was a hitherto unidentified tree that Bartram found in Georgia that he decided to name *Franklinia*, in honor of Benjamin Franklin. No other specimen like it has been found in the wild since the eighteenth century, but thanks to Bartram’s propagation of the tree, we still see and enjoy *Franklinias* today. They are especially prized for their camelia-like blossoms and their honeysuckle- or orange-like fragrance.

Three *Franklinias* now grace St. Peter’s grounds. Appropriately, the one planted in front of the historic church is a memorial to Benjamin Franklin, and the one on the lawn near the labyrinth is a memorial to John Bartram. The third, a memorial to two friends of the parishioner who donated the trees, is planted along the exit road from the barn parking lot.

### *Help Wanted*

Our “Episcopal Church welcomes you” sign on southbound 252 (just before the corner of Swedesford Road) needs some help! Thanks to some kind of traffic mishap and also to the lush weed growth around it, the sign, which is bent at a 45° degree angle, is both invisible and illegible and cannot welcome anyone to St. Peter’s.

It is in dire need of a few volunteers to return the signpost to its more or less upright position and to clear away the brush now enshrouding the welcoming words. If you would like to help St. Peter’s truly welcome drivers traveling on route 252, please let Chris know ([chris@stpetersgv.org](mailto:chris@stpetersgv.org)).

### *Gathering of Women*

The gathering of women is on summer holiday and will resume in September; dates will appear in the August *Beacon*. Many thanks to Lynn Mander for organizing this ministry and to all who came out for the first two in-person women’s gatherings this spring.

## ***“Rise and Shine and Give God your Glory, Glory!”***

*by Jan Himmelreich*

If you ever attended summer camp or were into scouting, you probably recognize those words as the title and chorus of a song about being Children of the Lord! These same words are the theme the stewardship commission has chosen for the coming year, as we explore together what stewardship means for St. Peter’s parishioners. Traditionally, stewardship has connoted “pledging” season for most of us—sharing our treasure. Indeed, sharing our treasure is critically important to supporting our mission of being a welcoming and inclusive place where followers of Jesus Christ “nurture people of all ages in the knowledge and love of God . . . and make Him known in the wider community.” Since stewardship is also about sharing our time and talents, however, we will celebrate this year’s stewardship season all year long.

Although the pandemic certainly has had some major downsides, it helped us acquire valuable skills that enable us to share our time and talent virtually. Our wonderful clergy, staff, and volunteers quickly learned how to broadcast services live, have the choir sing together but from the safety of home, continue sharing our blessings both tangibly and virtually with the community missions, support one another and ourselves through Bible study and pub- and popcorn-theology evenings, and even play bingo with each other virtually. The year was challenging, but we met the challenge together!

To capitalize on the knowledge and expertise we have gained and continue to expand our stewardship capabilities, the commission is working on identifying a user-friendly mobile app that will give anyone with a smartphone an easy way to connect with St. Peter’s about almost anything. The commission is collaborating in this search with parishioners involved in communications, service, ministry, and scheduling. Having this app will enable us to conduct our church lives just as easily as we can select, finance, and order a car from home these days!

Imagine the possibilities once we find the right mobile app! You will be able to easily access so much information: meeting schedules, the fellowship-hosting calendar, the contact person for giving altar memorials, activities in Christian formation, the current status of your pledge, information about the scriptures discussed in Bible study, St. Peter’s efforts to combat climate change, *and, last but not least*, whom to contact to volunteer for ministries you want to get involved in. If you have ideas or suggestions about this undertaking, please send them to me ([himmeljk@gmail.com](mailto:himmeljk@gmail.com)), so that I can share them with the members of stewardship commission (Katharine Campbell, Charlene Hanbury, Helen Ockenden, and vestry liaisons Mike Harman and Lyndsay Knupp).

The plan is to have the new, state-of-the-art app, along with instructions for using it, in place by the program year kick-off on September 12. Watch for more information in *The Beacon*, Keynotes, and, if you wish, a letter or notice that comes through the mail. Have a wonderful, fun-filled, and safe summer! “Rise and Shine and Give God Your Glory, Glory!”



### **SPOTLIGHT on the OUTREACH COMMISSION**

Our mission is to love our neighbor in the wider community as the body of Christ by facilitating direct involvement or financial support for those in need. Members, identified below by their key ministries, function as co-chairs on this commission, with additional leadership of specific projects provided by “friends of outreach.”

Members: Linda Huggler (The Clinic & Church Housing), Eileen Klein (food ministry), Randy Klein (Habitat for Humanity), Kate Mallon-Day (Chester Children’s Chorus), Brenda Grove (St. James School), Gail Guthridge, and Nancy Wilson.



**July 3**  
Needlework ministry  
10 a.m. (Zoom)  
Parish movie night,  
*1776: The Musical*  
8:45 p.m.

**July 4**  
Independence Day worship  
with Peter Neu, trumpet, at 10 a.m.



**July 10**  
Youth Jam  
1 to 4 p.m.

**July 14**  
Youth group  
6 p.m. (Zoom)

**July 25**  
Holy hike  
4 p.m. (at Valley Forge)

*Note: No Atwater walks on July 5 and 12*

- Susan House for her twenty-five years of service to St. Peter's;
- Melissa Shaner, who led adult formation this year;
- The two anonymous donors of a commercial dishwasher for the kitchen in the historic church building;
- Laurel Veitch for overseeing the administrative details involved in welcoming our new parish administrator;
- Dave Lockner, for his research and work with the Verizon team to ensure the proper installation of our new phone system, and Mark Clark, for his participation in the initial research and investigation;
- Michael Smith and Steve Barthelemy who helped set up the Pentecost Sunday picnic, Eileen Klein who arranged for the cupcakes, and Gail Guthridge who helped plan it;
- Lynn Mander for leading the Gathering of Women, especially the two in-person meetings, and Holly Hardester for preparing information about the labyrinth for the June gathering;
- Jason Hacker, who staged the sumptuous reception for Susan House, and Emily and Abigail Hacker, Patti Hagstrom, and Eileen Klein, who helped him;
- Chris Exley and Holly Hardester for leading the group developing the coming year's Sunday school program;
- Chris Exley for guiding the young people who participated in Youth Sunday, for his work on Youth Jamboree, and for investing in our youth leaders.



### ***May Financial Snapshot***

	<b>May 2021</b>	<b>Year to Date May</b>	<b>Year-end Projection</b>	<b>Budget 2021</b>
Parishioner Contributions	\$ 36,773	\$288,618	\$590,045	\$555,000
Other Income*	25,201	61,582	147,976	123,150
Total Income	61,974	350,199	738,020	678,150
Total Expense	58,958	301,710	701,661	678,150
Surplus/ (Deficit)	3,016	48,489	36,359	0

*\*Interest, rentals, endowment distributions, fundraiser, PPP funds*

We had a strong financial month in May, primarily because of funds from the Payroll Protection Plan (PPP). In other news, St. Peter's decided that it is fiscally responsible to outsource its bookkeeping and payroll processing upon the retirement of Susan House.

The commission thanks you for your ongoing support. Remember that although we go on vacation in the summer, the expenses of the church do not! So please help us by keeping up with your pledge during this laid-back season of leisure. Thank you. *—Eric Lien for the finance commission*



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The Rev. Abigail Crozier Nestlehutt, Rector  
 The Rev. Christopher W. Exley, Assistant Rector  
 Dr. Bruce Glenny, Organist/Choirmaster  
 Rachel Martin Swartz, Parish Administrator  
 Denise Nuttall, 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  
 August Beacon is  
**July 15.**

### ***Weekly Summer Offerings at St. Peter's***

#### ***Sunday***

**8 A.M.**      ***Sunday Eucharist\****  
**10 A.M.**      ***Sunday Eucharist\*\****  
**11 A.M.**      ***Lemonade on the Lawn\****  
                     ***Youth Group (as announced)***

#### ***Monday thru Thursday***

**12 NOON**      ***Noonday Prayer\*\*\****

#### ***Wednesday***

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

#### ***Thursday***

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

#### ***Friday***

**8 A.M.**      ***Gathering of Men\*/\*\*\* (alternately)***

\* In person  
 \*\* In person and virtual  
 \*\*\* Virtual

**The parish office is open Monday through Thursday, from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Please note that it is closed on Friday. If you need assistance when the office is closed, please contact the rector via cell.**



*Where's our retiring head of children's Christian formation? There's Holly, almost hidden behind the blanket the Sunday school children created to thank her!*