

The Beacon

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

June/July 2024

Here Am I

by the Rev. Abigail Crozier Nestlehutt

By mid-June the thick, dusty, yellow pollen that coats cars and gets stuck in throats has mostly finished falling. By mid-June end-of-school year events and other spring happenings that create chaos in precariously balanced schedules have wound down. By mid-June the church calendar is in the season after Pentecost, “ordinary time,” the green season. In the upcoming weeks of summer there are no Sunday feast days or major church holidays. Instead, just as the rest of the world seems to slow down a bit, in the church we turn our attention to the serious business of what it means to be a follower of Jesus, an ordinary, everyday follower of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

It all began with two stories of call. The first came in the commissioning of the prophet Isaiah, as we read on the Sunday after Pentecost.

“Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. The seraph touched my mouth with it and said: ‘Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out.’ Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, ‘Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?’ And I said, ‘Here am I; send me!’” *Isaiah 6:6-8*

The next Sunday, we heard the call of Samuel. Three times the boy does not understand what he hears. Finally, instructed by the elder Eli, he does.

“Now the Lord came and stood there, calling as before, ‘Samuel! Samuel!’ And Samuel said, ‘Speak, for your servant is listening.’” *1 Samuel 3:10*

These lessons prepare us to hear throughout the summer Jesus’ instructions, parables, pronouncements and challenging questions. The Gospel stories might seem incongruous with the relaxed pace of the season, but maybe the timing is perfect. Maybe now is when we can best hear them and respond. If the days of June and July have a little spaciousness, maybe you have time to consider Jesus’ teaching anew, to pause and breathe and then to look and listen for the divine.

I encourage you to read the following pages, thinking about how you are being called to be involved, find nourishment and serve. Our summer programming is designed to provide accessible ways to build relationships, deepen connections, and care for others. There is something extraordinary about this ordinary time. Please join us. Embrace, enjoy and share the life, love and hope of Christ.

Summer Schedule

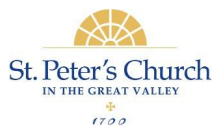
Our summer worship schedule, with services **in the historic church** at 8 a.m. (Rite I) and 10 a.m. (Rite II), began on May 26, the Sunday of Memorial Day weekend, and will continue until September. As always, the first Sundays of the month have one combined service at 10 a.m.

Third Wednesdays at Our Third Place

6:00-7:30

June 19, July 17, August 21

As places where connections are made through relaxed conversation with familiar faces as well as new acquaintances, “third places” are essential to the common good. At St. Peter’s we are embracing the ways in which we can be a “third place” and are again offering a series of Third Wednesday Third Place events this summer. They are designed for all ages to have fun experiences, including dinner, and to fit easily into your schedule. We hope to see you and encourage you to invite a friend. To help us with planning, please let Abigail know you plan to attend by emailing abigail@stpetersgv.org, calling 610-644-2261, or signing up after a service. If you are able to attend at the last minute, please come, regardless of whether you have signed up. We are also looking for ideas, inspiration, and help for the July and August events! Please contact us with your ideas about how to build community in the summer.



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The Beacon is produced monthly by
St. Peter’s Church in the Great Valley
2475 St. Peter’s Road, Malvern, PA 19355
Phone: 610-644-2261
E-mail: parishoffice@stpetersgv.org
Web site: www.stpetersgv.org

Submissions are invited and are subject to editing.
Submit articles to beacon@stpetersgv.org
Publication date: First of month
Deadline: 15th of month preceding
Staff: Trudi Graves (editor), Charlotte Mark,
David Graves

Game Night is Back!

Wednesday, June 19

6-7:30 p.m.

Barn

Join us in the lower level of the barn for an evening of board games, lawn games, parlor games, card games – whatever you want to play! Jeff will be at the grill, and if you are able to bring a side or dessert to share, we would appreciate it. But most importantly, bring yourselves, bring friends, bring games – this is a great opportunity to invite people to St. Peter's for some summer fun. All ages are welcome – there will be a special scavenger hunt for kids!

Contact Seretha (slcurry@stpetersgv.org) or Melissa Shaner (myshaner@verizon.net) with any questions, and fill out the sign-up sheet in the church if you can.

The Path Ahead



Join us in the historic church on the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Thursdays in June and July from 12:30-2:00 for a shared conversation exploring the challenges and rewards of aging within a spiritual context. If you find yourself approaching retirement, or desiring a richer and more meaningful retirement experience, The Path Ahead is for you. If you are confronted with the deep questions of life, The Path Ahead is for you.

The Path Ahead: Spirituality & Purpose in Later Life is a six-week curriculum on the spirituality of aging developed by Seabury Resources for Aging in partnership with the Episcopal Diocese of Washington, DC. Click [here](#) for a brief introductory video.

Content and conversation will:

1. Build community among older adults;
2. Foster spiritual well being;
3. Name the value of age and identify our significance;
4. Highlight the spiritual value of “letting go,” a shift in focus from “doing” to “being”;
5. Identify opportunities for meaning and purpose;
6. Identify and provide resources for deeper exploration of related topics.

For more information and/or to register, contact Jeff Moretzsohn at jeff@stpetersgv.org or 610-520-5085 (cell).

April Financial Snapshot

	April 2024	Year to Date April	Year-end Projection	Budget 2024
Parishioner Contributions	\$ 71,517	\$194,113	\$523,235	\$494,526
Other Income*	11,084	29,798	135,268	137,615
Total Income	82,601	223,911	658,503	632,141
Total Expense	46,067	210,595	637,982	632,128
Surplus / (Deficit)	36,534	13,316	20,521	13

**Interest, rentals, endowment distributions*

Holy Hike

On Sunday, June 23 at 4:00 p.m, you are invited to a peaceful walk along Valley Forge Creek with prayers and readings along the way. Enjoy worshipful walking with fellow parishioners in a lovely setting. Please look for a sign-up link in Keynotes or email Abigail at abigail@stpetersgv.org.

Celebrate St. Peter's Graduates!

Alexander Cheetham graduated *summa cum laude*, Phi Beta Kappa from Brandeis University with a double major in sociology and anthropology. He will begin a master's in social work program at Boston University in August.

Tom Lockner graduated from Phoenixville Area High School. He will attend the Smeal College of Business at Penn State University and plans to pursue a degree in finance.



Emily Hacker graduated from Phoenixville Area High School. She will attend Penn State University (University Park) in September, majoring in psychology.

Reese Corso graduated from East High School and will attend Penn State next fall.

Lily Houston is graduating on June 14th from Germantown Academy and is headed to the University of Pittsburgh to study psychology on a pre-med track.

Matt Herbst graduated with a master's degree in Environmental Management from the Scottish Royal Agricultural College and the University of Edinburgh on Thanksgiving Day 2022.

Chris Herbst received his PhD in immunology from Thomas Jefferson University in May.

Asa Nestlehutt graduated from Fordham College, Lincoln Center, with a double major in theater performance and directing.

News from the Green Stewards

Four parishioners recently attended a fascinating talk by Douglas Tallamy, author of *Nature's Best Hope: How You Can Save the Planet in Your Own Backyard*. He pointed out that, because the majority of growing space is not in parks, this land is in our individual control. By increasing the use of diverse native plants, decreasing heavy mulching and dedicating less space to manicured lawns, we can regenerate the major loss of insects and birds.

People without yards can buy native or at least pesticide-free plants for their planters. When growing vegetables, add dill or similar plants to provide caterpillar habitats. Non-gardeners can advocate to change the plants used by their HOA, condo or school and help to stop pesticide spraying. Decreasing lawns and grass in median strips saves money and time and eliminates the carbon pollution of mowers and leaf blowers.

Want to make a difference and to learn more? Visit <https://homegrownnationalpark.org/>. Want to help at church or visit a native plant area? Please contact Brenda Grove.

Vacation Bible School

For? Rising 1st- through 5th-graders

When? June 17 to 21, 9 a.m. to 12 noon

What happens? Each day includes a lively Bible lesson with sets and costumes, a sing-along, a craft, outdoor games and recreation, and a mission-driven activity related to food and giving.

We've had a great response from families in the area and our class is now full! Prayers for children and teachers are appreciated.



Summer Happenings

June 2nd Appreciation for Choir and Christian Formation

During the June 2nd services, we thanked the choir and Christian Formation leaders.

- Adult Forum organizer: Melissa Shaner
- Sunday school teachers: Sharon Holt, Holly Hardester, Paige Infortuna
- Sunday School Director: Sarah Goller. Thank you also to Judy Jones for transitioning Sarah into the role
- Substitute teachers: Matt Goller, Amy Fisher, Greg Fisher

After Evensong, we celebrated the ministry of the choirs with a joyous party, featuring fabulous hors d'oeuvres, creative beverages and good fellowship.

Chester County PrideFest

Coordinated by Tim Hepp and Melissa Shaner, St. Peter's represented affirming churches of the Brandywine Deanery and the Diocesan LGBTQIA+ Committee at the Chester County PrideFest on Saturday, June 8, on Bridge Street in Phoenixville. A variety of materials, including information about St. Peter's, our commitment to equality and our outreach programs was available. PrideFest features music, art, entertainment and a variety of games and activities in a festive and joyous atmosphere.

Book Club Selection for June

Join us in reading *Flight Behavior* by Barbara Kingsolver. All are invited to meet on Zoom at 7 p.m. on June 17th for our discussion.

Altar Guild Lunch – June 15

The Altar Guild will host their annual luncheon to celebrate their devoted service to St. Peter's. All members are encouraged to attend and to bring a friend or two. If you are not currently a member, but think you might be interested, please plan to attend to learn more. For additional information, contact Abigail: abigail@stpetersgv.org or 610-644-2261.

Celebrate the 4th on the 7th!

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

Nursery care continues throughout the summer during the 10:00 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.

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

Outreach News

Chester Children's Chorus

Thursday, July 25 at 2 p.m.
Sunday, July 28 at 4 p.m.
Our Mother of Good Counsel
31 Pennswood Road, Bryn Mawr

Experience the magic of Disney this summer with the more than 100 members of the Chester Children's Chorus, who will sing your favorite Disney songs at their two summer concerts (please note the location change).

Admission is free, but seating is limited, on a first-come, first-served basis.

Learn more at ChesterChildrensChorus.org.

CYWA Warm Clothing Drive

The Outreach Commission has plans underway for a clothing drive to warm recipients of CYWA services in Coatesville. They will be accepting new or "like new" clean coats, sweatshirts, sweaters, hats, scarves and gloves. Two parishioners already have challenged us with an initial donation of 35 women's coats. Follow their inspirational lead by helping provide warm coats for men and children! Look for details in Keynotes or contact Brenda Grove.

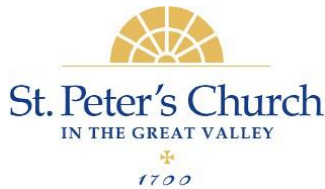
July Back to School Drive

Shop for students in Coatesville and at the St. James School. You can help students in need have a great year by providing supplies. Imagine this project as a giving tree – without the tree. Please try to purchase all the items related to the letter of your last name. The Outreach Commission has grouped supplies into lists costing approximately \$20. If you wish to spend less, simply purchase and bring any item from the lists below or, if you want to buy more, please do! All items should be returned by Sunday, July 28th. If you are interested in learning more about St. James, see <https://stjamesphila.org/>.

For more program information, please contact Gail Guthridge or Brenda Grove.

Based on first letter of last name, please provide:

- **A to D** - pack(s) of crayons, 24 pack or larger, Crayola markers, glue sticks and rulers
- **E to H** - several packs of construction paper, graph paper, index cards, and black or blue pens
- **I to L** - packs of highlighters, white board markers, Ticonderoga pencils, and colored pencils
- **M to Q** - packages of large-ruled, loose-leaf paper and 3-ring, 1" notebooks in black or blue
- **R to Z** - boxes or individual packs of tissues, hand sanitizer, or paper towels



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The Rev. Abigail Crozier Nestlehutt, Rector
 The Rev. Jeff Moretzsohn, Deacon
 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

*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*

**Deadline for the
 August Beacon:
 July 21**

Weekly Offerings at St. Peter's

Sunday (Summer Schedule)

8:00 AM ***Holy Eucharist, Rite I* 10:00 AM***
Family Eucharist

First Sunday

10:00 AM ***Holy Eucharist, rite 2** Fellowship follows***
all services

Wednesday

10 AM ***Morning Prayer & Bible Study******

Thursday

10:30 AM ***Intercessory Prayer Group******
7:00 PM ***Compline******

Friday

8:00 AM ***Gathering of Men******

*** Church**

**** Barn**

***** Virtual**

Parish office hours: 9:00 to 4:30, Monday thru Thursday

Foyer Groups Return!

If you have been at St. Peter's for a while, you will remember our Foyer dinners, which Covid brought to a sudden and inglorious halt in March 2020. If you arrived after that date, you have much to look forward to as we revive a popular program that nourished our bodies, souls and relationships with each other. In the *spirit* of the "foyer" (French for "hearth"), these groups offer parishioners the opportunity to welcome each other into their homes over a simple, shared meal, with each month's host providing the entrée and everyone else providing the other courses. Laurel Veitch is finalizing the Foyer sign-up in the near future, so, watch for details in Keynotes, the Sunday leaflets, and the August *Beacon*. If you know now that you are interested, feel free to contact Laurel.