

The Beacon

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

October 2024

You Matter

by the Rev. Abigail Crozier Nestlehutt

There is no question that players like Bryce Harper and J.T. Realmuto are stars. At the same time, when our local sports announcers began to feel confident that the Phillies were going to clinch the National League East title for the first time since 2011, they designated the entire team as “Player of the Game,” noting that a legion of people contributed to the success of the franchise. The scoreboard certainly suggests that some might make more of a difference than others, but they are all essential. They all matter.

When I was a girl my classmates and I were told that we could do everything, and the definite implication was that we should. This was well-meaning encouragement that, indeed, spurred us to achieve certain measures of success. We understood how to accumulate accomplishments and evaluate them in others. We did not necessarily understand the meaning of mattering. There is a difference between knowing you are capable and feeling valued. There is a difference between acknowledging someone and appreciating someone.

There is nothing wrong with measuring, grading, and ranking. Competition can drive us to reach our goals. The key is maintaining balance and being grounded in our understanding of what is valuable. Things like simple kindnesses. The gift of listening and welcoming without condition. And remembering that making an impact happens in all sorts of ways, large and small. Throughout scripture we are reminded that God’s love is lavished freely upon us all. There is nothing that anyone must do to gain God’s favor and nothing that anyone can do to lose God’s favor. We are intimately known and cared for by the divine. “Do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows,” we are assured in the gospels. You matter and so does your neighbor.

It is a simple message that can get lost in the noise of the world. Here in Pennsylvania October will include the excitement of post-season play for the Phillies and the buzz of swing state political ads in addition to the usual busyness that fall tends to bring. Here at St. Peter’s you will find a place where we are committed to living our baptismal promises to respect the dignity of every human being. A place where we value you, whoever you are.

In the pages that follow you will find information about opportunities to serve, learn, and pray as well as upcoming events and parish news. As you read and choose how you wish to connect, please know that your presence makes a difference. I can't wait to see you.

Updates for Our Community

August Financial Snapshot

	Month of August	August Year to Date	Forecast (year-end)	Budget (2024)
Parishioner Contributions	50,660	316,401	488,811	494,526
*Other Income	9,681	56,660	135,997	137,615
Total Income	60,341	387,741	624,808	632,141
Total Expense	45,623	411,956	651,516	632,128
Surplus/(Deficit)	14,718	(24,215)	(26,708)	13
<i>*Other Income: Interest, Rental, Endowment Distributions</i>				

Although SPGV's August income exceeded expenses, we project a year-end deficit because of several factors, including expenses to restart Barn rentals. Rentals are expected to begin in 2025. *Paige Infortuna and Eric Lien*

Thank You from the Vestry

- Gail Guthridge, Bad Boys & Girls for Jesus, and all who participated in the Fall Fest revival. Special recognition to those who brought delicious goodies.
- All who worked with the BB&G4J to split wood that will be available for sale, and Tony Wirtel who lent his log splitter.
- Suzanne Casey, Martin McElroy, Aleta Ross, and Michael Smith for their work to produce a successful blood drive.
- Wilson Smith for reviewing and rewriting the Endowment documents.
- Abigail, Pattye Benson, Paige Infortuna, and Steve Ockenden, as members of the Barn Kitchen "Next Steps" group, for successfully completing the search for a new event coordinator for the Barn.
- Amy Fisher, Jan Himmelreich, and Steve and Helen Ockenden, for producing the stewardship letter and pledge card mailings.
- Choir members who led the singing for August's "Third Wednesday" event, and Pattye Benson and John Hess who coordinated dishes contributed by participants.
- Seretha Curry, Holly Hardester, and Abigail Crozier Nestlehutt for hosting and serving pizza and ice cream at the Sunday School Registration and Kick-off Party.
- The Rev. Paul Reid for leading Sunday services September 1.

- All involved in the Food Ministry who meet monthly to prepare and pack sandwich lunches for delivery to Coatesville.

Preschool Update

The Preschool academic year is off to a great start. We are pleased that all our lead teachers have remained on staff, and this will be our third year together as a team. We have two new aides joining the staff, and we are so grateful to have a full staff for the 2024-2025 academic year.

New this year—we are partnering with The Malvern School of Music, which will provide music classes to our 3-year-old and pre-K classes every other week.

In addition, the Preschool Advisory Committee will be reinstated this year, with Nicholas Allen serving as liaison between the Preschool and St. Peter's. We have three alumni/ae parents who have agreed to serve on the committee. The committee will act as advisors to the director in matters of finance, scholarship and Preschool planning.

As always, we hope the parishioners of St. Peter's Church will help spread the word about our little school to the families of young children!

Partnership with Karen Pecora Events

As St. Peter's contract with Robert Ryan Catering ended, Abigail appointed a team to review the experiences of that partnership. She subsequently tasked a committee with investigating marketing and renting opportunities for the barn for a variety of events. They then presented their results to the Vestry. After assessing various options, the Vestry voted to pursue partnership with an event planning professional.

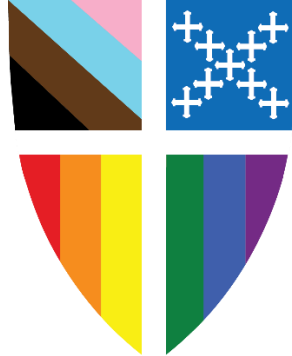
Renting the barn gives St. Peter's the opportunity to share its beautiful resources with the broader community, and revenue from rentals helps the parish achieve a balanced budget. Vestry are pleased to announce the signing of an agreement with Karen Pecora, who will serve as a Consultant Director of Marketing and Events. Although she will not join the staff, she will be on campus to give tours, prepare for, and over-see events. Please feel free to introduce yourself and help welcome her to St. Peter's. If you have any questions, please contact Abigail at the parish office, 610-644-2261 or by email at abigail@stpetersgv.org.

Coats and Warm Clothing Drive October 7 - November 3

The cold winds have begun to blow, yet many are unprepared to meet the chill due to lack of warm clothing. The Outreach Commission is collecting NEW or LIKE NEW clean clothing to be distributed at the Community Youth and Women's Alliance in Coatesville. Two generous parishioners have kicked off the drive with several new women's coats. Therefore, if you are purchasing an item, please consider something for a man or a child. We will gladly accept scarves, hats, gloves, and sweaters for anyone. Collection bins will be displayed in both worship buildings. We also would like several volunteers to help sort or store items and

another to help with the distribution in November. For additional information, please contact Brenda Grove at brendabgrove@gmail.com.

October is LGBTQ History Month!



The Virginia Theological Seminary has put together a list of resources to share information about the LGBTQ community and the Episcopal Church:

- [Official LGBT History website](#) Each day in October, a new LGBT Icon is featured with a video, bio, bibliography, downloadable images, and other resources.
- [LGBTQ+ in the Episcopal Church](#) A brief history of how Episcopalians have been working toward a greater understanding and radical inclusion of all of God's children.
- [What Does Welcome Look Like?](#) *Building Faith* editors' suggestions for welcoming and affirming transgender and gender non-conforming members in your church.
- [5 Ways to Support LGBTQ+ Youth in Your Church](#) Providing a welcome to LGBTQ+ youth within a congregation should not be an afterthought.
- In May, the Episcopal Church unveiled a new Pride Shield in honor of LGBTQ+ inclusion. [Learn more and download the shield.](#)

In addition, the Diocese of Pennsylvania has an [extensive resource list](#) on its website.

Cold and Flu Season Reminder

Cold and flu season is upon us. Please remember, some people prefer to pass the Peace with a nod and smile rather than a handshake. Also, if you are feeling unwell, please worship with us via livestream and let us know if there is anything you need as you recuperate.

Christian Formation

Adult Formation

10/13 – The Rev. Paul Reid will begin his series on Christian Nationalism - *Part 1: Evangelism and Evangelicalism*. Christian Nationalism has become linked with Evangelicals in the minds of many Americans. And, unfortunately, contemporary Evangelicalism often is seen as representing Christianity to many of the secular American public. Simplistically, Episcopalians and most other Americans identify Evangelicals as people who are “born again” – and most of us know little more. Evangelicalism differs from evangelism as practiced in the Episcopal Church. But not all Evangelical churches espouse Christian Nationalism, and not all are focused on personal salvation to the detriment of the “social gospel” as taught by Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount and elsewhere in Christian Holy Scripture.

10/20 – The Rev. Paul Reid returns with *Part 2: Christian Nationalism*. What is Christian Nationalism? How and why is today's American Christian Nationalism authoritarian and un-democratic, and often exclusively white and Evangelical? Its established-church roots go back to medieval Christianity and, in some cases, even earlier. What are appropriate Episcopal responses to today's Christian Nationalism?

10/27 – St. Peter's clergy and delegates to the Diocesan Convention will discuss Convention events and the experience of serving the Church through participation in this aspect of Diocesan life.

Sunday School and Youth Group

Communion Instruction - Wednesday, October 23, 5:15 p.m.

Kindergartners and first and second graders are invited to join Abigail for conversation and information about the sacrament of the Eucharist. All ages are welcome to receive communion at St. Peter's, and young worshipers always are encouraged to learn and to ask questions. Please contact Abigail at abigail@stpetersgv.org for more information or to let her know you will be there on the 23. Older students are welcome, too. Supper will be included.

Children and Youth Activities!

Join us for Sunday School and Youth Group every Sunday morning. Also, there will be children and youth programming for the following events. We'd especially love to have Youth participation in these events. Contact Seretha at slcurry@stpetersgv.org for more information.

- Blessing of the Animals on October 6
 - Trunk or Treat on October 27
 - Save the Date for the Christmas Pageant on December 24!
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October Events

Needlework Ministry Open House

Everyone is invited to stop by the Historic Church Saturday, October 5, at 9:30 a.m. for a light breakfast and conversation with members of the Needlework Ministry. This is an excellent opportunity to thank the group for something that has been given or received, and/or stay to learn how to knit. The group is always open to new members from the parish or the wider community. Members usually meet the first Saturday of each month at 10:00 a.m. to create items for people in need or for a special event. For further information, contact knitters@stpetersgv.org.

Blessing of the Animals - Sunday, October 6, 4:00 p.m.

St. Peter's will observe St. Francis Day in front of the historic church with a special event for everyone. Bring your animals—furry, fuzzy, scaly, stuffed, or photographed—for a brief service, special blessing, and treats. This is a wonderful opportunity to invite friends to St. Peter's, so please help spread the word.

Popcorn Theology 2024-2025 Series: "Philly's Best Movies"

Using the list from the *Philadelphia Inquirer* article "Philly's Best Movies" ranking the top 50 films, we have selected six movies for this new series. The season begins on Monday, October 14, at 6 p.m. with a discussion of the #1 film, *Rocky* (1976), starring Sylvester Stallone. Over the next several months we will watch five additional films: *Philadelphia* (1993), *The Sixth Sense* (1999), *Rustin* (2023), *The Philadelphia Story* (1940), and *Foxcatcher* (2014).

For those unfamiliar with Popcorn Theology, here's how it works. Watch the film in advance of the meeting and then join us from 6:00-7:00 p.m. on Zoom to discuss the various elements of the film—moral, ethical, spiritual, and cinematic. The Zoom invite is sent out to the parish email list on the Sunday before the meeting. For more information, email Mark Nestlehutt at mark.nestlehutt@gmail.com or Steve Ockenden at steveock@verizon.net. All are welcome!

Jazz Sanctuary Returns at Echo Lake! October 16, 7:00-8:30 p.m.

Jazz Sanctuary will be hosted at Echo Lake. All are invited for great music and great fellowship.

Book Club

Youth and adults alike are invited to join us to read *The Highest Tide* by Jim Lynch. Continuing our fall theme of the Season of Creation, this novel is "an irresistible coming-of-age fable, dappled with lyricism, briny honesty and good humor." Meet the 13-year-old with a super-sized passion for marine life who finds himself in the spotlight during a summer of discovery on the tidal flats of Puget Sound. We will then discuss the book on Zoom on Monday, October 21. Our November 18 book selection is *The Thursday Murder Club*.

Trunk or Treat! October 27, 5:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m.

After six highly successful years, “Trunk or Treat” at St. Peter’s has become a seasonal favorite! All are invited to this simple, safe version of traditional trick-or-treating, where children visit festively decorated car trunks to collect their treats—a fun way to gather as a community and a great opportunity to invite others to St. Peter’s. Please plan to join us in the barn parking lot and bring your friends, family, and neighbors.

And, to ensure success, we need your help! Please sign up to decorate and host a trunk of treats by following the link in Keynote or contacting Abigail. There also are sign-up sheets in each campus building. Everyone hosting a trunk is eligible to win the coveted “St. Peter’s Perpetual Trophy” for the best trunk. This year’s decision will be by people’s choice—everyone will have a vote! For more information, contact Abigail at abigail@stpetersgv.org.

Future Events

St. James School 5K

Grab your sneakers and join the 5K Huskies Hustle on November 2 to support the students at the St. James School. Youth and adults will gather at 9:15 in front of the Parish House and walk or run a course surrounding our campus to raise funds for their scholarships. We had the largest turnout of their supporters last year! A sign-up sheet will be available in each worship area and early birds might even get a special 5K shirt. If you can't directly participate you can also sponsor a runner in Philadelphia at <https://stjamesphila.org/husky-hustle/>. Participants are asked to contribute \$20 each.

St. James School is a tuition-free, private school serving grades 4-8 that provides students with year-round academic, physical, spiritual, and creative nourishment while working to uplift the surrounding community. For additional information, please contact Gail Guthridge or outreach@stpetersgv.org.

Save the Date for Evensong on November 3 at 4:00 p.m.

This Evensong will feature the works of Bruckner, Bainton, and Stanford. More to come in the November *Beacon*.

Hayride and Bonfire at Sugartown Strawberries! November 9, 6:00-7:30 p.m.

Please plan to join us for this fun fall outing with hot dogs, cider, s’mores, and more. All are welcome. Look for more information in the leaflets and Keynotes as the date draws closer. Questions, comments, want to sign up? Please contact Abigail at abigail@stpetersgv.org or 610-644-2261.

Creating True Belonging

On Sunday, November 10, from 5:00-7:00p.m., St. Peter's invites you to an evening of stories and conversation focused on creating true belonging. Our focus will be on the gender-diverse community, especially transgender youth. You'll hear from parents of gender-expansive children, facilitated by Shannon Mannon, as they share their experiences of accompanying their children on their gender journeys, and how these experiences have both shaped and been shaped by their faith.

Over a warm meal, you'll join small group conversations where you can ask questions and share your own experiences related to gender identity, faith, and how we can create belonging. As a community of churches within the Brandywine and Valley Forge deaneries, we'll share insights, reflect on key takeaways, and explore potential next steps we can take together.

We recognize that each of us comes to this conversation from different starting points, and we welcome and celebrate these differences, as they enrich us all.

To help with planning, we encourage you to RSVP to Rachel at parishadministrator@stpetersgv.org. If you have any questions, please contact Shannon at mannonshannon@yahoo.com or Melissa Shaner at myshaner@verizon.net. This will be hosted at St. Peter's, specific location TBD.

October Dates

October 5
Needlework Ministry Open
House

October 6
Blessing of the Animals

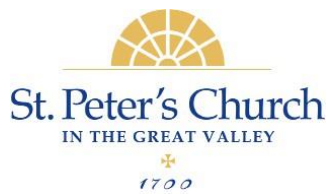
October 14
Popcorn Theology

October 16
Jazz Sanctuary

October 23
Communion Instruction

October 21
Book Club

October 27
Trunk or Treat



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Web site: www.stpetersgv.org

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

Deadline for the
November Beacon:
October 21

Our Mission:

by the power of the Holy Spirit, to nurture people of all ages in the knowledge and love of God in Jesus Christ, and to make Him known in the wider community

Weekly Offerings at St. Peter's

Sunday

8:00 AM *Holy Eucharist, Rite I**
9:00 AM *Family Eucharist***
 *Sunday School***
10:20 AM *Christian Formation***
11:15 AM *Holy Eucharist, Rite II***

First Sunday

10:00 AM *Holy Eucharist, Rite II***
 Fellowship follows all services

Wednesday

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

Thursday

10:30 AM *Intercessory Prayer Group****
7:15 PM *Compline****

Friday

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

* Church

** Barn

*** Virtual

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