

The Beacon

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

March 2025

Are We There Yet ... ?

by the Rev. Abigail Crozier Nestlehutt

The liturgical cycle is wonderfully predicable. The year begins four weeks before Christmas with Advent and the journey to the manger. After that we celebrate the revelation of the wise ones throughout the season after the Epiphany by recalling and reflecting on the ways in which the divinity of Jesus is made manifest in the world. Soon we reach Ash Wednesday and the holy season of Lent begins. Forty days later we rejoice in the resurrection and then take weeks and weeks to ponder that incredible story. At Pentecost the Holy Spirit sends us out into the world to proclaim the Good News of Christ. The long green season follows, during which we hear the stories of Jesus' ministry and consider our own. All Saints' arrives in the beginning of November. Just a few weeks later we are back to Advent.

Within that cycle some dates are set. Christmas is December 24, Epiphany is January 6, All Saints' is November 1, but the date of Easter is calculated according to the lunar cycle, using the Golden Number and Sunday Letter, and so it is variable. The earliest possible date for Easter is March 22. The latest is April 25. And so, some years it feels as if Ash Wednesday sneaks up on me almost before my holiday decorations are stored away and other years it feels like I am waiting and waiting for Lent to begin. This year Easter Day is April 20 and I have found myself wondering, are we there yet? Finally we are, after what was for me a surprisingly difficult interlude. And yet I am grateful for the relative leisure we had between busy holiday seasons. It gave me time to prayerfully ponder and do some reordering of my life. As Lent begins I am ready for its holy journey.

Early every morning during this year's long season after the Epiphany I prayed the short service for dawn from *Daily Prayer For All Seasons*, which includes the invitation to meditate on the question "How will I invite God's love to shine through me today?" and the prayer, taken from an Epiphany hymn, "Brightest and best of the stars of the morning, Dawn on our darkness and lend us thine aid; Star of the east, the horizon adorning, Guide where the infant Redeemer is laid." I had never before spent so many weeks with baby Jesus, which took some getting used to and became precious to me. I am always planning for the next thing and moving right along. There was deepening in dwelling. I considered that particular new life that gives us

new life in ways I never had before. I stayed at the cradle and prayed. Then I carried the question with me throughout each day. “How will I invite God’s love to shine through me today?” It spurred me to reconnect with dear friends. Encouraged me to extend grace in moments that tried my patience. Kept me hopeful when the brokenness of the world loomed large.

Feeling duly prepared, I now crave the familiar texts, liturgies, and programs of Lent. I am so very glad we are there. In the pages that follow you will find all sorts of opportunities to observe this special season. I invite you to craft your journey with care. Consider what you might try, take on, let go of that will allow you to spend this time intentionally. Reach out to me if you would like to talk about your plans, voice your questions, share your hopes. Do whatever you can to observe this Lent in ways that are meaningful to you. I promise you will be blessed.

Special Liturgical Season Services

Ash Wednesday

March 5

- | | |
|-----------|---|
| 12 p.m. | Historic Church, Imposition of Ashes and Holy Eucharist, spoken service |
| 7:30 p.m. | Historic Church, Imposition of Ashes and Holy Eucharist, with choir |

Lenten Prayer Opportunities

Tuesdays at 9:15 p.m. Compline via Zoom

Join with others in the end of day prayers of the church, led by our clergy. The Zoom link will be available in Keynotes or you may email Abigail at abigail@stpetersgv.org.

Thursdays at 9:15 p.m. Compline via Facebook and YouTube

Log onto Facebook for Compline led by our rector, Abigail, deacon, Jeff, and former assistant rector, Chris.

Lenten Soup Suppers

Wednesdays in Lent

6:30-7:30 p.m., Parish Hall, Historic Church

You’re invited to join the St. Peter’s family for a Lenten Soup Supper series, “The Lost Art of Kindness: Civility as a Christian Calling.” This is a ChurchNext video offering with Bishop Mariann Edgar Budde on Wednesdays March 12, 19, 26, and April 2, and 9. There will be a simple supper from 6-6:30 p.m. and a program from 6:30-7:30 p.m. For more details, see the flyer in the church or the barn. RSVPs appreciated: parishadministrator@stpetersgv.org.

Preview of Holy Week and Easter Services

Palm Sunday Services

April 13 8 a.m., 9 a.m., 11:15 a.m.
4 p.m. Evensong with concert

Maundy Thursday

April 17 Maundy Thursday Liturgy at 7:30 p.m. in the Historic Church
Watch 9 p.m. until 12 p.m. on Good Friday in the Historic Church

Good Friday

April 18 Good Friday liturgy at 12 p.m. in the Historic Church

Easter Sunday

April 20 The Great Vigil of Easter at 6 a.m. in the Historic Church
Family Easter Eucharist at 9 a.m. in the Bank Barn
Family Egg Hunt following the 9 a.m. service
Festal Choral Eucharist at 11:15 a.m. in the Historic Church

Lenten Activities

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

March 4, 5-7 p.m.

You are warmly invited to reserve your evening for the annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper. Please whet your appetite, and then come join the celebration! [RSVP here](https://rsvp.church/r/8OKiZt95), or paste this link into your browser: <https://rsvp.church/r/8OKiZt95>. You can also call the parish office at 610-644-2261.

Stations of the Cross

Our striking Stations of the Cross, featuring etchings by Jauneth Skinner, will be hanging in the barn throughout Lent. Booklets are available to guide you through on your own. On Sunday, April 6, following coffee hour Deacon Jeff will lead a group to walk them together.

Vestry Thanks

Thank you to everyone who makes our common life together possible, especially the following for their efforts in the month of February.

- Thank you to the choir and readers and participants who joined the blessing of candles and procession for Candlemas and the beautiful service of Compline on February 2. Thank you to Susan Davis, Gail Guthridge, and Katie Franz, who hosted refreshments following the service;
- To Tim Hepp, Heather Edelblute, Sarah Tellefson, all who provided food, and all those who spoke at the Newcomers' Brunch after the February 2 service.
- To Sarah Tellefson, for producing the Booklet of Ministries;
- To Dave Kasievich, Soozung Rankin, Leah Young and students from the St. James School who spoke at the January 26 services and Adult Forum, and brought jams, honey, and homemade crafts to sell to raise funds;
- To those who led Adult Forum: St. James School (see above); Abigail and Jeff Moretzsohn for an impromptu Stump the Clergy session when our speaker canceled due to weather; Seretha Curry for exploration of the idea of Imago Dei;
- To Gail Guthridge and Priscilla Belsinger for leading the birthday celebrations for Abigail after Sunday services;
- To the Bad Boys & Girls for Jesus, for all their work with experts to provide heat and water and the extensive cleanup on the property post multiple wind, snow, and ice storms.
- To Mark, our outstanding plumber from Driesbach & Bosler, who responded quickly to help us take action to protect the buildings' heating and plumbing on our property from damage through the 48-hour electricity outage due to downed trees and wires after a storm. Thanks also to our excellent electrician, John, who provided critical help to us quickly.

Christian Formation

March Adult Forum

“Come thou Fount of Every Blessing/Tune my Heart to Sing Thy Grace”

Journeying through Lent with St. Peter

This Lent, we will focus on the life and faith of our patron saint using art and meditations from “Sanctified Art.” The program designers note, “In Peter we see a person who is both steadfast and unsteady, a dear friend and a betrayer, a follower and a wanderer. By following Peter’s journey we watch the story of Jesus unfold through the eyes of a normal human being trying to figure it all out.” Guided by Abigail, we will reflect on

key elements of Peter's story of discipleship through art, scripture, and meditation, ultimately coming to better understand our ministry as disciples in the world today.

VBS Save the Date and Call for Volunteers

Mark your calendars, this year's Vacation Bible School is tentatively set for the week of June 23-27, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., and will be finalized in the next couple of weeks. Children who have completed kindergarten through rising fifth graders are welcome to attend. Registration is coming soon. We will need volunteers in the following area: arts and crafts, music, recreation, youth helpers, mission moment, bread making, and shepherding. Please contact Seretha Curry at slcurry@stpetersgv.org for more information.

Green Stewards

Group Read and Book Discussion: *Nature's Best Hope*



In collaboration with many other area churches, our Green Stewards invite you to read *Nature's Best Hope: A New Approach to Conservation that Starts in Your Yard*, by Douglas W. Tallamy. This book shows how homeowners everywhere can turn their yards into conservation corridors that help restore interrupted wildlife habitats. Check out the related website and its resources at <https://homegrownnationalpark.org/> You can also check out our [flyer here](#):

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1FMMzrw50TM_nChbjPiNi92hj1dIS34lg/edit?usp=sharing&oid=109911745480460284609&rtpof=true&sd=true. If you want to discuss native plants and this book, please contact Brenda Grove at brendabgrove@gmail.com or Seretha Curry at slcurry@stpetersgv.org.

Green Stewards Calendar of Events

There's so much cool stuff happening with our local communities, we don't have time to discuss it all here! Thus, the Green Stewards are keeping a running calendar of awesome activities that individuals and families are welcome to participate in this spring. Please check the calendar by clicking here:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1MY2igAtKhOaksxsMcILuXTX305jii6lH/edit?usp=sharing&oid=109911745480460284609&rtpof=true&sd=true>. If you have trouble accessing the document or have other questions about the events, please contact Seretha Curry at slcurry@stpetersgv.org.

Outreach

Easter Feasts for Darby Mission!

Holly Hardester

Vicar Doris Rajagopal describes Darby Mission as “a community of families, of good people who want a good life in tough situations,” and especially they want life to be better for their children. The mission provides many services, including a safe and loving afterschool program. It has become a tradition at St. Peter’s to share Easter’s joy by providing all the makings for Easter dinner for 40 families served by the mission. 2025 will be our eighth year.

How will we do this? It will start with 40 colorful shopping bags that will be distributed at church on Sunday, March 23. Attached to each bag will be a very specific shopping list of non-perishable items. It is easy. Take a bag with you, take it to the grocery store, shop for the items (many in the same aisle), and return the bag to church. The cost is about \$23. The Outreach Commission will purchase large roasting chickens and potted daffodils for each family. **All bags will need to be returned to church by Sunday, April 6th.**

Everything will be delivered to Darby Mission on Good Friday afternoon, April 18. Anyone who would like the opportunity to see the mission and to meet friends in that community are invited to travel with us when we go. For further information, please contact Betsy Comstock (bcomstock50@gmail.com, 484-639-4849) or Cathy Terlescki (jterlescki@aol.com, 610-805-6864).

Ongoing Outreach

Habitat for Humanity

Habitat for Humanity volunteers on site on the third Saturday of every month. You can access more information, or sign-up for Habitat for Humanity by clicking [HERE](#). For more information, please contact the Reverend Jeff Moretzsohn at jeff@stpetersgv.org.



Volunteer at the St. James School

Go for the Gold Saturdays- Tutors are needed to assist individual students or small groups with academics. Staff is present to support you. Select Saturdays, 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Contact Maggie Sanborn at msanborn@stjamesphila.org for further information.

Welcome Table- Volunteers are needed every Saturday morning, 8-11 a.m., to help organize and distribute food and clothing. Weekday volunteers are also needed, 9 a.m-5 p.m., to pick up donations, organize, and manage storage. Contact Tiana Jones at tjones@stjamesphila.org for more information.

March Events

Popcorn Theology Lenten Series: March Madness and a Bit of April, Too!

March 10, 6 p.m.

Are you in search of a Lenten discipline that doesn't involve denying yourself chocolate or embracing a dry Lent? As an alternative, you could dedicate 12 hours of your life to watching five films over the five weeks of Lent during our Popcorn Theology Lenten Series. This Lent's theme is "Faith & Duty," and we kick off the series on **Monday, March 10 at 6 p.m.** with the film *A Man for All Seasons* (1966), which won Best Picture at the 39th Academy Awards ceremony. The series continues with:



- | | |
|-----------------|-------------------------------|
| March 17 | <i>The Mission</i> (1986) |
| March 24 | <i>Of Gods and Men</i> (2010) |
| March 31 | <i>Doubt</i> (2008) |
| April 7 | <i>Conclave</i> (2024) |

Simply watch the film on your favorite streaming service or DVD and then join the meeting via Zoom to discuss the moral, ethical, spiritual, and cinematic aspects of the film. The Zoom link will be sent to the parish email list on the Sundays before the Monday meetings. For more information, contact Mark Nestlehutt (mark.nestlehutt@gmail.com) or Steve Ockenden (steveock@verizon.net). All are welcome!

March Book Club

March 17, 7 p.m.

March's selection is *Once There Were Wolves*, by [Charlotte McConaghy](#). From the Amazon description: "A wild and gripping novel about one woman's quest to reintroduce wolves to the Scottish Highlands at any cost. As a biologist, she knows the animals are the best hope for rewilding the ruined landscape. Then one night she stumbles over a body."

-- "A heartfelt and earnest novel." *New York Times Book Review*.

--"McConaghy shows in this stunning book, the limits of language lead us to the limits of empathy." *Los Angeles Times*.

Try Your Hand at Pysanky

Saturday, March 22, 9:30 a.m.-noon

What are Pysanky eggs? They are Ukrainian Easter eggs, created by using traditional designs, drawn with a wax stylus and then immersed in a series of dyes, from light to dark. Last year we gathered at St. Peter's to create our own, guided by Ukrainian citizen Anastasiia Lunova. She will join us again this year to lead a workshop together with Shannon Almquist and Bonnie Michael. We will learn how to "write" the symbolic forms that have graced these beautiful eggs for centuries; the designs on these harbingers of Easter and spring are "written" because their name derives from pysaty, which means "to write." If you can join in, bring some eggs. They may be raw, and we will blow out the egg. Everyone 12 and older is invited to participate in this artistic adventure. Simply call Bonnie (610-937-5677) or email Shannon (shannonalmquist@verizon.net) to reserve a spot.

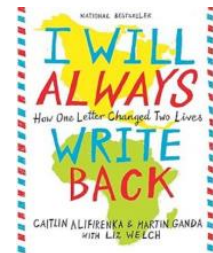


Future Events

April Book Club

April 21st, 7 p.m.

The April selection for book club is *I will Always Write Back* by Caitlin Alifirenka and Martin Ganda with Liz Welch: "The inspiring true story of a local girl, a boy from Zimbabwe and the correspondence that changed their lives. Suggested reading for teens too. *This story will make you smile and ponder.*"



2026 Choir Residency



The choirs of St. Peter's will be engaged in singing a week-long choral residency in July 2026 at Norwich Cathedral, Norfolk, England. Parishioners and friends are invited to join us. Past residencies have been deeply rewarding experiences of intensive music-making and historical and spiritual enrichment.

Norwich Cathedral is a 900-year-old structure of Norman style architecture, boasting the second-tallest spire in England at 315 ft. and the cathedral cloisters are the second largest in England. With ancient architecture on beautiful grounds, set in a medieval city, this will be a journey back in time. Day trips to Cambridge, other cathedrals, market days, and royal residence tours will be included.

Speak to Steven Patchel or any choir member if you are interested in joining in this choral pilgrimage. Deposits of \$500 will be required by July 2025 in order to hold your place in the trip, with the balance due in 2026. The final cost is based on the number of attendees. The tour is organized by Richardson and Gray. Flyers are available with itinerary and other details.

Communications Corner

Do you have information to distribute to the St. Peter's community? Please see the information below to make sure your information goes to the right place. And remember, sending information to one publication **does not** constitute sending it to all. You should be specific about where your information should go.

Publication / Platform	Deadline	Send to
Keynotes	end of day, Tuesday prior	Parish Administrator (parishadministrator@stpetersgv.org)
The Sunday Leaflet	end of day, Tuesday prior	Parish Administrator (parishadministrator@stpetersgv.org)
<i>The Beacon</i>	end of day, 21st of previous month	<i>Beacon</i> General Editor (beacon@stpetersgv.org)
Announcement*(during Sunday services)	With the Sunday Leaflet, see above	---

**All announcements for Sunday morning should be submitted to the Sunday Leaflet by the end of day on the Tuesday prior. To request your announcement be highlighted by the presider, include that request with the leaflet submission.*

January Financial Snapshot

Paige Infortuna and Eric Lien

	Month of January	January Year to Date	Forecast (year-end)	Budget (2025)
Parishioner Contributions	47,175	47,175	467,471	455,915
*Other Income	5,339	5,339	218,131	224,632
Total Income	52,514	52,514	685,602	680,547
Total Expense	53,358	53,358	667,841	680,550
Surplus/(Deficit)	-844	-844	17,761	-3
<i>*Other Income: Interest, Rental, Endowment Distributions</i>				

Rental income is expected to be lower this year than in the past few years due to the departure of Robert Ryan Catering and the start-up work of Karen Pecora Events, our new partner. To balance the 2025 budget,

we will need to use some of our parish savings. January income was modestly above budget, and it's possible that by year end we will have a budget surplus, thus reducing the amount of parish savings required to balance the budget. Thank you for keeping your pledges up to date.

March Dates

March 5, 12, 19, 26

Lenten Soup Suppers
6:30-7:30 p.m.

March 17, 24, 31, April 7;

Popcorn Theology Lenten
Series
6 p.m., Zoom

Every Tuesday and Thursday in Lent

Compline, 9:15 p.m., see
details

March 2

Combined service, 10 a.m.,
barn;

March 4

Shrove Tuesday Pancake
Supper, 5-7 p.m.

March 5

Ash Wednesday

12 p.m., Historic Church
7:30 p.m., Historic Church

March 10

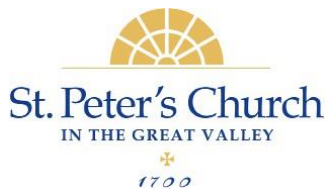
Popcorn Theology, 6 p.m.,
Zoom

March 17

March Book Club, 7 p.m.

March 22

Pysanky (Ukrainian Easter
Eggs), 9:30 a.m.



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

St. Peter's Church in the Great Valley
 2475 St. Peter's Road, Malvern, PA 19355
 Telephone: 610-644-2261
 E-mail: parishoffice@stpetersgv.org
 Web site: www.stpetersgv.org

Deadline for the
 April *Beacon*:
March 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 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite I*
 9 a.m. Family Eucharist**
 Sunday School**
 10:20 a.m. Christian Formation**
 11:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II**

First Sunday

10 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II**
 Fellowship follows all services

Wednesday

10 a.m. Morning Prayer & Bible Study***

Thursday

10:30 a.m. Intercessory Prayer Group***
 7:15 p.m. Compline***

Friday

8 a.m. Gathering of Men***
 * Historic Church
 ** Bank Barn
 *** Virtual

Parish office hours: 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Thursday.

