

February 2023

Godspeed

by the Rev. Abigail Crozier Nestlehutt

At the adult forum I led in January, I first asked if anyone had experienced a rector's going on sabbatical in another parish and then asked what the experience was like. One answer, "No one noticed the rector was gone," elicited nervous laughs around the room. People first thought, "Well that priest must not have been effective if no one noticed the absence." But then they realized that no one's noticing the rector's absence was actually a sign of the health of the parish. Everything continued to function smoothly because the necessary systems were in place and because the parish supported the rector's sabbatical leave.

You, the people of St. Peter's, have been generous, thoughtful, and supportive. I know that sacred worship, meaningful outreach, faithful learning, and welcoming fellowship will carry on as usual in my absence. Even when things do not go exactly according to plan, all will be well.

Please welcome the Rev. Dr. Karl Krueger in your usual warm and wonderful way. Pastor Karl is excited to join you in ministry. Introduce yourself, tell him a bit of your story, and enjoy learning about him.

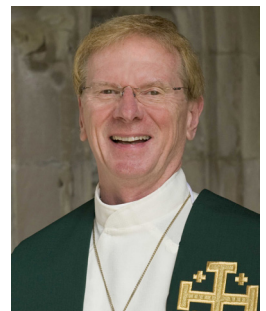
Please take a moment to thank our dedicated staff, Jeff, Bruce, Rachel, Mario, Gail, Aleta, Deby, and Erinn, who will, no doubt, find their plates a bit fuller than usual in the next three months. And please come alongside your

[Cont, on p. 2]

Dear people of St. Peter's,

One of my favorite poems is Constantine Cavafy's "Ithaka" because it challenges me every time I read it. The poem is based on Odysseus's journey home after the Trojan War. He is eager to arrive in Ithaka to reclaim his throne and resume his life with his family that the war interrupted. I can certainly identify with Odysseus; his wish would have been my wish.

His view of life resembled my view: the goal was everything, and I wanted to achieve the goals as quickly as possible. As a student, I focused on completing the courses to earn a degree. Don't dilly-dally; get the diploma. Then enjoy life. As a professor and library director at the seminary in Philadelphia for over fifteen years, I focused on strategic plans, course syllabi, reports to the Board of Directors, grading, staffing, software updates, acquisitions, and tackling deferred maintenance. One deadline after another. When I retired, I realized that my life has always had deadlines and a series of goals. They were there on the first day of kindergarten. I viewed them as interruptions, however, just as Odysseus saw the war and his ten-year journey home as one very long interruption.



Therein lies the challenge of Cavafy's poem. He asks the reader to look at the journey as a gift and an opportunity for

[Cont, on p. 2]

[Abigail, cont. from p 1]

wardens, vestry, commission chairs, and all who are also stepping up to do a little more than usual. See this as an opportunity to try something new for a short time, a chance to make a difference.

Thank you for your part in making possible the ministries of the parish and in making possible this period of sabbatical leave. I do believe that this will be a time of growth for parish and priest. In a way all of us are beginning a journey, and I am also aware that this is a particularly privileged opportunity for me. Thank you. I am grateful. I look forward to seeing you in May and cannot wait to hear your stories.

HOW TO REACH PASTOR KARL

karldavid556@gmail.com

610-644-2261

If you get our recorded message,
press 3 at the prompt.



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

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[Pastor Karl, cont. from p 1]

enrichment. Cavafy, in other words, is reaching out and asking me to take the time to smell the flowers. As he writes in the third stanza,

Keep Ithaka always in your mind.
Arriving there is what you're destined for.
But don't hurry the journey at all.
Better if it lasts for years,
so you're old by the time you reach the island,
wealthy with all you've gained on the way,
not expecting Ithaka to make you rich.

I can embrace this idea mentally, but living the journey is challenging. Yet I keep trying. The great tennis player Arthur Ashe paraphrased Cavafy when he said, "Success is a journey, not a destination. The doing is often more important than the outcome." Those are words to live by, and it's not too late to start.

With that in mind, I am honored and excited to be with you, the people of God, at St. Peter's and to journey with you during Lent, Holy Week, and Easter 2023. I can't wait to immerse myself in the *Book of Common Prayer* again and to hear your faith stories. Thank you for inviting me to walk with you and treasure the journey together.

Yours,

Pastor Karl

Vestry Nominating Committee

In accordance with our parish by-laws, our annual parish meeting when we elect four new vestry members will take place on May 7. The by-laws also stipulate that the vestry, in consultation with the rector, appoint a nominating committee comprised of the four retiring members and four at-large parishioners and that the slate of nominees be published sixty days before the meeting.

We are happy to announce that Greg Bright, Joe Herbst, Sandy Mannix, and Helen Ockenden have agreed to serve on this year's committee along with outgoing vestry members Gail Guthridge, Mike Harman, Lyndsay Knupp, and Dave Lockner.

Any parishioner who wishes to suggest someone for the committee to consider is invited to contact any of the eight members by noon on **February 12**.



Thank you to Holly Hardester and the parent volunteers who helped with the Christmas pageant, which was a wonderful celebration of Jesus' birth. Thank you also to Paige Infortuna for volunteering to teach the 3rd- through 5th-grade class this term and to Sharon Holt for continuing to teach the pre-K through 2nd-grade class.

During the winter term, our lessons center on sharing God's love in our community, and this year's outreach project, making birthday cards for the residents of Echo Lake, is part of that learning. Deacon Jeff is helping coordinate our efforts with the administration there. Since we need to make approximately twenty cards a month, we will devote some class time monthly to this project. If your child (or children) would like to work on the cards at home, please email Judy Jones (moms_taxi950@hotmail.com) to receive supplies for the project.

The Sunday school staff always needs helpers and substitute teachers, and provides them with lessons and all materials. If you are willing to volunteer just one Sunday between now and Easter, the teachers would really appreciate your doing so, and the children always love having new faces join them. As always, we welcome any questions, concerns, and fresh ideas.



This winter the youth of the parish will discuss faith and the environment, enjoy fun-filled events, and plan for their mission trip and fundraisers to support it. For more information before it appears in your emails or in our electronic media, feel free to contact interim youth co-ministers Aleta Ross and Deby Harrison at YouthGroup@stpetersgv.org.



- **On February 5**, we will hear from Kate Mallon-Day, who, as many of you know, undertook an unusual journey last October, trekking the Annapurna Circuit in the Western Himalayas of Nepal. Join her as she shares her experience—physical, cultural, and spiritual—and explores our relationship with the wider world.
 - **NOTE: This will be the final 1st Sunday adult formation in this program year.** Please give Melissa Shaner feedback about whether holding forum after the 10 a.m. service worked for you.
- **On February 12**, we will have a chance to chat with Pastor Karl, learning more about him, his role as a sabbatical pastor, and the connections between the Episcopal and Lutheran Churches.
- **On February 19**, Dr. Fran Altvater (University of Hartford) will be back to discuss artistic representations of Jesus and the theological idea of blasphemy. We will explore some of the most controversial images of Jesus, including racial variations, gender differences, and body representations. Please note that these images range in explicitness and complicated presentation. Fran hopes to engage with you about key ideas of expectations and representations as a way of exploring our own faith and meaning.
- **On February 26**, Martin McElroy will lead a forum about the services and functions our fellow parishioners perform when we meet for worship. Since a foundation of the Episcopal faith is that we enter into ministry at baptism, service in any aspect of our sacred liturgies is integral to our communal worship. Current lay assistants will describe the nature of their ministry—the tasks they perform, their contribution to the liturgy, and the grace and gratification they experience in serving.

An Afternoon of Drama in the Parish Hall



There is no better way to while away a chilly Sunday afternoon than in the company of some fascinating dramatic characters! You are invited to come to the parish hall at 4 p.m. on **Sunday, February 19**, when Kate Mallon-Day and Mary Anne Morgan present “Lovers, Loners, and Enemies,” a journey through some great theatrical works in the parish hall. In this “one-woman show,” Kate explores characters created by such diverse writers as Euripides, Shakespeare, Shaw, Molière, and Twain and invites the audience to discover fascinating personalities brought to life through exquisite language. Proceeds from the performance will benefit the scholarship fund for the choir’s August residency in Ireland; the suggested donation is \$20 or whatever you wish.

We at St. Peter’s Preschool are excited to announce that in the 2023-24 school year we will offer a new full-day pre-K option, in addition to our usual half-day programs for twos, threes, and pre-K. Registration for next year began on January 23, so if you are interested in reserving a space, please let director Erinn White know soon by calling 610-647-2261 or by emailing her at preschool@stpetersgv.org.



We are also seeking aides both for the remainder of this year and for next year. The immediate need is for this term; between 8:30 and noon daily. If you or someone you know is interested in spending mornings with our sweet “kiddos,” please contact Erinn White at the preschool.

All are invited to drop by at the preschool between 9 a.m. and noon on Saturday, **February 25**, and enjoy our book sale, story time, crafts, and hot chocolate!

Inquirers Class

Are you interested in learning about St. Peter’s Church in the Great Valley? Curious about the Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania—the birthplace of the Episcopal Church, or about how we Episcopalians are connected to the Church of England and the worldwide Anglican Communion? If you answered “Yes” to any of these questions, plan to join Deacon Jeff Moretzsohn for a four-week series designed for inquiring minds and curious Christians.

WHAT WILL THE CLASS COVER?

- The Anglican Communion: the English Reformation; colonial expansion and the Church; English church expansion between the 17th and 19th centuries
- The Episcopal Church: its history, governance, and structure; its *Book of Common Prayer* and Outline of the Faith (catechism); the Episcopal Church today; the Diocese of Pennsylvania; the history of St. Peter’s in the Great Valley

WHEN DOES THE CLASS MEET?

- **Sunday, March 5, 12, and 19**, from 4 to 5:30 p.m., via Zoom
- **Sunday, April 2**, from 2 to 3:30 p.m., in the historic church (class and supper precede choral evensong)

HOW DO I SIGN UP?

- Call the parish office (610-647-2261) or email Jeff (jeff@stpetersgv.org)

WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I HAVE QUESTIONS?

- Call Jeff (610-620-5085)





SHROVE TUESDAY

On **February 21**, we continue the age-old tradition of enjoying pancakes and other treats while using up decadent items in the pantry before the start of Lent and also of celebrating before that penitential season begins. This year’s pancake supper will run from 5 to 7 p.m. in the parish hall, also the site of our traditional Shrove Tuesday pancake race. Please watch for details in this month’s Keynotes and Sunday leaflets.

ASH WEDNESDAY

We will offer Ash Wednesday services at 12 noon and 7:30 p.m. in the historic church on **February 22**. Please watch for details in this month’s Keynotes and Sunday leaflets.

WEDNESDAY EVENING LENTEN SOUP SUPPERS

Lenten soup suppers in the parish hall are back and as before will take place from 6 to 8 p.m. on the five Wednesdays in Lent, **March 1 through March 29**. The first half hour will be devoted to enjoying soup and fellowship, and the remaining 90 minutes to a discussion, led by Melissa Shaner, of Amy-Jill Levine’s 2021 book *Witness at the Cross: A Beginner’s Guide to Holy Friday*. Having read a brief chapter beforehand each week, participants will watch a short video in which she expands on that chapter before discussing their own responses and ideas.

Dr. Levine encourages us to explore the contexts, perspectives, and theological implications of the various people identified as being present at the crucifixion, from the scoffing bystanders to the beloved disciple. As she writes in her introduction, “Each Gospel has its own story to tell, all the witnesses have their own memories, and every reader comes away with a new insight. The witnesses at the Crucifixion watch Jesus die, and we watch with them, and we watch them. And we come away transformed.”

Amy-Jill Levine is the Rabbi Stanley M. Kessler Distinguished Professor of New Testament and Jewish Studies at Hartford International University for Religion and Peace and an emerita professor at Vanderbilt; early in her career, she was Melissa’s favorite college professor. Her book is available from Abingdon Press, Cokesbury Press, and Amazon, and we encourage you to order your copy early. If logistics or cost might affect your ability to participate, please contact Melissa Shaner.



LENTEN POPCORN THEOLOGY SERIES



This Lent, popcorn theology will focus on films that explore social isolation and loneliness. Covid-19 led many of us to experience quarantining, isolating, sheltering in place, and the emotional impact of social isolation in some way, even though, as humans created in God’s divine image, we are called to live in community as social beings. These five films reveal what happens when a person is somehow deprived of community.

Join us from 6 to 7 on any Monday evening in Lent to discuss the moral, ethical, spiritual, or cinematic aspects and themes of each film: **February 27**, *Cast Away* (2000, PG-13); **March 6**, *Lost in Translation* (2003, R); **March 13**, *Into the Wild* (2007, R); **March 20**, *Her* (2013, R); **March 27**, *Room* (2015, R). The films are available on multiple streaming platforms and on DVD; everyone on the parish email list will receive a Zoom link the Sunday before each meeting. For more information, email Mark Nestlehutt (mark.nestlehutt@gmail.com) or Steve Ockenden (steveock@verizon.net). All are welcome and encouraged to participate.

Outreach

The Blessings in a Gesundheit Bag

Twenty years ago, parishioner Dr. Lorna Stuart founded the non-profit Clinic in Phoenixville to serve area residents without health insurance. The Clinic, which is one of our core outreach ministries, has grown since then and now provides free medical care to thousands of underserved patients yearly.

During flu season, St. Peter's has always chosen

Will you fill a
Gesundheit bag
this year?



to bless the patients in a tangible way by creating *Gesundheit* bags containing items to ease and comfort those who are ill: throat lozenges, tea bags, chicken soup, lip balm, hand sanitizer, and tissues. Through our parishioners' generosity, ailing patients receive

these bags that are filled not just with practical (and unaffordable) supplies but also with God's love and our "TLC."

Participating in this project is as easy as 1-2-3!

1. Pick up one (or more) of the *Gesundheit* bags from either gathering space or from the labeled blue bin on the parish house porch.
2. Buy the items listed on the outside of the bag along with your own groceries when you shop.
3. Return your filled *Gesundheit* bag to labeled collection box in either gathering space or on the parish house porch by Sunday, **February 27**.

Sheer simplicity! God bless you for participating!

Habitat for Humanity: Its Needs and Opportunities to Serve

For far too many low-income Chester County families, "home" means a poorly maintained one-bedroom apartment housing four people and often a yearly move necessitated by a rent increase. Habitat for Humanity offers these families an attractive alternative: owning a Habitat home is more than a "symbol of self-reliance, pride, and strength, it is a key to a better future for an entire family," as the non-profit says. Owners of a Habitat home pay off a 0% interest mortgage and spend at least 200 hours of "sweat equity" helping to build other homes in their neighborhood.

By volunteering to join St. Peter's monthly work crew helping build a home in Cambria Terrace, Coatesville, we can give low-income families the benefits of home ownership. Parishioners not adept at wielding hammers and saws can help Habitat by volunteering at one of its resale outlets, at either at its Phoenixville or its Coatesville (Caln) ReStore. Our parish outreach grants fund the building materials for the 60+ single-family and twin homes in Cambria Terrace and are never used for administrative expenses.

Our St. Peter's volunteer team resumes its building work in the Cambria Terrace community in **late February**. To volunteer or to learn more about our work, contact randolphklein@hotmail.com. To volunteer at a ReStore, please contact the store directly (Phoenixville, 610-917-2300; Caln/Coatesville, 610-466-7364) and then email Randy to let him know you have signed up.

Red Cross Blood Drive Slated for Early March

Our goal this year is to surpass the 133 pints of blood donated at St. Peter's in 2022 and to welcome even more non-parishioners to our campus. Supplies of life-sustaining whole blood, plasma, and platelets are at a historic low, so it is our charge as Red Cross ambassadors to give blood if possible or, if not, to encourage family members, friends, and colleagues to donate.

Our first 2023 opportunity to host a Red Cross blood drive here and to donate blood ourselves is coming up in the parish hall on **Sunday, March 5**, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. To register to donate that day, simply visit stpetersblooddrive.com. If you are one of the many regular Red Cross donors in our parish, please contact info.stpetersblooddrive@gmail.com, to ensure that St. Peter's is credited for your offsite donation. At this address you can learn more about becoming a Red Cross community volunteer, one of the folks who provide services to the aging, homebound, and homeless in our community and emergency relief nationwide.

FAQs about Pledge Campaigns

Each year the stewardship commission directs St. Peter's pledge campaign as part of our year-round stewardship mission that emphasizes parishioners' time, talent, and treasure. Now that the 2023 pledge campaign is wrapping up, this is a good time to answer some frequently asked questions (FAQs) about pledge campaigns.

Q: Why does St. Peter's want parishioners to pledge for the year rather than just give money when they can?

A: We appreciate donations at any time, of course, but we, like most churches, ask for pledges to enable us to develop a budget. The budget includes all the revenue we can expect to receive during the year, including from your pledges, and it keeps parish bill-paying on track.

Q: Who has access to my pledge information?

A: For privacy's sake, only the treasurer and assistant treasurer know the amount of any pledge; the rector and stewardship commission only know who has pledged.

Q: What if I want to change the amount of my pledge during the year?

A: Simply call or email our parish administrator, who will advise you what you need to do.

Q: If I want to fulfill my pledge by using a credit card, how do I do that?

A: If you wish to use a credit card, simply set up an account through Realm. Because we use a third party to ensure that credit card information is processed securely, we are charged a fee; so we ask you to please consider boosting your pledge a small amount to offset that fee.

Thank you to all who have pledged this year! We are very close to our target for pledge income now. We truly appreciate the treasure and also your time and talents that you share. Our active, faithful parish joyfully sings out "Rise and Shine and Give God Your Glory, Glory!"

December 2022 Financial Snapshot

	December 2022	Year-end Actual	Budget 2022
Parishioner Contributions	\$ 57,188	\$534,712	\$563,900
Other Income*	17,492	167,070	132,100
Total Income	74,680	701,782	696,000
Total Expense	44,264	629,608	696,000
Surplus/ (Deficit)	30,416	72,174	0

**Includes interest, rentals, endowment distributions*

St. Peter's income for 2022 was close to the budgeted amount, but expenses were substantially lower than expected and resulted in a year-end surplus. Expenditures were lower primarily because the budgeted part-time staff position remained unfilled in 2022. To date our 2023 pledge numbers have come in lower than expected and so the 2023 budget that the vestry has approved includes \$23,580 of unspent money from previous years. —Eric Lien for the finance commission

February 4
Needlework ministry
10 a.m.

February 19
“Lovers, Loners, and Enemies”
4 p.m.

February 20
Book club
7 p.m. (Zoom)

February 21
Shrove Tuesday pancake supper
5 to 7 p.m.



February 22
Ash Wednesday Services
Noon and 7:30 p.m. (church)

February 25
Preschool book sale
9 a.m. to 12 noon

February 27
Lenten popcorn theology
6 to 7 p.m. (Zoom)

March 1
1st Lenten soup supper
6 to 8 p.m.

- The parents, cast, and crew who worked on the Christmas pageant, and Holly Hardester for her guidance;
- The readers and choir members who presented Lessons and Carols in December;
- All the lay assistants, flower guild members, and choir members who created beautiful services and spaces throughout the Christmas holiday season;
- Shannon Almquist, Ryan Battin, and Shannon Mannon for leading our Advent Wednesday evening programs;
- Karl Krueger and Roy Almquist for leading adult forums in December;
- Abigail and Mark Nestlehutt for hosting the youth group’s gingerbread-house decorating event;
- Everyone who braved the cold on Christmas Eve to attend services in person;
- Peter Kreek for meticulously tracking pledges received and working on the 2023 budget;
- Jeff Moretzsohn, Dave Lockner, Rachel Martin Swartz, and Dave Tatum who worked with service providers to resolve electrical and plumbing problems caused by downed wires twice in December;
- The altar guild members who faithfully polish brass and perform other housekeeping duties to ensure that the altar is always ready for services;
- Jenny Disque and Queenie Northrop for leading the “Coats and Socks” campaign for Coatesville;
- Brenda Grove, for organizing Alternative Christmas and Gail Guthridge and Holly Hardester for helping her;
- All the generous parishioners, too many to be named here, who contributed to the many December initiatives to help our community.
- David Kasievich, Soozung Rankin, and Shaniya Williams of the St. James School and community for sharing information through preaching and adult forum;
- Jenny Disque, Ilse Fischer, Trudi Graves, Gail Guthridge, Eileen Klein, Sue McMaster, and Cathy Terlescki for preparing 130 lunches for CYWA and delivering them to Coatesville;
- The 110 parishioners who responded to the survey about service attendance patterns and engagement with our parish community;
- Our parishioners, whose supportive and consistent payment of pledges helps St. Peter’s meet its budget plans.





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The Rev. Abigail Crozier Nestlehatt, Rector
 The Ven. Jeff Moretzsohn, Deacon
 Dr. Bruce Glenny, Organist/Choirmaster
 Deby Harrison and Aleta Ross, Interim Youth Co-ministers
 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*

The deadline for the
 March Beacon
 is **February 15.**

Weekly Offerings at St. Peter's

Sunday

8 A.M. Holy Eucharist, Rite 1*
 9 A.M. Family Eucharist & Sunday School**
 10:15 a.m. Adult Formation**
 11:15 P.M. Holy Eucharist, Rite 2*
First Sunday
 10 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite 2**
 Fellowship follows all services

Monday thru Thursday

12 NOON Noonday Prayer***

Wednesday

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

Thursday

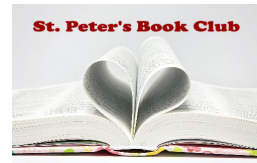
10:30 A.M. Intercessory Prayer Group***

Friday

8 A.M. Gathering of Men***

- * Church
- ** Barn
- *** Virtual

Parish office open Mon. thru Thurs., 9 A.M. to 4 :30 P.M.



Inaugural Meeting
 discussing
The Same Kind of Different as Me
 Tuesday, February 21
 7 p.m. via Zoom

Please call the office for the Zoom link

A Preview of



Holy Week and Easter

- April 2: Palm Sunday worship, 10 a.m.
Choral evensong, 4 p.m.
- April 6: Maundy Thursday, 7:30 p.m.
Watch night follows
- April 7: Good Friday, 12 noon
- April 9: Great Vigil of Easter, 6 a.m.
Breakfast follows
Festal Eucharist, 9 and 11:15 a.m.