

*March 2023*

## *Wishing You Silence This Lent . . .*

After serving at St. Luke Lutheran in Devon for three years, I decided it was time for a break and a change. The change came when your rector, Abigail, asked me to consider coming to St. Peter's to serve as the sabbatical pastor beginning in February 2023. Perfect. Now to take the much-needed break.

I knew I was looking for silence. With that in mind, I re-read Dietrich Bonhoeffer's *Life Together*, a classic work about living in a community. But I especially wanted to re-read the third chapter, "The Day Alone." In this section, Bonhoeffer discusses the importance of silence in the Christian life. He writes, "We are silent at the beginning of the day because God should have the first word, and we are silent before going to sleep because the last word also belongs to God."

Bonhoeffer goes on to explain that silence is not a void. Instead, it is an expectant "waiting." Silence, in Bonhoeffer's words, "is nothing else but waiting for God's Word and coming from God's Word with a blessing." Even though Bonhoeffer never mentions Psalm 65:1 in this chapter, his ideas are based on Luther's translation of that verse. After studying the Hebrew text, Luther wrote, "God, you are to be praised *by silence* in Zion." In our English Bibles, however, we read, "Praise is due to you, O God, in Zion." The word "silence" is missing.

Luther's translation is closer to the original Hebrew than that. and the word for "silence" in Psalm 65 also appears in verses 1 and 5 of Psalm 62, "For God alone, my soul waits in silence." So, what is silence for the psalmist? Is it a void? Is it an absence? No. In the psalms, silence, as Bonhoeffer describes it, is an expectant waiting for God, who comes with a blessing.

Having re-read Bonhoeffer and prayed, I knew I needed to return to Germany, sit quietly in the massive churches and cathedrals, and hear the silence. And that is what I did. After spending a long weekend with family, I began my journey into silence. No laptop. No WIFI. No emails. I sat quietly in cathedrals and St. Stephan's Church in Mainz, with its windows designed by Marc Chagall. I sat in silence and silently praised God. My spiritual batteries were recharged. In the words of the Austrian writer Ernst Ferstl, "Silence does not ask questions, but it can give us an answer."

May Lent 2023 provide you with some silence and perhaps an answer.

Thank you for your love and the opportunity to serve you!



*Cathedral of  
St. Martin, Mainz*

*Pastor Karl*



This Lent, popcorn theology focuses on films that deal with social isolation and loneliness. During the pandemic we learned about quarantining, isolating, sheltering in place, and the effect of social isolation on us humans created by God to live in community as social beings.

On the remaining Mondays in Lent, we consider the impact of isolation and loneliness on the characters portrayed in four quite disparate films:

**March 6:** *Lost in Translation* (2003, R)

**March 13:** *Into the Wild* (2007, R)

**March 20:** *Her* (2013, R)

**March 27:** *Room* (2015, R).

Please join us at these Monday evening Zoom conversations from 6 to 7 p.m. via Zoom to discuss the moral, ethical, and spiritual aspects of these films. They are available on numerous streaming platforms and on DVD; everyone on the parish email list receives the Zoom link on the Sunday before each meeting.



Our Lenten soup suppers take place every Wednesday this

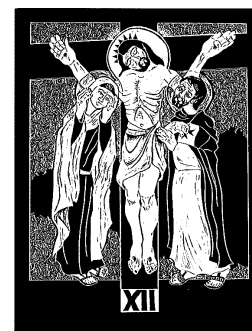


month, beginning **March 1!**

All are invited to come to the parish hall for soup and fellowship from 6 to 6:30 p.m., and then to discuss Amy-Jill Levine's 2021 book *Witness at the Cross: A Beginner's Guide to Holy Friday* until 8 p.m. Discussion leader Melissa Shaner will air a short video in which the author expands on her ideas in the week's chapter before we begin to share our own thoughts. *Witness at the Cross* is available from Abingdon Press, Cokesbury Press, and Amazon; weekly assignments are published in Keynotes and the Sunday leaflet.

### *The Way of the Cross*

After the 10 a.m. service on Sunday, **March 5**, Deacon Jeff will lead us along the fourteen panels of Jauneth Skinner's *Way of the Cross*, displayed in the the barn throughout Lent. This original work of art, gifted to St. Peter's in 2015, depicts the stations of the cross on fourteen black-and-white scratchboard panels. We also invite you to spend time with the images on your own during Lent, using the prayers provided in the accompanying pamphlet.



The artist completed the panels as a devotional and prayerful practice; they follow Jesus' journey from condemnation to his death on the cross and burial. For centuries, pilgrims to Jerusalem have followed this practice, praying at sites associated with our Lord's passion and death. Walking the way of the Cross is a special experience that both recalls historical events and also invites the worshipper into closer relationship with God through a contemplation of how God has chosen to love us.



**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  
2475 St. Peter's Road, Malvern, PA 19355  
Phone: 610-644-2261  
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Submissions are invited and are subject to editing.  
Submit articles to [beacon@stpetersgv.org](mailto:beacon@stpetersgv.org)  
Publication date: First of month  
Deadline: 15<sup>th</sup> of month preceding  
Staff: Trudi Graves (editor), Charlotte Mark, David Graves

## *Easter Memorials*



*Easter  
Flowers*

Easter memorials are a meaningful way to remember loved ones or celebrate family milestones like weddings, births, and anniversaries. All gifts “in thanksgiving” or “in memory” will be listed in the Easter leaflets. The minimum suggested contribution is \$30. Please notify the parish office of your gift and the names of those you wish to remember, no later than Thursday, **March 30**.



### *Christian Formation*

When the *The LIFE Millennium: The 100 Most Important Events and People of the Past 1,000 Years* was compiled in 1998, Martin Luther was listed in third place. When German television asked three million viewers to name “Germany’s Best” in November 2003, Luther came in second, behind Chancellor Konrad Adenauer.



**Adult Forum**

Amazingly, an Augustinian monk who questioned the abuse of indulgences became a prominent hero in world history.

At our three adult forum sessions this month, Pastor Karl will present “*Luther for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*,” a series of PowerPoint sessions about the life and thought of this remarkable figure.

- **March 12:** Young Luther—Overachiever
- **March 19:** Indulgences—When Corporate Breaks Down
- **March 26:** Handling Difficult Times

While at the Lutheran Seminary in Philadelphia, Pastor Karl taught on Martin Luther and led the 2015 Luther Land tour of the Southeast Pennsylvania Lutheran Synod. He was also the keynote speaker at the 500<sup>th</sup> commemoration of the Reformation at the 2017 conventions of the Southeast and Northeast Pennsylvania Synods.

Plan to join us in the barn from 10:20 to 11:05. Come with questions, leave with answers!



This semester the youth group is studying the environment and how it relates to their spiritual lives. They are considering how climate change is an issue for young adults, how it affects our global community, and what actions we can take, individually and as a diocese, that would have a positive impact on climate change.

They began by learning some basic ideas about today’s climate change, namely that it is real, precipitated by humans, and a long-range consequence of the industrial revolution and its dependence on burning fossil fuels. They realized that while its impact is universally serious, its effect is typically felt most by the poor and the vulnerable, but they could also identify ways that it has touched each of them.

They discussed people’s perception of what the Episcopal church as a whole and St. Peter’s in particular are doing to combat climate change. In addition to finding out what steps our parish has taken so far, they learned about the 1973 General Convention environmental resolution of the national church and discussed its relationship to what St. Peter’s can do as part of its spiritual growth as an Episcopal community.

The young people came up with action items and discussion topics that they will work on throughout the semester. They already decided to go paperless when publicizing their events. To help reduce St. Peter’s carbon footprint, they committed to providing both an email address and a dedicated phone number (**610-400-8680**) on all announcements for parishioners to use when *rsvp*’ing to youth events.

Please support our youth as they walk this spiritual path.

## Outreach

### ***Sharing Easter Joy with Darby Mission***

Again this year St. Peter's has the opportunity to share Easter joy by providing dinners for forty families served by Darby Mission. As before, this "one-and-done" outreach project is a simple way for us to bring Easter joy to our friends in Darby borough. On Sunday **March 5**, colorful shopping bags, each with an attached list of specific non-perishable items for a family dinner, will be available in the barn. All that it takes to participate in this outreach effort is to pick up a bag, shop for the listed items (cost about \$20), and return the filled bag to St. Peter's **no later than Sunday, March 26**. It is that easy! The outreach commission does the rest: using donations received during Alternative Christmas, the commission will add a roasting chicken and a potted Easter flower to each bag and then deliver the bags to Darby Mission on Good Friday, in time for an Easter feast. If you have questions, feel free to contact Holly Hardester (hahardester@gmail.com, 484-319-6323) or Cathy Terleski (jterleski@aol.com, 610-805-6864). Don't miss this opportunity to share Easter joy!

### ***Hamming It Up for Easter***

Now that Lent has begun, we look forward to announcements from some of our local grocery stores that they will once again offer free Easter hams to members of their frequent shopper clubs. Our St. Peter's food ministry hopes that parishioners and their friends will again donate these gifts so that we can distribute them to our less fortunate friends in the community. Please be on the alert for details about the give-away in your favorite grocery store's flyers! We will publish details about how to donate your free ham to the food ministry in Keynotes and the Sunday leaflets later this month, once the stores announce their guidelines.

Thank you to all who donated items for the *Gesundheit* bags and to the pre-school children who decorated them so cheerily. The patients who received the bags were grateful for both the flu relief and the loving care tucked inside.

### ***Happy 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, Needleworkers!***

On March 1, 2003, parishioners began gathering on the first Saturday of each month to knit and pray. Julie Tampa, the rector's wife, had learned about the ancient Hebraic tradition of the prayer shawl on a retreat and introduced the ministry to St. Peter's.

Ever since, parishioners and community members have been coming together to pray, knit, crochet, sew, and package handmade items for others. The prayer shawl ministry began as a way to comfort the ill and grieving, but over the years the needleworkers started making chemo caps, prayer squares, lap blankets, hats, scarves, and christening blankets, tucking caring and love into every stitch.

Please join them in the barn from 10 a.m. to noon on Saturday, **March 4**, to help celebrate the ministry's anniversary. They also invite you to try your hand at this activity, no matter your age, gender, or needlework experience—current members will gladly teach you. For more information, visit [www.facebook.com/needleworkstpgv](http://www.facebook.com/needleworkstpgv) or contact Betsy Church (bets09@verizon.net, 610-696-3808).

### ***Red Cross Blood Drive March 5***

**When: Sunday, March 5**

9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

**Where: Parish hall**

To register as a donor, visit [stpetersblooddrive.com](http://stpetersblooddrive.com) or use this QR code:







## ***LOOKING AHEAD TO HOLY WEEK AND EASTER***

***April 2***

***Palm Sunday***

Morning worship at 10 a.m.

Choral evensong

4 p.m.

***April 6***

***Maundy Thursday***

Maundy Thursday liturgy, 7:30 p.m.

Watch night

*begins after the service and ends at 12 noon on Friday*

***April 7***

***Good Friday***

Good Friday liturgy, 12 noon

***April 9***

***Easter Day***

Great Vigil of Easter, 6 a.m. (breakfast follows)

Family Easter Eucharist with brass and timpani, 9 a.m.

Festal Easter Eucharist with brass and timpani, 11:15 a.m.

### ***Will You Keep Watch?***

The disciples slept while Jesus prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane. Their stomachs were full after the Passover meal, and their minds even fuller, because they remembered what had happened at supper. Jesus had washed their feet; he had given new meaning to the bread and wine they shared. He had spoken of betrayal. He was clearly troubled. Now he wanted them to watch and pray. No wonder they succumbed to sleep.

We will keep watch over the altar of repose in the historic church throughout the remainder of Maundy Thursday until noon on Good Friday. Parishioners are invited to be present in the historic church for an hour of their choice to keep watch before the stripped altar. The watch is a time of profound quiet; in the busyness of Holy Week it can be a time to be at peace or to be troubled, to wonder, to pray, to succumb to sleep as the disciples did, to respond to stirrings of the Spirit.

Will you spend an hour keeping watch at St. Peter's? Please select your hour and sign up for it in either gathering space. Deacon Jeff will both watch throughout the night and offer security overnight as well.

### ***Palm Sunday Choral Evensong***

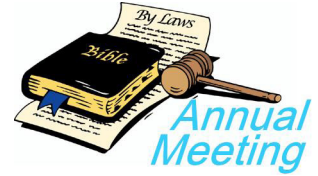
On **April 2**, the choir will present choral evensong featuring contemporary music for Palm Sunday. English composer Richard Shephard (1949-2021) wrote the *Preces and Responses* used in this service, and *Requiem* by Canadian composer Eleanor Daley (b. 1955) will bring the afternoon to a close.

Evensong is a sung service in the Anglican tradition, generally celebrated in late afternoon or early evening in the waning daylight hours. It is a wonderful opportunity to invite friends and neighbors to experience the late afternoon serenity on our holy hill.

## *NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING* *MAY 7, 2023*

Our parish by-laws stipulate that “the annual meeting of the Corporation and the election of vestry persons shall be held in the Church edifice or such adjacent building of the Corporation at the discretion of the vestry within thirty days after Easter Sunday each year.” This year we will hold our annual meeting after the 10 a.m. service on Sunday, **May 7**.

The parish by-laws define eligible voters at this meeting as “all confirmed persons of the age of eighteen years or upwards who shall have been worshipers in the Church as their usual place of worship for at least one year.” If you have a question about your eligibility to vote, please contact our parish administrator, Rachel Martin Swartz. Our bylaws state that you must be present at the meeting to vote unless you requested and submitted an absentee ballot beforehand; you can request one from the parish administrator.



The annual parish meeting is always an important event in the life of the parish, when we review the year just ended, elect our new vestry members, and look ahead to the ministries into which God is calling us at this time. (The vestry nominees will be announced later this month.) Please plan to join us at this meeting and at the single 10 a.m. service that precedes it. At the end of the annual meeting, we will enjoy fellowship and a meal; watch for details about next month. There is much good news to share and celebrate, and we hope to see you on May 7.

- Kate Mallon-Day and Mary Anne Morgan for presenting “Lovers, Loners and Enemies” to provide scholarship assistance for the choir residency in Dublin, and Katie Franz and Mary Ann Tatum for their help backstage;
- Jack Belsinger for helping to reach out to others about stewardship and pledges;
- Linda Huggler for coordinating the Gesundheit bag collection for The Clinic;
- Joe Herbst for his extensive research to identify candidates to serve St. Peter’s auditor;
- Adult forum presenters Jeff Conway and Donna Fabius for sharing their experiences of the *Camino*, and Kate Mallon-Day for her illustrated talk about her Annapurna Circuit trek in Nepal;
- Aleta Ross, Deby Harrison, and the youth group for staging the well-attended and delicious pancake supper as a fundraiser for their summer mission trip to Appalachia, and Steve Ockenden for skillfully refereeing all age groups in the pancake-flipping races;
- Pastor Karl for serving St. Peter’s parishioners during Abigail Nestlehutt’s sabbatical.



***Congratulations to  
The Crossing  
and director Donald Nally  
for winning their third Grammy!***

This year they won  
the “best choral performance” Grammy for  
***Born: Music of Edie Hill and Michael Gilbertson.***  
The Crossing recorded the CD  
in the barn in August 2021.



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

**March 4**  
Needlework ministry  
10 a.m.

**March 5**  
Red Cross blood drive  
9 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
Inquirers class  
4 to 5:30 p.m. (Zoom)

**March 6**  
Popcorn theology  
6 to 7 p.m. (Zoom)

**March 8**  
Lenten soup supper  
6 to 8 p.m.

**March 12**  
Inquirers class  
4 to 5:30 p.m. (Zoom)

**March 13**  
Popcorn theology  
6 to 7 p.m. (Zoom)

**March 15**  
Lenten soup supper  
6 to 8 p.m.



**March 19**  
Inquirers class  
4 to 5:30 p.m. (Zoom)

**March 20**  
Popcorn theology  
6 to 7 p.m. (Zoom)

**March 22**  
Lenten soup supper  
6 to 8 p.m.

**March 27**  
Popcorn theology  
6 to 7 p.m. (Zoom)

**March 29**  
Lenten soup supper  
6 to 8 p.m.

### *January 2023 Financial Snapshot*

	<b>January 2023</b>	<b>Year-end Forecast</b>	<b>Budget 2023</b>
Parishioner Contributions	\$ 32,601	\$534,335	\$530,504
Other Income*	9,267	207,004	208,637
Total Income	41,868	741,339	739,141
Total Expense	58,520	741,066	739,141
Surplus / (Deficit)	(16,652)	273	0

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*



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

The Rev. Dr. Karl Krueger, Sabbatical Pastor  
The Rev. Abigail Crozier Nestlehutt, 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

*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  
April Beacon  
is **March 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.***

### ***HOW TO REACH PASTOR KARL***

#### **Email**

**karldavid556@gmail.com**

#### **Phone**

**610-644-2261**

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





