



The Beacon

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

April 2023

Resurrection Joy

by the Rev. Dr. Karl Krueger

The pastor of the church I attended as a boy used only one illustration in his Easter sermon, and he used it every year. Since he served our congregation for nine years, I heard the story nine times. So, with that in mind, I will share it with you (but only once).

It was June 18, 1815, the day of the Battle of Waterloo, and the Duke of Wellington and Napoleon were locked in a fierce battle in a war that had raged for twenty-three years. The forces of France, led by Napoleon, were fighting against the armies of England, Holland, and Prussia under Wellington's command. The fate of Europe hung in the balance.

England waited breathlessly for news of the outcome. To learn who the victor was as quickly as possible, the British had built two towers, one on their side of the English Channel, the other on the Belgian coast. Men stationed in the tower in Belgium were to transmit news of the outcome using semaphores, so that the sentries on the English side, armed with binoculars, could read it in visual Morse code.

While the news from the front lines was being transmitted, fog rolled in, blocking the view of the English sentries. The message they read was "*WELLINGTON DEFEATED.*" They spread the news, and England went into mourning. It was over—their forces had lost. Napoleon was victorious and once again ruled Europe; England, Holland, and Prussia were finished. There was no dancing in the streets of England that night. Instead, people went to bed depressed and scared about the future.

Since the sentries had decided to transmit the message two days in a row, they resumed their posts in the towers the next day. The sky was clear, and they sent message again. The sentries in England could not believe their eyes when they read, "*WELLINGTON DEFEATED THE ENEMY.*"

They immediately spread the news, and sadness instantly turned into joy. Jubilant people flooded the streets, shouts of joy filled the countryside, and tears of happiness rolled down the faces of the redeemed.

On Good Friday, Jesus' disciples hid in dark rooms, behind locked doors. They could not believe what had happened. Their beloved teacher and master had been crucified. He had been defeated, and they had lost everything. Despair and discouragement gripped their hearts as they admitted, "*JESUS DEFEATED.*" Then on Easter morning, a group of women returned from the grave to announce that he had been raised from the dead and was alive. So the message went from "Jesus defeated" to "*JESUS DEFEATED THE ENEMY.*"

That message rings as clearly today as it did on the first Easter morning. In 2023, we bask in the glory and joy of that announcement that *HE IS RISEN, AND DEATH HAS BEEN DEFEATED.*

“Welcome to St. Peter’s”

On Palm Sunday, the people of Jerusalem greeted Jesus with palm and olive branches. We hope that each person feels welcomed every Sunday, even if we don’t wave palm and olive branches to greet them. Even though the liturgy invites us to exchange the Peace with each other during the service, we are also asked to do more. So before and especially *after* each service, please introduce yourself to someone you don’t know.



Beginning on Palm Sunday, the newcomers commission will provide a basket of “official” greeter badges at the entrance to each worship space as a reminder that as people of God we are called to be welcoming to one another. The commission invites everyone, parishioners and visitors alike, to take and wear a badge. It serves as our introduction to greater involvement in the wider church family. Even though there is a designated greeter at most services, let’s *all* share in this joyful task, just as we share other parish responsibilities.



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The Beacon is produced monthly by St. Peter’s Church in the Great Valley
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Submit articles to beacon@stpetersgv.org

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What’s Cooking in the Kitchen?

Well, nothing’s cooking in the barn kitchen at the moment, and that needs to be changed! One of the reasons we included space for a kitchen when designing the barn was to create a place for parishioners to work on outreach activities together with our community partners. In its unfinished, rudimentary state, though, the kitchen limits our ability to welcome and serve the community both creatively and



caringly. Now that we have our grant from the Pew Foundation in hand, it is time to move ahead and get ready to start “cooking in the kitchen”! So, everyone is invited to come to the unfinished barn kitchen this month to learn more about this project and to enjoy

Dinner in the Barn Kitchen Sunday, April 30 5 to 7 p.m.

Please keep an eye on this month’s Keynotes and Sunday leaflets to learn more about this unique event. If you are ready to reserve your spot now, you can call the parish office or *rsvp* via your Realm account.

We look forward to seeing many of you in the kitchen on **April 30!**



Easter Joy for Darby Mission



Thank you to all who have returned a grocery bag filled with Easter dinner fixings for forty families served by Darby Mission. We will add a roasting chicken and a pot of daffodils to the bags before delivering them to Darby on Good Friday.

If you have not yet turned in your bag, please contact Holly Hardester (hahardester@gmail.com, 484-319-6323) or Cathy Terlescki (jterlescki@aol.com, 610-805-6864) a.s.a.p.



HOLY WEEK AND EASTER 2023

April 2

Palm Sunday

Holy Eucharist
10 a.m. (barn)
Choral evensong
4 p.m. (barn)

April 6

Maundy Thursday liturgy

7:30 p.m. (barn)

Watch night

following the service until 12 noon Friday (church)

April 7

Good Friday liturgy

12 noon (church)

April 9

Easter Day

Great Vigil of Easter

6 a.m. (church)

Breakfast follows the service

Family Easter Eucharist, with brass and timpani

9 a.m. (barn)

Easter egg hunt follows the service

Festal Easter Eucharist, with brass and timpani

11:15 a.m. (barn)

Palm Sunday Choral Evensong

At 4 p.m. on **April 2**, the choir will present a service of choral evensong, featuring music by T. Tertius Noble (1867-1953), Philip Radcliffe (1905-1986), and Karl Jenkins (b. 1944). At the end of the service, they will perform *Requiem*, by Canadian composer Eleanor Daley (b. 1955). This *a capella* work in eight movements uses both sacred texts and secular poetry to capture the feelings of grief engendered by the loss of loved ones.

Please invite friends and neighbors to join you at choral evensong and experience the late afternoon serenity on our holy hill.



Return of the Easter Morning Breakfast

Our traditional Easter morning breakfast after the sunrise service makes its comeback this year, along with the “Omelet King” and his staff who make delicious omelets to order and Terry Michael’s delicious sticky buns. So plan to worship at 6 a.m. and to stay for breakfast in the parish hall to celebrate Jesus’ resurrection.

All are welcome to attend. Please just let us know that you are coming by signing up in either gathering space. If you have questions, please contact Pat Harvey (610-715-0223).

- On **April 16**, adult formation resumes, with Brenda Grove leading our Earth Week discussion. It will focus on effective strategies for combatting climate change and on how Episcopalians and others are actively making a difference. Attendees will receive a list of resources to help them put faith into action by directing their funds, for example, into support for a local community rather than the fossil fuel industry.
- On **April 23**, Martin McElroy and Deacon Jeff will offer “Spiritual Retreats—Refresh, Reflect, Renew.” They will review the history and scriptural underpinnings of the retreat; the variety in its venues and forms; and their personal experience of religious growth, spiritual progress, and heavenly grace, including at our January retreat in upstate New York.
- On **April 30**, Mark Nestlehutt will talk about his experience as president and executive director of Seamen’s Church Institute and the many (often unnoticed) ways we depend on the merchant marine. Through pastoral care, training, advocacy, and leadership, SCI, founded in 1834, promotes the safety, dignity, and safe working environment of those who serve in maritime communities here and abroad.



Outreach

How You Can Make a Difference in the Lives of Some Cool Kids



Once again this summer, we plan to host the children of City Camp for a day in the country (aka our campus). But this summer we need a chair (or co-chairs) to coordinate the different aspects of the camp. Since each portion of the day’s activities—e.g., the lunch, the activities, the book fair—is organized by a volunteer leader, the camp coordinator’s duties only involve planning some logistics and keeping the activities running smoothly on camp day. We invite the children of our volunteers to participate in staging this event, so on-site child supervision and lunch are “fringe benefits” we offer volunteers with children of their own!

If you want to learn more before taking on this job, either solo or as a co-chair with a friend or partner, contact Gail Guthridge (guthgirl60@gmail.com). You will receive more joy than you give!

Easter Hams for Alianzas

Several grocery chains have announced their offer of a free Easter ham to their frequent shoppers. So as in the past, we will collect any “unneeded” free hams and distribute them to our appreciative friends in Phoenixville. If you would like to participate, please redeem your free ham and bring it to church on Palm Sunday. If you have questions, please contact Doug Jones (dwj950@gmail.com or 610-644-1476).



In case you missed “Lovers, Loners & Enemies,” the one-woman show created by Kate Mallon-Day and Mary Anne Morgan, you have another chance to see it at 4 p.m., Sunday, **April 16**, at the Tredyffrin Library on Upper Gulph Road, Strafford. Please direct questions to kantakate@aol.com or 610-613-8965.

Vestry Nominees to be Voted on at the May 7th Annual Meeting



The 2023 nominating committee (Greg Bright, Gail Guthridge, Mike Harman, Joe Herbst, Lyndsay Knupp, Dave Lockner, Sandy Mannix, and Helen Ockenden) has named Liz Andersen, Amy Fisher, Tim Hepp, and Dave Tatum as candidates for the vestry class of 2026. (See their biographical sketches below.) Anyone who wishes to nominate an additional candidate must submit a petition signed by at least ten eligible voting members to the nominating committee via Dave Lockner no later than **April 8**.

Our by-laws define eligible voters as “all confirmed persons of the age of eighteen years or upwards who shall have been worshipers in this Church as their usual place of worship for at least one year”; they also stipulate that members must be present to vote unless they have submitted an absentee ballot. If you have questions about your eligibility to vote, or need an absentee ballot, please contact our parish administrator.

We encourage everyone to attend this important event in our parish life when we reflect on the past year and look ahead to the coming one. After the service and meeting, we will gather in fellowship at a celebratory lunch, organized this year by Sarah Tellefsen. After Easter, there will be sign-up sheets in both gathering spaces for volunteers to help with the meal.

There is much good news to share and celebrate, including Abigail’s return from sabbatical, so please save this block of time on your calendar now!



Liz Andersen

Liz came to St. Peter’s in 1990, when her growing family moved to Charlestown and helped teach Sunday school through the ‘90’s. After her family started a community-supported farm and the Phoenixville Farmers’ Market, the time and energy involved kept her from being active in the church, but she felt that her work still served God. During the pandemic, Liz reconnected with St. Peter’s online, and when in-person services resumed, she joyfully returned. She was thrilled to see so many members she knew as well as new ones and looks forward to supporting the work of St. Peter’s if elected.

Amy Fisher

Amy and Greg found St. Peter’s in January 2015 while expecting their first child and looking for a church. Having grown up at St. Thomas Episcopal (Pittstown NJ), Amy wanted their family to have a similar experience and immediately felt comfortable in this welcoming small parish and beautiful historical setting. She enjoys serving as a reader at St. Peter’s and as a member of the stewardship commission; before the pandemic she volunteered in children’s chapel. Amy, whose hobbies are exercising, baking, and the Phillies, works part time for a family-owned industrial company where she wears many hats.

Tim Hepp

Tim, who worships at either early morning service, joined St. Peter’s in the fall of 2019. He grew up Roman Catholic and served as an usher at St Colman’s (Ardmore) for 35 years. Tim discovered St. Peter’s while looking for a church that would welcome and accept an LGBTQ family member. Tim recently joined St. Peter’s newcomers commission and was also called to serve as secretary of the diocesan LGBTQIA+ committee. During working hours, he is a mid-Atlantic area sales representative for a major publisher of children’s and adult books.

Dave Tatum

Dave and MaryAnn have attended St. Peter’s for 20 years. From 2010 to 2012, he served on the vestry, including a stint as vestry warden, charged with overseeing repairs to the historic church. Since then, he has chaired the property commission and as a Bad Boy has been maintaining and manicuring the grounds and engaging the youth of the parish in this work during the summer. Indoors, Dave has served as a sound technician, usher, and Eucharistic minister; as a retired teacher and St. Peter’s “unofficial historian,” he has led adult forums on its history. He is honored to be nominated to serve on the vestry again.

Dear St. Peter's family,

It's time for us to get to know each other a little better than we do now. Since our photo directory was printed in 2018, new people have made St. Peter's their parish home, members have moved from the area, and everyone's appearance and contact information have likely changed as well. It is time to create an updated photo directory to help everyone in the parish family put names and faces together!



After Easter, staff members and volunteers will begin entering changes in our church management database (which includes the Realm app that everyone has already been invited to access). In the coming weeks you will receive an email telling you that your privacy settings within Realm have been changed. No worries—this doesn't mean you have been hacked! It just means that we have made your contact information (name, address, preferred phone number, and e-mail) and photo available in our on-line directory and that we have granted you access to it. Please note that the contact information is the same as what already appears in our out-of-date printed directory, or what you have furnished to the parish office.

Now that we are updating the directory, this is an ideal time for you to review the information and photo we have on file for you, and to let the office know of any changes you wish to make to either. In addition, should you choose to have your directory information hidden, you can tell us that too. Finally, if you have not activated your Realm app account yet, you will receive an email inviting you to do so now, in order to access the directory online. We will continue to make available a print copy of the directory contact information to those who request one.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me (jeff@stpetersgv.org, 610-644-2261).

Yours,
Deacon Jeff

Take Me out to the Ballgame!



The people of nearby St. Francis in the Fields have again invited us to join them in singing the national anthem at the start of the Reading Phillies game on Saturday, June 17. The plan is to have a brief rehearsal about thirty to forty-five minutes before we sing, and then to sit back and enjoy the game after the anthem. This is a terrific way to partner with a neighboring church and have some fun while spreading the word about St. Peter's!

Information about ticket prices and the deadline for rsvp'ing will appear in Keynotes, the Sunday leaflets, and the May *Beacon* once it is firmed up. But sign-up sheets are already available in both gathering spaces. If you have general questions about this outing, please contact Jeff (jeff@stpetersgv.org).

- Mark Nestlehutt for leading "Popcorn Theology" throughout Lent;
- Suzanne and Christy Casey for organizing the meals at the Lenten soup suppers, and Melissa Shaner for leading the programs that followed the meal;
- All parishioners whose pledges helped St. Peter's meet the 2023 goal, and stewardship chair Jan Himmelreich and all who worked on the successful pledge campaign;
- The Bad Boys & Girls 4 Jesus for installing solar-powered lights along the brick walkway leading to the church for added safety at night.





April 1
Needlework ministry
10 a.m.

April 2
Palm Sunday
10 a.m. (barn)
Choral evensong
4 p.m. (barn)

April 3 through 6
Church open for quiet time
9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

April 6
Maundy Thursday liturgy
7 p.m. (barn)
Watch Night at the altar of repose
after the service to 12 noon Friday (church)

April 7
Good Friday liturgy
12 noon (church)

April 9
Easter Sunday
Great Vigil of Easter (church)
6 a.m.
Breakfast follows (parish hall)
Family Easter Eucharist, with brass and timpani
9 a.m. (barn)
Easter egg hunt follows
Festal Easter Eucharist, with brass and timpani
11:15 a.m. (barn)

April 16
Book swap in the barn
after the 9 a.m. service

April 23
Book swap in the church
after the 8 and 11:15 a.m. services

April 30
“What’s Cooking” dinner
5 to 7 p.m.

February Financial Snapshot

	February 2023	Year to Date February	Year-end Projection	Budget 2024
Parishioner Contributions	\$ 54,452	\$ 84,629	\$489,493	\$530,504
Other Income*	9,473	18,740	205,577	208,637
Total Income	63,925	103,369	695,070	739,141
Total Expense	53,819	106,092	672,102	739,141
Surplus / (Deficit)	10,106	(-2,723)	22,968	0

**Interest, rentals, endowment distributions*

Pledge income is strong in this snapshot, a number of parishioners fulfilled their entire 2023 pledge during February. We are anticipating a modest budget surplus at year’s end. —Eric Lien for the finance commission



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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 & 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
May Beacon
is **April 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.

