



The Beacon

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

November 2023

“All Will Be Well”

by the Rev. Abigail Crozier Nestlehutt

Sometimes things just do not work out the way I had hoped—perhaps because of circumstances beyond my control, or because I did something wrong, or because my best efforts fell short. When I am feeling defeated, I often find myself turning to the familiar words of medieval mystic Dame Julian of Norwich: “All will be well, and all will be well, and all manner of things will be well.” I remind myself that God’s time is different from our time, which I believe to be true, and find some solace in Julian’s words. But on their own, they become nothing but Christian platitudes.

This month we are moving into the time of year that consumer culture has claimed as “the holiday season.” Experience tells us that the weeks ahead will be joyful and challenging, and unlikely to live up to the rosy marketing images we encounter at every turn. The bright shiny objects and enticingly aromatic foods are not what satisfy us. We need something more.

Community, purpose, being part of something larger than ourselves, faith, these are what we need. At this time of year the church shines at inviting us into what matters. We begin November with the commemoration of all the saints, remembering those who have died and whose examples of living ground and guide us. They are saints of the church like Julian of Norwich and the saints of our lives. This is not a modern construct: there is evidence that as early as the year 270, Christians began to honor those who had gone before because they longed to express the connection between the faithful on earth and the communion of saints.

During this month, we also prepare for Advent, itself a season of preparation. The lessons become apocalyptic in nature as we end one church year and begin another. This is a time when the rhythm of the liturgical cycle is particularly apparent and when we reflect on the narrative arc of Christianity.

Typically, the first Sunday of Advent falls on Thanksgiving weekend. But this year it falls on the first Sunday in December, giving you a little extra time to take a deep breath and think about your hopes for the sacred season ahead. It gives you time to be mindful that the reason for all the commercial hype is the birth of a child who became a man whose mission on earth was to help people understand that they are loved and to show them how to love. And, as the story goes, since there was no room at the inn, the child was born in a barn where a feeding trough served as his crib.

Whether you are looking forward to the excitement of turkey and family and gifts and all the holiday trappings or are feeling a bit apprehensive about how everything will play out for you this year, I invite you into a holy holiday season. At St. Peter’s we will offer opportunities to connect with community, to be purposeful and caring, to be mindful of being part of something larger than ourselves, to praise God and be moved by glorious worship. Please read the pages that follow with these possibilities in mind. Indeed, all will be well because we engage with what we believe and because we live what we believe.



Time for a Fall Hayride!

Come hop on our parishwide hayride that the youth group decided to revive and host this year! The plan is for everyone to meet at Sugartown Strawberries (650 Sugartown Road, Malvern) at 6 p.m. on Sunday, **November 5**, after choral evensong.



The joyful hayride will take us to a bonfire where we will roast hot dogs and marshmallows and have some autumnal fun. The cost is \$5 per person, payable by cash or a check made out to St. Peter's Church in the Great Valley, with "hayride" in the memo. To assist us with planning, please sign up using a sheet in either gathering space or the link in Keynotes. Thank you!

Choral Evening for All Saints

The choirs of St. Peter's will offer a festal service of Evensong for All Saints at 4 p.m. on Sunday, **November 5**, with special music by British composers Thomas Attwood Walmisley and Malcolm Archer. Evensong is a sacred way to reflect on the ending of a day and week and to prepare



for the approaching night. Both the spoken and the sung words of the service invite us to reflect on the day just ending, to pray for the world and for ourselves, and to commend all into God's hands.

Rooted in ancient monastic traditions of Christian prayer, choral evensong as we know it was devised by Archbishop Thomas Cranmer (1489–1556). Over the years, some of the greatest composers for the church, including Walmisley and Archer, have set its sacred texts to music.

- English composer and organist Thomas Walmisley (1814–1856) graduated from Jesus College, Cambridge, and then served as organist and music professor simultaneously at its Trinity and St. John's Colleges. Several of his Anglican chant tones, anthems, and notably his *Canticles in D minor* are well-loved in the Anglican choral repertoire.
- Composer, conductor and organist Malcolm Archer (b.1952) has served as music director at Bristol Cathedral, Wells Cathedral, and St Paul's Cathedral in London, and he retired recently from his post as director of chapel music at Winchester College. A prolific composer of over 250 published choral, instrumental, and operatic works, Archer took the text for his anthem *And I Saw a New Heaven* from the Book of Revelation, a traditional reading for the feast of All Saints.

The choirs invite the parish to join them at this beautiful service that is sung in the dwindling daylight of late afternoon in the serenity of the candlelit historic church. Choral evensong offers us an opportunity to experience the scriptures in a special way and to introduce friends and neighbors to St. Peter's and its musical richness.



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The Beacon is produced monthly by St. Peter's Church in the Great Valley
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Phone: 610-644-2261
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Web site: www.stpetersgv.org

Submissions are invited and are subject to editing.

Submit articles to beacon@stpetersgv.org

Publication date: First of month

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Staff: Trudi Graves (editor), Charlotte Mark, David Graves

Final 2023 Appearance of Jazz Sanctuary

On **November 15**, the musicians of Jazz Sanctuary will perform the final 2023 “third Wednesday” concert—in a different location and at a different time. This month, they will perform next door, in the auditorium at Echo Lake, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. In light of the hour, we will enjoy the music in community, but not supper.

The concert will take place in the Echo Lake auditorium. After parking your car, enter the complex through the door on your left, and someone there will sign you in and direct you to the auditorium. We look forward to another enjoyable evening of lively music and superb musicianship, even without a meal, and also to hosting the combo again during 2024 in the barn!

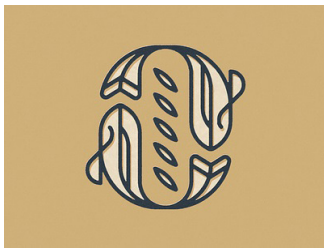
Thanksgiving Day Morning Prayer

We invite the St. Peter’s community to begin Thanksgiving day with grateful prayer via Zoom **at 10 a.m.** on Thanksgiving Day. So put your turkey in the oven and join Abigail and Jeff in offering thanks to God in a simple Morning Prayer service while the bird roasts. Everyone on the Keynotes list will receive the Zoom link, so please be alert for it. (If you would like to be added to the Keynotes distribution list, please contact the parish office.)



Please remember that one of the benefits of online worship is that we can be together while in different places, so be sure to invite family and friends to attend as well (or to join us virtually if you are away from home). All are welcome.

Multiplying God’s Love in this Season of Bounty



The stewardship commission members really appreciate those who have pledged early in the campaign and thank them for having already decided on their part in helping St. Peter’s create a realistic 2024 budget. As everyone knows, our parish is committed to multiplying God’s love this year both through our operating budget and through the “third place” barn kitchen project.

In this season of bountiful harvest, we hope that you will turn your time, talents and treasures to assisting St. Peter’s efforts to Multiply God’s Love. If you have not yet pledged, please act now, using any of three options: the Realm app on your smartphone; filling out the pledge card that came in the mail and returning it either via the mail or the Sunday collection plate; pledging online at our website, www.stpetersgv.org/giving. Thank you in advance for doing this.

The in-gathering and blessing of all pledges received to date will take place at the single service on Sunday, **November 5**, when the whole parish worships together.

Please join us for adult forum in the barn at 10:20 a.m. Bring your coffee and your questions!



- On **November 12**, the finance commission will present its annual update on the state of parish funding, pledges, and plans.
- On **November 19**, Maximus Marlowe, a Liberty University senior from Devon, will discuss his research on Welsh immigration to colonial Pennsylvania, including the history of the Welsh Tract, and the founding of St. David’s whose history meshes with ours. Max spent the summer as a research intern at St. David’s and also worked with Susy Baum and Dave Tatum in St. Peter’s archives.
- **On November 26**, we will observe “Bring Your Leftover Pie to Church Day” with a special coffee hour in place of adult forum. Come sample other families’ pies (and clear out your refrigerator a bit as well)!

Holiday Outreach Opportunities

Sharing Our Blessings at Thanksgiving

Both cool weather and supermarket announcements of their annual offer of free turkeys to loyal customers remind us that the holiday season is not far off. So it is time to remind everyone that St. Peter's will again collect the birds that parishioners choose to donate and deliver them to folks in the community whose holiday dinner would otherwise be far more spartan. Please stay alert for additional details in Keynotes and the November leaflets. For more information, feel free to contact Doug Jones (dwj950@gmail.com).



The Gifting Tree



There is no better way to show that we are "blessed to be blessed" than to support children who are not as fortunate as we are through St. Peter's annual "Gifting Tree"! Your generosity will help children served by Darby Mission, the Community Youth and Women's Alliance, and St. James School experience God's love and a merrier Christmas.

The tree arrives in both gathering spaces on **November 19**, "decorated" with gift tags for you to remove: they suggest wishes for you to use when you shop. When you return your gifts to St. Peter's, please include the gift tag ornament and indicate the timing and delivery method for your gifts. If you have questions, please contact Brenda Grove.



Give a Pint--Save a Life

Let's keep up the good work, St. Peter's! In September, our community drive hit new peaks in both registrations (45) and units donated (35). This month, we are offering another chance to bolster the dwindling supply of blood by sponsoring a drive between 1 and 6 p.m. in the barn on Thanksgiving eve, Wednesday, **November 22**. Historically, the holiday season depletes the supply of whole blood, plasma, and platelets, and a 25% nationwide decrease in donations since the pandemic compounds the seasonal shortfall. So this Thanksgiving, let us show our gratitude by registering as a donor of the gift of life, via either the QR code below or stpetersblooddrive.com.



In addition to this Thanksgiving Drive, St. Peter's will also host a smaller drive for first-time donors on Wednesday, January 3, 2024, to help stem the holiday blood shortage crisis.

Holiday Sock Drive

We are once again collecting packages of socks of any type and size for our friends of all ages at CYWA in Coatesville. Please bring your donations to either gathering space or the parish house no later than Sunday, **December 17**. For more information, contact Jenny Disque (jdisque47@gmail.com).

Handmade Gifts Mini-Market

New this year! Following the 9 a.m. service on **November 26** and the 10 a.m. service on **December 3**, our needleworkers will sponsor a mini-market featuring handmade items like scarves and caps. The proceeds of this sale will benefit our outreach ministries.





A Preview of Advent and Christmas

December 3

Advent wreath making workshop
10:20 a.m.

Advent Lessons and Carols
4 p.m.

December 3, 10, 17

Alternative Christmas Market

December 6, 13, 21

Midweek evening Advent programs

December 24

Advent 4

Holy Eucharist, Rite II
10 a.m. (church)

Family Eucharist and Christmas Pageant
4 p.m. (barn)

Christmas Eve

Festal Christmas Eucharist with musical prelude
9 p.m. (church)

December 25

Christmas Day

Christmas Eucharist
10 a.m. (church)



Christmas Pageant Plans



Children dressed as Mary and Joseph, shepherds, angels, and kings will again portray the wonderful story of Jesus' birth at the 4 p.m. family Eucharist on **Christmas Eve**. There will be stars overhead, hymns, a manger, and baby Jesus, as the story is told from scripture, with children speaking simple parts.

It is not too early to think about preparing for all of this! To help parents avoid scheduling conflicts, we are announcing the rehearsal schedule *now*. The first two rehearsals will take place after the 9 a.m. service on December 10 and 17; the third and final rehearsal will take place at 5 p.m. on Thursday, December 21. Please reserve these dates on your calendar now; we will email further details later. In the meantime, we are ready to hear from you via email (sundayschool@stpetersgv.org) that your youngster will participate.

The Hand-Mades Tale at St. Peter's

No, that's not a typo, and the pun on Margaret Atwood's *Handmaid's Tale* is definitely intended! "The Hand-Mades" is indeed the theme for the Women on the Hill gathering at 7 p.m. on Monday, **November 6**. So please bring a treasured item that you made yourself or that a significant person in your life created for you.



Our hope is to continue to get to know one another, this month by sharing tales of our hand-made keepsakes and why they are special to us. All women of the parish are welcome to attend this event in the parish hall, at which light refreshments will be served.

A Man Called Otto at Popcorn Theology This Month

Our popcorn theology series on "The December of Life" continues at 6 p.m. on Monday, **November 13**, when we turn our attention to the 2022 film, *A Man Called Otto* (PG-13), starring Tom Hanks, Truman Hanks, Mariana Treviño, and Manuel Garcia-Rulfo. The cheerless, meaningless life of a grumpy, elderly widower is disrupted when a lively young family moves into his neighborhood.



All are invited to join the discussion of this film, which portrays the joys, challenges, and losses experienced as we age. Simply watch *A Man Called Otto* before the meeting; it is available for streaming on Netflix, Apple TV, Amazon Prime Video, Hulu, or Google Play and as a DVD at your local library. Then on Monday evening, use the Zoom link that you received on Sunday to join the discussion of the moral, ethical, spiritual, and cinematic aspects of the film. For more information, contact Mark Nestlehutt (mark.nestlehutt@gmail.com) or Steve Ockenden (steveock@verizon.net).

- Katharine Campbell and Holly Hardester for the new cover on the baptismal font in the historic church, Katharine for providing the fabric and Holly for doing the stitchery on it;
- Linda Holden who made treats for the pets participating in the Blessing of the Animals;
- Ethan Snyder, Wharton Esherick Museum’s collections and program manager, for his informative talk at the October gathering of Women of the Hill;
- The Rev. Mark Nestlehutt for leading for leading worship at 9 and 11:15 on October 8 when Abigail was on retreat with the youth confirmands;
- The Rev. John Whitnah for leading services on October 15 during Abigail’s recuperation;
- Jeanne Lockner for revamping and enhancing St. Peter’s website;
- Susy Baum for adding homemade quince jelly to the other preserves in support of the work of the Bad Boys & Girls for Jesus;
- The Bad Boys & Girls for Jesus for their help with the barn painting project;
- Roy Almquist for leading the two-part series on Reinhold Niebuhr at adult forum in October;
- Steven Patchel for seamlessly taking the helm as organist and choir director;
- Gail Guthridge and Gail McLaughlin for ensuring that the fellowship tables are well supplied with treats each Sunday;
- Pattye Benson and John Hess for arranging for bountiful tables of food at the “Third Wednesday” jazz performances, and the superb musicians in Jazz Sanctuary for entertaining us so delightfully;



Memories of the Bishop’s Visit on October 22



The Bishop confirmed four young people and one adult and blessed five adults who reaffirmed their faith. And he energetically shared the peace with the congregation gathered that day.





NOVEMBER

November 4

Needlework
10 a.m.
St. James 5K Run/Walk
9:30 a.m. (at St. Peter's)

November 5

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS

All Saints' Day

Holy Eucharist, Rite 2
Ingathering of pledges
10 a.m.
Choral evensong
4 p.m.
Hayride for all ages
6 to 8 p.m.

November 6

Women on the Hill
7 p.m.

November 12

Concert: Music of James Taylor
3 p.m.
See p. 8 for details.

November 13

Popcorn theology
6 to 7 p.m.
Book club
7:15 p.m. (hybrid)

November 15

Jazz Sanctuary
7 to 8:30 p.m. (at Echo Lake)

November 19

Giftng tree arrives

November 21

Lunch-making for Coatesville
10 a.m.

November 22

Red Cross blood drive
1 to 6 p.m.

November 23

Thanksgiving Day
Morning prayer
10 a.m. (via Zoom)

Killers of the Flower Moon at This Month's Book Club

On Monday, **November 13**, the book club will discuss the history featured in and also portrayed in Martin Scorsese's recent film of the same title. The meeting will take place at 7:15 p.m. in hybrid form: up to eight people can attend in person at the parish house but any number can attend via Zoom. Please contact Brenda Grove if you plan to attend in person or if you want more information.

September Financial Snapshot

	September	Year to Date	Year-end Forecast	Budget 2023
Parish Contributions	\$ 26,064	\$396,424	\$524,778	\$530,504
Other Income*	25,116	114,891	184,110	208,637
Total Income	51,180	511,315	708,888	739,141
Total Expenses	49,510	479,225	684,787	739,141
Surplus / (Deficit)	1,670	32,090	24,101	0

**Interest, rentals, endowment distributions*

As of September, total income projections are slightly lower than forecast; our total year-end expenditure forecast, however, remains under budget. At this time, therefore, we are projecting a year-end surplus of \$24,101. *—Dave Lockner for the finance commission*



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E-mail: parishoffice@stpetersgv.org Web site: www.stpetersgv.org

The Rev. Abigail Crozier Nestlehutt, Rector
 The Ven. Jeff Moretzsohn, Deacon
 Steven Patchel, Organist and Choir Director
 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
 December *Beacon*
 is **November 15.**

Weekly Offerings at St. Peter's

First Sunday of the Month

10 A.M. Holy Eucharist, Rite 2**

All Other Sundays

8 A.M. Holy Eucharist, Rite 1*

9 A.M. Family Eucharist & Sunday School**

10:20 A.M. Christian Formation**

11:15 A.M. Holy Eucharist, Rite 2*

Fellowship follows all services

Wednesday

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

Thursday

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

12 NOON Noonday Prayer***

Friday

8 A.M. Gathering of Men***

* Church

** Barn

*** Virtual

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

The Songs of James Taylor



A Tribute Concert

with

**Ray Adkins &
 the One Man Dog Band**



Hear the Hits and Hidden Treasures

Sunday November 12th 3:00 – 6:00

St. Peter's Church in the Great Valley

2475 St. Peter's Rd. Malvern, PA 19355

Get advance \$25 tickets at onemandog.net or \$30 at the door.
 This event supports the St. Peter's Outreach Fund