



The Beacon

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

April 2024

Experiential Faith

by the Rev. Abigail Crozier Nestlehutt

In an interview about his latest art exhibit now on view at the Brandywine River Museum, Jamie Wyeth mused, “There’s always talk about painters: Is the way they paint affected by their physical attribution, their eyes? But so much is done in your mind. I paint more in my bed and in dreams than I do actually sitting at an easel.” His observation about the gift of unintentional creativity during sleep reminded me of the verse from Psalms that we pray early in the *New Zealand Prayer Book* Compline liturgy:

It is but lost labour that we haste to rise up early,
and so late take rest, and eat the bread of anxiety.
For those beloved of God are given gifts even while they sleep.
(Psalm 127:3)

I find this idea of sleep as a way to collaborate with our own creativity and with the divine both intriguing and enlightening. I am grateful for the reminder that I need not, nor can I, control everything and for the reminder that rest has value.

I hear the psalmist’s words as an invitation to live fully engaged in body, mind, and spirit rather than waste time in worrying. I hear those words as an invitation to us to partner with God toward productive solutions rather than fretting on our own.

Christians are invited throughout Eastertide to accompany Jesus’ friends as they seek to understand the resurrection and to connect with the divine through Jesus’ resurrection. With our ears, we hear the stories that remind us of who Jesus is, the good shepherd, the true vine. In our hearts and spirit, we feel the love that defies logic—the unconditional, wild love that we are called to share. We live into the meaning of the resurrection even when mere words fail to explain it adequately, rationally.

“Easter is not an exercise in argument or in evidence,” a distinguished university chaplain once told his intellectually inclined congregation, “but is meant to be an experience in which you can and must participate now.” Similarly, I encourage you to read the pages that follow with resurrection eyes and to absorb experientially, uncritically, the message they convey. Be alert to the many ways that ministry happens at St. Peter’s and in the world because of the faithful work of the people of this parish. Look for the opportunities to love and care as Jesus taught us to do. Also, remember that we are called into community with each other and with God, “in whom we live and move and have our very being.”

A First at St. Peter's—Jazz Vespers

Everyone is invited to come to St. Peter's at 4 p.m. on Sunday, **April 7**, when Jazz Sanctuary makes its return appearance. The talented combo will offer Jazz Vespers, a unique service that fuses Evening Prayer and jazz. This musical form is a synthesis of traditions, a blending of an age-old liturgy with the unique modern heritage we call jazz. With a freshness that is open to God's Spirit, this blending of forms expresses the hopes, dreams, joys, frustrations, and pains of human experience, while exploring a musical vocabulary that transcends the limits of the written or spoken word.



Light refreshments will follow the service. If you are inclined to provide food, please let us know by using the sign-up sheet available in both gathering spaces or by calling the office.

Sing the National Anthem at a Reading Phillies Game

We have the opportunity to join St. Francis in the Fields in singing the national anthem at a Reading Phillies game on Saturday, June 15. That night will be a tribute to DC comics and Batman, and fireworks will follow the game!

For planning purposes, we need to know how many are interested in attending no later than **April 21**. So please let us know by emailing Abigail (abigail@stpetersgv.org), calling the office (610-644-2261), or using the sign-up link in Keynotes. Thank you!

FYI: A Musical Note

Steven Patchel will be the featured organist at Longwood Gardens at 3 p.m. on **April 21**. Free with admission to the gardens.

Women on the Hill

At the Women on the Hill meeting on **Monday, April 8**, our own Susie Baum, known here for her floral expressions of worship, will reprise a garden club presentation she gave recently in Virginia. Her talk includes slides of her entries in the Philadelphia Flower Show's "Artistic Design" gallery as well as several samples of her creative designs.

In college Susie studied numerous studio art media and later completed a two-year certification in floral design at Longwood Gardens; these experiences led her to discover that flowers are her medium for artistic expression. Besides her long-term involvement in St. Peter's flower guild, she has competed in the Philadelphia Flower Show for the past twenty-four years.



Do not miss what promises to be a delightful evening on **April 8**, at 7 p.m. in the parish hall. Light refreshments will be served. All women in the parish are always warmly invited to Women on the Hill events and to bring friends as well. For this event, "friends" includes men as well! Please send any questions you may have to womenonthehill@stpetersgv.org.



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2475 St. Peter's Road, Malvern, PA 19355
Phone: 610-644-2261
E-mail: parishoffice@stpetersgv.org
Web site: www.stpetersgv.org

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Submit articles to beacon@stpetersgv.org
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Deadline: 15th of month preceding
Staff: Trudi Graves (editor), Charlotte Mark, David Graves

Re-Use and Re-cycle to Benefit the Preschool!

The preschool rummage sale is just around the corner, on Saturday, **April 13**, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. From **Monday, April 8 through Thursday, April 11**, we will gratefully receive the outgrown or unwanted items you wish to donate at the barn. Note that this year's drop-off hours offer a variety of times during the four days to make donating your items more convenient than ever:

Monday, April 8—12 noon to 7 p.m.

Tuesday, April 9—9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Wednesday, April 10—12 noon to 7 p.m.

Thursday April 11—9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Another way to help us with this event is to volunteer to sort and label those items with prices on those four days and on Friday, or to help staff the sale. You can sign up in either gathering space or visit Sign-up Genius (www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F45A9AE2DA5FF2-48692528-stpeters#). If you have questions, please contact Erinn White (preschool@stpetersgv.org, 610-644-2261) or Mike Harman (michaelharman1956@comcast.net, 610-495-6439).

While we appreciate and gladly accept *almost* anything—including small pieces of furniture, workshop and gardening tools, antiques and collectibles, toys and portable sporting goods and baby paraphernalia, books, and sundry household gadgets—there are some items that we simply cannot accept:

- clothing and shoes
- household items that can't be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected (e.g., mattresses, bed pillows, stuffed animals)
- items subject to prior damage by impact (e.g., car seats, helmets)
- items deemed hazardous by the EPA (CRT television and computer monitors, paint)
- items requiring costly, time-consuming certification for resale (e.g., cribs & cradles)
- items that other charities do not accept (VHS tapes, undergarments, large exercise equipment like treadmills and weights).

Thank you in advance for letting us turn your cast-offs into someone else's new-found treasures that benefit the preschool, for volunteering to help stage the sale, and for attending it!



Vacation Bible School

Who's it for? Rising 1st- through 5th-graders

When is it? June 17 to 21, 9 a.m. to 12 noon

What happens? Each day includes a lively Bible lesson with sets and costumes, a sing-along, a craft, outdoor games and recreation and a mission-driven activity related to food and giving

How much? \$20 for one child, \$10 for each additional child in a family

Sign up soon. Space is limited.

For additional information and to register, visit www.stpetersgv.org/vbs/ or email vbs@stpetersgv.org

Bonus: St. Peter's "Lambs Camp" is available for younger children at the preschool's discounted sibling rate



NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

MAY 5, 2024

FOLLOWING THE 10 A.M. SERVICE

The 2024 nominating committee (Philip Cauffman, Kathryn Evans, Linda Holden, Duncan Kraig, Kate Mallon-Day, Steve Ockenden, Luci Russell, and Roger Tellefsen) has named Becky Dempsey, Duncan Kraig, Michael Smith, and Tony Wirtel as candidates for the vestry class of 2027. (Their biographies appear below.) Any member of the congregation who wishes to nominate an additional candidate must submit a petition, signed by at least ten eligible voting members, to the nominating committee via Luci Russell no later than **April 10**.



The parish 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 beforehand. If you have questions about your eligibility to vote, or if you will need an absentee ballot, please contact our parish administrator, Rachel Martin Swartz.

We encourage everyone to reserve the date of this important event in our parish when we reflect on the past year and look ahead to the coming one. After the meeting, we will gather in fellowship at a celebratory brunch. In mid-April, its organizer Sarah Tellefsen will provide sign-up sheets in both gathering spaces for volunteers to help with the meal. There is much good news to share and celebrate, so do plan to be there!



Becky Dempsey

Becky has attended St. Peter’s since moving to Berwyn in 2012. She joined the choir almost immediately and enjoyed participating in choir residencies in England and Ireland. Becky has been active in the food ministry, and served as a shepherd when sheep grazed in the historic graveyard.

A retired attorney, Becky spent forty years representing low-income clients and people experiencing domestic violence. She served on the vestry of her former church and on several boards, including that of a regional healthcare system. She enjoys caring for her two-year-old granddaughter and hiking with her husband Paul and their dog.

Michael Smith

Michael and his husband Steve have been at St. Peter’s since 2019 after relocating from Florida. New to the Episcopal Church, they were introduced to St. Peter’s by the Comstocks and are grateful for the warm welcome they received from everyone.

Michael, a 40-year television industry veteran, is currently with QVC. He and Steve have lived in London, Dubai, and Tampa, but are now happy to call Malvern their home now and St. Peter’s their spiritual home. At St. Peter’s Michael serves as an usher, reader, and intercessor, assists with the Red Cross Blood drives, and cheerfully helps out when asked.

Duncan Kraig

Duncan has literally been a lifelong member of St. Peter’s, having been baptized in the historic church. He grew up near West Chester and graduated from West Chester University. In 2013, after his marriage to Faith in the historic church, they moved to King of Prussia but remained members here, usually attending the 9 o’clock service. Like Duncan, their two daughters were also baptized at the historic font.

Duncan is a stay-at-home Dad during the day, and a swim coach in the evenings. His love of history has always drawn him to St. Peter’s.

Tony Wirtel

Tony and Marsha found St. Peter’s in 2006 after returning to the area from graduate school. Tony served on the property commission, where, working with Peco, he found ways to cut energy costs for the barn by 60%. Later, as chair, he helped get funding from the vestry to do most grounds care in-house. Since 2016 he has been a member of the 9 a.m. choir.

A Malvern resident, Tony manages an innovation group for a local medical device company. Away from the office, he enjoys building things, traveling, volunteering on the battleship *New Jersey*, and flying small planes.



On **April 14**, Pastor Karl Krueger returns to St. Peter’s to tell us more about the Lutheran-Episcopal connection. When he served as our sabbatical pastor, Susy Baum photocopied for him “a typed copy of a paper written in the 1880s by the German-American historian Julius Sachse [that] was housed in the archives of St. Peter’s.” In it, Sachse focuses on the ministry of William Currie, including the German worship service Henry Mühlenberg led in 1750. Join Pastor Karl as he elaborates on the cooperation among Lutherans, Anglicans, and others in the Delaware Valley for the sake of the gospel.

On **April 21**, the Green Stewards will help us celebrate Earth Day with a conversation about the environment, creation care, and climate change. Five parishioners will begin the discussion by outlining insights and resources they have gained from print and electronic media, websites, and groups, and encourage attendees to participate as well. Everyone will be offered a resource list for further exploration and action.

On **April 28**, Kyle Evans, the Episcopal Community Services chaplain, will deepen our connection with this Philadelphia-based organization. The mission of ECS is “to challenge and reduce reduce intergenerational poverty. We increase the ability of people to improve their lives and achieve economic independence. We call upon every person to participate in sustainable, positive change for our communities.”

Spring Concert

THE JOHN BYRNE BAND



From Dublin to Philly in Songs and Stories

Sunday April 14th 3:00 – 6:00pm



At the High Point Bank Barn on the lovely grounds of **St. Peter’s Church in the Great Valley**
2475 St. Peter’s Road, Malvern PA 19355

Get your tickets here:
\$25 or \$30 at the door



Follow them at: www.johnbyrneband.com

Proceeds from this event benefit St. Peter’s.

Popcorn Theology Bonus Film

To conclude our Lenten series on music and the search for perfection, we will discuss one additional film—*Hilary and Jackie* (1998)—on Monday, **April 15**. It concerns the lives of two sisters, in whom their mother, Iris Du Pré, inspired a love of music. The daughters’ careers, however, end up leading them in profoundly different directions.



Watch the film and then join us on Zoom at 6 p.m. for an hour to discuss the moral, ethical, spiritual, and cinematic elements of the film. For more information, email Mark Nestlehutt (mark.nestlehutt@gmail.com) or Steve Ockenden (steveock@verizon.net). All are welcome.

April Book Club

Join us on Zoom on **April 15** at 7 p.m. to discuss *Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine*, Gail Honeyman’s award-winning novel set in Scotland. Despite the title character’s flaws and challenges, it is ultimately a hopeful tale tinged with a bit of romance. (After discussing *Hilary and Jackie* with the popcorn theologians, just “zoom into” the book club via the link in Keynotes.)

Earth Month at St. James School

St. James School invites you to join their Earth Month celebration at their community clean-up day on Saturday, **April 20** from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. This is a great chance both to give back and to see this special school. Please RSVP by email to volunteer@stjamesphila.org. If you would like to carpool, please contact Brenda Grove.

Happy 30th Anniversary, Chester Children's Chorus!

In March, the CCC celebrated its 30th anniversary at a party that honored Swarthmore residents and alums of the College, Paula Lawrence-Wehmiller and John Wehmiller, for their decades of commitment to supporting Chester children. Since the CCC's founding in 1994, more than 950 children have participated in the music and math education program that Dr. John Alston founded with just seven boys.

Everyone is invited to celebrate the CCC at their spring concert at Swarthmore College's Lang Music Building 7 p.m. on Saturday, May 18, and Sunday, May 19. Motown is the theme of this year's spring concert, which will feature strings. Admission is free. Seating is limited and on a first-come basis. Learn more at ChesterChildrensChorus.org.



Easter Joy at Darby Mission

For the seventh year, St. Peter's provided Easter dinners for forty families served by Darby Mission. Vicar Doris Rajagopal and regulars there whom we have come to know welcomed us as usual and unloaded the colorful bags filled with a roasting chicken, the makings for side dishes, and a pot of daffodils; we then gathered in a reading of "Everyone's Way of the Cross."

Thank you to all who filled a shopping bag and all whose support of the food ministry at Alternative Christmas enabled us to buy the chickens. This tradition is a wonderful way to share Easter's joy.

Happy Anniversary, Needlework Ministry!

The needlework ministry is celebrating twenty-one years of caring, and reminds everyone to give a lap blanket, shawl, or chemo cap to someone who needs loving support. (The items are stored in the coat room in each worship space). Everyone is also invited to join this group at 10 a.m. on the first Saturday of any month. Current members will happily teach novices to knit or crochet!

Observing Earth Month Close to Home

St. Peter's "Green Stewards" team invites us to take the 30-day online "Eco-challenge 2024," committing to actions that resonate with our personal values. This year's theme, "Conserving Every Ecosystem, Caring for Every Creature," highlights the connection between conservation and behavioral change that can bring about a sustainable and just world for all species and ecosystems. The challenge is available at earthmonth.ecochallenge.org.



April 1
Parish office closed

April 6
Needlework ministry
10 a.m.

April 7
Jazz Vespers
4 p.m. (barn)

April 8
Women on the Hill
7 p.m.

April 8 & April 10
Rummage Sale drop-off
12 noon to 7 p.m. (barn)

April 9 and 11
Rummage Sale drop-off
9 a.m. to 2 p.m. (barn)

April 13
Rummage Sale
9 a.m. to 1 p.m. (barn)

April 14
John Byrne Concert
3 to 6 p.m. (barn)

April 15
Popcorn theology
6 to 7 p.m. (Zoom)
Book club
7 to 8 p.m. (Zoom)

April 21
Sign-up deadline
for Reading Phillies

- Steven Patchel and the members of the 11:15 choir and readers for last month's serene Compline;
- Anastasiia Lunova, Shannon Almquist, and Bonnie Michael for leading the *pysanky* egg workshop;
- March adult forum speakers John Immerwahr, Holly Hardester, and Fran Altvater who addressed the topic of artistic representations in worship;
- Eric Stoltz, for delivering six tons of wood for the BB&G4J to split and sell as firewood;
- Luci Russell and Clive Hammant for donating a 4-burner Webber gas grill for parish events;
- Mark Nestlehutt and Steve Ockenden for leading popcorn theology discussions weekly during Lent;
- Aleta Ross for organizing the March blood drive for parish and community donors;
- Janet Rich for leading the March "Speed Meeting" evening for Women on the Hill;
- All who made Easter more joyful for families facing food insecurity: those who donated the makings for forty Darby Mission Easter dinners, those who contributed their free supermarket hams to families served by *Alianzas de Phoenixville*, and Cathy Terlescki, Holly Hardester, and Doug Jones for coordinating and facilitating these annual Easter traditions.



February Financial Snapshot

	February	Year to date	Year-end forecast	2024 Budget
Parish Contributions	\$ 56,617	\$ 92,424	\$480,443	\$494,526
Other Income*	1,761	1,765	138,474	137,615
Total Income	58,378	94,189	618,917	632,141
Total Expenses	53,674	100,898	626,764	632,128
Surplus / (Deficit)	4,704	(6,709)	(7,844)	13

**Interest, rentals, endowment distributions*



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 Telephone: 610-644-2261

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

The Rev. Abigail Crozier Nestlehutt, Rector
 The Rev. Jeff Moretzsohn, Deacon
 Steven Patchel, Organist/Choirmaster
 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*

Deadline
 for the May *Beacon*:
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 of the Month
10 A.M. *Holy Eucharist & Sunday School, 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: 9:00 to 4:30, Monday thru Thursday

***Coming in May:
 Family Photo Fundraiser***

The preschool's very own Liv Rothfuss will offer family photo sessions at St. Peter's on Saturday, May 11. For the discounted price of \$75, each family will have a 10-minute mini-session with Liv and receive one complimentary photo, with the option to purchase additional ones. In addition to discounting the price, Liz will donate a generous portion of the proceeds to the preschool! And this happens just in time for Mother's Day! To sign up or get more information, contact Liz at **St. Peter's Preschool Spring Fundraiser | Liv Rothfuss Photo.**