

# *The Beacon*

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

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## February 2025

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### February Abundance

*by the Rev. Abigail Crozier Nestlehutt*

With fewer days than the other eleven and squarely located in winter, February in the northeastern United States is not generally a month associated with abundance, and yet that is what came to mind during a recent morning run. With no leaves to act as filter, light poured down from a clear blue sky. Over the course of six or so miles my hands never fully defrosted but warmed just enough for me to be comfortable and let my mind do its usual pondering. Looking around I chose consciously to appreciate the frosty landscape. Rather than daydream about spring or even summer days to come, I embraced February.

Easter is late this year, April 20, which means that Lent begins in March, and so the Season after the Epiphany extends through this entire month. To me it feels like a luxurious amount of time to rest in the incarnation and look for Christ made manifest in the world: the ways in which we meet God in others or the ways in which our actions reveal that of the divine within ourselves. And so, we might spend this month preparing for the holy season of Lent by looking for God at work and reflecting on our role in creating communities that resemble the kingdom of God—places where all are welcomed and respected.

History shows that the problems of the world have been complex since the beginning of time. Still, this moment is proving to be so very difficult for so many people— notably, the ones Jesus particularly sees, cares for, and lifts up. The ones Jesus calls us to love. In our baptismal vows we pledge to strive for justice and peace among all people and respect the dignity of every human being. These promises help ground and guide me as an individual and also as rector of St. Peter's Church in the Great Valley. In the pages that follow you will find opportunities for worship, formation, outreach, and more, all designed to support and broaden our efforts to live what we believe.

Even in the cold of winter, even midst the problems of the world, the abundant love of God is present. I invite you to join me in seeking it everywhere and bearing it into the places it is most desperately needed.

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## **Special Liturgical Season Services**

### **Candlemas Compline**

**February 2, 7:30 p.m.**

We observed the Presentation of our Lord Jesus Christ in the Temple, also known as Candlemas, with a contemplative service of Compline in the Historic Church. This feast day commemorates the presentation of Jesus and the purification of Mary in the Jerusalem temple forty days after Jesus' birth, in accordance with the requirements of Jewish law. In the account found in Luke's Gospel, the presentation of Jesus was also the occasion of Jesus meeting with Simeon and Anna. Simeon's prayer of blessing is the basis for the canticle Nunc dimittis. Thank you to the choir, and everyone who supported or made this event possible.

### **Looking Ahead to Lent**

The season of Lent takes its name from an Old English word meaning spring, the time of lengthening days. The natural world journeys from the cold of winter to the freshness of spring as we observe these forty days. This year Easter is April 20 and so Lent begins on March 5 with Ash Wednesday. At St. Peter's you will notice changes seasonal changes toward simplicity and stillness. Like last year, we will maintain silence in the sanctuary as we prepare for and then enjoy the prelude music. We will not sing the Gloria and we will put away the Alleluias. Greens will replace flowers at the front of the worship space and at the end of the service the solemn prayer will replace the blessing. All of this is not about deprivation but rather so that we can focus on the abundant love of God. Our intentional observation of these forty days allows it to be a time of renewal and re-creation.

### **Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper**

**March 4, 5-7 p.m.**

You are warmly invited to reserve your calendar for the annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper. Please whet your appetite, and then come join the celebration! [RSVP here](https://rsvp.church/r/8OKiZt95), or paste this link into your browser: <https://rsvp.church/r/8OKiZt95>. You can also call the parish office at 610-644-2261.

### **Ash Wednesday Services**

**March 5**

12 p.m. Historic Church, spoken service

7:30 p.m. Historic Church, with choir

### **Lenten Soup Suppers**

**Wednesdays in Lent**

Save the dates for this season's offerings: Wednesdays, March 12, 19, 26, and April 2 and 9, from 6-7:30 p.m. in the Historic Church. A simple supper will be shared from 6-6:30 p.m. (look for sign-up sheets in the gathering spaces), followed by the program.

This year, we will be using ChurchNext’s video and discussion series “The Lost Art of Kindness—Civility as a Christian Calling” with Bishop Mariann Edgar Budde. During the final session, we will watch her January 21 sermon at Washington National Cathedral and discuss how it connects with these themes. If you have any questions about the program, please contact Melissa Shaner at [myshaner@verizon.net](mailto:myshaner@verizon.net).

## December Financial Snapshot

	Month of December	December Year to Date	Forecast (year-end)	Budget (2024)
Parishioner Contributions	143,100	568,883	574,883	494,526
*Other Income	1,803	92,465	114,485	137,615
Total Income	144,903	661,348	689,368	632,141
Total Expense	93,646	656,940	684,175	632,128
Surplus/(Deficit)	51,256	4,408	5,193	13
<i>*Other Income: Interest, Rental, Endowment Distributions</i>				

The parish finished the year with a slight surplus of \$4,408. December income was very strong due to pledges for 2025 that were paid in 2024. Thank you for your continued support of St. Peter's Church in the Great Valley, we are most grateful.

## Vestry Nominating Committee

In accordance with St. Peter’s by-laws, our annual parish meeting when we elect four new vestry members will take place on Sunday, May 4. Also in accordance with the by-laws, the vestry has appointed a nominating committee composed of the four retiring members and four at-large parishioners to create a candidate slate that will be published well before the meeting.

The vestry is happy to announce that Suzanne Casey, Jeff Conway, Sarah Goller, and Steve Mark have agreed to serve on this year’s nominating committee, along with outgoing members Nick Allen, Jan Himmelreich, Gail Malcolm, and Melissa Shaner. Any parishioner who wishes to suggest someone for the committee to consider (please do not reach out to individuals yourselves) is invited to contact any of the eight members by noon on February 9.

## Thank Yous from the Vestry

All who helped make our Advent and Christmas programs and services such meaningful experiences:

- Advent Wreath Workshop: Holly Hardester and Susy Baum;
- Caroling and Supper: Steven Patchel and chili cooks Abigail Nestlehutt, Jeff Moretzsohn, and Holly Hardester, Allison Utrecht and all who brought additional food;
- Advent and Epiphany Lessons and Carols: Steven Patchel and all the choir members and readers, Alex and Allison Utrecht and Michael Smith and Steve Barthelemy for their support of receptions afterwards;
- All who helped decorate the church and barn: Priscilla and Jack Belsinger (greenery providers), Susy and Gary Baum (leading the floral decoration of the campus), all the members of the flower guild (floral arrangements), Jeff Moretzsohn and BB&G4J members (trees and lights);
- Christmas Pageant: Seretha Curry, Holly Hardester, Joe Franz, Steven Patchel, and several choir members, parents and children involved;
- Christmas Eve and Christmas: Stefan Xhori, Juan Puleo, Marlena Gal, and Hope Linton, members of the string quartet; Mario Delano, tenor;

All who spread love and holiday joy throughout the community in so many ways in late November, December, and early January, especially:

- Brenda Grove, Gail Guthridge, and Kate Mallon-Day (Alternative Christmas and Gifting Tree, CYWA coat drive), Laurel Veitch and MaryAnn Tatum (Alternative Christmas cashiers), the needleworkers (mini-market sale) Erinn White and the preschool families who contributed presents;
- Parishioners led by Jeff Moretzsohn who wrote and addressed Christmas cards for members of targeted outreach communities;
- Everyone who participated in these projects through generous gifts of time, talent, and treasure.

All who share their “deep and wide” love and time throughout the year, especially:

- Jazz Sanctuary for performing on a Third Wednesday for the community;
- Adult Forum presenters: Roy Almquist on Two Sides of Thanksgiving, Abigail Nestlehutt and Jeff Moretzsohn for leading discussions after silent contemplation of art works relating to the Christmas season;
- Tim Hepp, Joe Franz, and Gail Malcolm who coordinated the review of and all who helped with the final cleanout and moving property within the barn needed for the kitchen improvement project;
- Eileen Klein, Jeff Moretzsohn, and Holly Hardester as organizers, and to all who planned to make lunches for the MLK Day celebration in Coatesville but were thwarted due to a snowstorm;
- Aleta Ross, Michael Smith, supporters, and donors who organized and participated in the successful Red Cross Blood Drive;

- The Bad Boys & Girls for Jesus for splitting and selling firewood, and to all who purchased the firewood as fundraising;
- All parishioners, including especially Jack Belsinger, who donate food regularly, generously supporting the food ministry throughout the year, and to Dave Tatum, Gail Malcolm, and Gail Guthridge, who deliver the donations to food pantries in Coatesville and Alianzas in Phoenixville.

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## Phoenixville Free Clinic—Please Donate

The mission of the Phoenixville Free Clinic is to provide quality healthcare to the uninsured and underserved with dignity and respect. Since opening 22 years ago, PFC has seen nearly 200,000 patient visits by its most vulnerable neighbors. St Peter’s has supported the work and outreach ministry of the Clinic since its opening. In an effort to keep its dispensary full, the Clinic has requested its partners consider donating the specific items below, which are distributed to the clients as needed.

There will be collection boxes in both gathering spaces in the Historic Church and the barn. Please join in and help us “stock the shelves.” Items are due by **Sunday, February 23**.

These are the items on the Clinic’s Wish List:

Antibiotic ointment	Cough syrup (adult and pediatric)	Melatonin
Artificial tears	Debrox ear drops	Multivitamins
Benadryl	Fibercon	Omeprazole
Calamine lotion	Hydrocortisone cream	Pedialyte powder
Carpal tunnel braces	Inhaler spacers	Saline nasal spray
Children's Tylenol	Iron tablets	Solace stool softener
Cough drops	Magnesium oxide	Vitamin D 1000IU

For the Clinic’s Amazon Wish List, click here:

[https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/1IX5DHXAO1UVY?ref\\_=wl\\_fw\\_le](https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/1IX5DHXAO1UVY?ref_=wl_fw_le)

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## Christian Formation

### February Adult Forum

**February 9**

“Redeeming Friendship for the Life of Faith,” with Jennifer Constantine Jackson, ThD.

This conversation invites us to reflect together on the transformative meaning of friendship in the Christian life, how that meaning requires retrieval, and what the implications of a life of faith and friendship mean for the personal, social, civic, and spiritual life of human beings today.

Jennifer is Graduate Director and Associate Teaching Professor, Department of Theology and Religious Studies, Villanova University. A Catholic systematic theologian, her areas of teaching and research include theological anthropology, spirituality, and pedagogy in higher education.

### **February 16**

“The Image of God in the Garden of God,” with Seretha Curry.

An important element in Christian theology is understanding the connections among our image of God, our human personhood, and our relationships with others, God, and creation. Please join Seretha for a presentation and discussion of ways that Christians have thought about the calling to be made in God’s image, and how that relates to taking care of creation, the garden that God has given us to tend.

### **February 23**

“The Clare Project,” with the Rev. Philip Geliebter, Archdeacon.

The Clare Project is a ministry of the Episcopal Diocese of PA in the Kensington section of Philadelphia. It works directly with our unhoused siblings on a one-to-one basis with creature comforts, necessities, and pastoral care. The Clare Projects works with other partners in Kensington to help facilitate medical care, meals, and referrals to other needed services, as well as advocate for those who cannot advocate for themselves.

## **Youth and Children’s Ministries**

### **Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper Sign Up and Volunteers Needed**

Youth, children, and parent volunteers are needed to help with putting on the March 4 Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper. We will need folks to help get supplies, cook, set up, clean up, participate in pancake races, and perhaps other fun pancake-themed games and activities. Get excited, and put it on your calendar! Emails will be going out shortly to families of youth and children, and will include a sign-up form for however you would like to participate. You call also email Seretha Curry for more information at [slcurry@stpetersgv.org](mailto:slcurry@stpetersgv.org) or call the church office.

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## Green Stewards

### Group Read and Book Discussion: *Nature's Best Hope*



In collaboration with many other area churches, our Green Stewards invite you to read *Nature's Best Hope: A New Approach to Conservation that Starts in Your Yard* by Douglas W. Tallamy. This book shows how homeowners everywhere can turn their yards into conservation corridors that help restore interrupted wildlife habitats. You will walk away with specific suggestions to incorporate into your own yard or deck. It is practical, effective, and easy. Following the blueprint in this book you can help preserve our precious wildlife—and the planet—for future generations. Don't have time to read? Check out the related website and its resources at <https://homegrownnationalpark.org/> You can also check out our [flyer here: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1FMMzrw50TM\\_nChbjPiNi92hj1dIS34lg/edit?usp=sharing&oid=109911745480460284609&rtpof=true&sd=true](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1FMMzrw50TM_nChbjPiNi92hj1dIS34lg/edit?usp=sharing&oid=109911745480460284609&rtpof=true&sd=true). If you want to discuss native plants and this book, please contact Brenda Grove at [brendabgrove@gmail.com](mailto:brendabgrove@gmail.com) or Seretha Curry at [slcurry@stpetersgv.org](mailto:slcurry@stpetersgv.org).

### Green Stewards Calendar of Events

There's so much cool stuff happening with our local communities, we don't have time to discuss it all here! As such, the Green Stewards are keeping a running calendar of awesome activities that individuals and families are welcome to participate in this spring. Please check the calendar by clicking here: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1MY2igAtKhOaksxsMcILuXTX305jii6IH/edit?usp=sharing&oid=109911745480460284609&rtpof=true&sd=true>. If you have trouble accessing the document or have other questions about the events, please contact Seretha Curry at [slcurry@stpetersgv.org](mailto:slcurry@stpetersgv.org).

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## February Events

### Newcomers' Brunch

February 2, 11:30 a.m.

The Newcomer Commission and Vestry invited everyone new to St. Peter's to brunch in the parish hall of the Historic Church following the 10 a.m. service on February 2. This was a lovely opportunity to get to know

people over a meal and learn more about the parish. Our last newcomer event was last February, and so in this case “new” is anyone who began attending St. Peter’s after that date or was unable to attend last year. Thank you to everyone who helped. If you’d like more information about how to get connected, please contact Helen Ockenden at [helenock@verizon.net](mailto:helenock@verizon.net), or Heather Edelbute at [edelblut@gmail.com](mailto:edelblut@gmail.com).

## **Popcorn Theology**

**February 10, 6 p.m.**

**THE PHILADELPHIA STORY (1940)** Join us on **Monday, February 10 at 6 p.m.** for the fifth film in our “Philly’s Best Movies” six-film series. Starring Katharine Hepburn, Cary Grant, and Jimmy Stewart, *The Philadelphia Story* is a romantic comedy (yes, a 1940s romcom) that follows a Philadelphia socialite who has split from her husband and is about to remarry before her plans go awry. Simply watch the film on your favorite streaming service or by DVD and then join the meeting on Zoom to discuss the moral, ethical, spiritual, and cinematic aspects of the film. The Zoom link will be sent to the parish email list on Super Bowl Sunday, February 9. For more information, contact Mark Nestlehutt at [mark.nestlehutt@gmail.com](mailto:mark.nestlehutt@gmail.com) or Steve Ockenden at [steveock@verizon.net](mailto:steveock@verizon.net). All are welcome!

## **Third Wednesday: Italian Night**

**February 19, 6-7:30 p.m.**

Please plan to join us for Italian Night on Wednesday, February 19, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. in the Historic Church. We’ll eat Italian dishes and listen to some musical entertainment, including some opera by our own Julie Kremm. Please sign-up on the forms in the Historic Church and barn gathering spaces.

## **Future Events**

### **March Book Club**

**March 17, 7 p.m.**

March’s selection is *Once There Were Wolves*, by [Charlotte McConaghy](#). From the Amazon description: “A wild and gripping novel about one woman’s quest to reintroduce wolves to the Scottish Highlands at any cost. As a biologist, she knows the animals are the best hope for rewilding the ruined landscape. Then one night she stumbles over a body.”

-- “A heartfelt and earnest novel,” *New York Times Book Review*.

--“McConaghy shows in this stunning book, the limits of language lead us to the limits of empathy.” *Los Angeles Times*.

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## Communications Corner

Do you have information to distribute to the St. Peter's community? Please see the information below to make sure your information goes to the right place. And remember, sending information to one publication **does not** constitute sending it to all. You should be specific about where your information should go.

Publication / Platform	Deadline	Send to
Keynotes	end of day, Tuesday prior	Parish Administrator (parishadministrator@stpetersgv.org)
The Sunday Leaflet	end of day, Tuesday prior	Parish Administrator (parishadministrator@stpetersgv.org)
<i>The Beacon</i>	end of day, 21st of previous month	<i>Beacon</i> General Editor (beacon@stpetersgv.org)
Announcement*(during Sunday services)	With the Sunday Leaflet, see above	---

*\*All announcements for Sunday morning should be submitted to the Sunday Leaflet by the end of day on the Tuesday prior. To request your announcement be highlighted by the presider, include that request with the leaflet submission.*

## February Dates

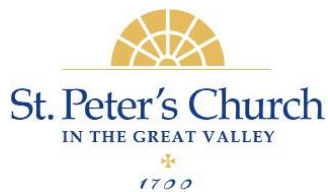
**February 2**  
**Combined service**, 10 a.m.,  
 barn;  
**Newcomer Brunch**  
 Following 10 a.m. service,  
 Historic Church;  
**Candlemas Compline**  
 7:30 p.m., Historic Church

**February 10**  
**Popcorn Theology**  
 6 p.m., Zoom

**February 19**  
**Third Wednesday: Italian  
 Night**, 6-7:30 p.m., Historic  
 Church

**March 4**  
**Shrove Tuesday Pancake  
 Supper**  
 5-7 p.m., Historic Church

**March 5**  
**Ash Wednesday**  
 12 p.m., Historic Church  
 7:30 p.m., Historic Church



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](mailto:parishoffice@stpetersgv.org)  
Web site: [www.stpetersgv.org](http://www.stpetersgv.org)

The Rev. Abigail Crozier Nestlehutt, Rector  
The Rev. Jeff Moretzsohn, Deacon  
Steven Patchel, Organist/Choirmaster  
Seretha Curry, Assistant for Christian Formation  
Rachel Martin Swartz, Parish Administrator  
Erinn White, Preschool Director  
Gail Malcolm, Event Coordinator  
Mario Delano, Weekend Facilities Manager

Deadline for the  
March Beacon:  
**February 21**

***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*

***Weekly Offerings at St. Peter's***

***Sunday***

8 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite I\*  
9 a.m. Family Eucharist\*\*  
Sunday School\*\*  
10:20 a.m. Christian Formation\*\*  
11:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II\*\*

***First Sunday***

10 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II\*\*  
Fellowship follows all services

***Wednesday***

10 a.m. Morning Prayer & Bible Study\*\*\*

***Thursday***

10:30 a.m. Intercessory Prayer Group\*\*\*  
7:15 p.m. Compline\*\*\*

***Friday***

8 a.m. Gathering of Men\*\*\*  
\* Historic Church  
\*\* Bank Barn  
\*\*\* Virtual

Parish office hours: 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Thursday.