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## May 2025

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### What Are You Doing for Easter?

*by the Rev. Abigail Crozier Nestlehutt*

As Lent was drawing to a close last month, I was part of a conversation among some acquaintances who were discussing their Easter plans. They talked about visiting family and details of the meals they anticipated. Then someone said, somewhat sheepishly, “I will probably go to church again for the first time since Christmas.” These people are not aware that I am a priest and so, not knowing what to say, I said nothing and went on my way to Holy Week services a little embarrassed that I could not come up with some sort of inviting words to offer. What I could not quite figure out how to articulate was that while it is nice, even stirringly beautiful, to go to church on Christmas and Easter, it is all that happens on the other 51 or so Sundays of the year that really matters. Church is not a chore, it is a delight. I know that busy spring schedules will make attendance difficult even for regular churchgoers and scores of others will not give it much thought again until December. As we move into Eastertide, and journey with the disciples as they try to make sense of the resurrection, it is a good time to remind yourself of why *you* think it matters.

Each year there is a particular pattern to the lectionary during the fifty days of Easter. First, Jesus’s fearful friends are locked away when he appears with a message of peace and forgiveness. Famously, Thomas, who was not in the room, demands proof. The next week we hear stories of scales falling from eyes and Jesus being recognized in abundance. On the Fourth Sunday of Easter we observe Good Shepherd Sunday and remember that we can rely on Jesus’ steadfast care. As the season goes on we hear more stories that ground us in the fundamental truths of our savior who is the way, the truth, and the life and who professes his love for us and calls us to love others. While the Sunday of the Resurrection is one day, Easter lasts far longer, giving us time to consider the mystery and also preparing us for the Day of Pentecost when the Spirit sends us into the world to carry on Jesus’ ministry.

To me it matters because in a life full of changes and a world full of troubles the reliable care of Jesus tells me that all will be well. Not that everything will be easy or comfortable, but that I will find the equilibrium that I need and will be able to do my part to make a difference. And in Christian community we support one another in exploring what it means to follow Jesus and in strengthening our commitment to Christ. Most compellingly, we all need a place where people are trying their best to model the inclusive care of God.

In the pages that follow you will find the reasons that St. Peter’s matters to you. Maybe the excellence of our music program deepens your experience of worship. Perhaps you are drawn in by outreach opportunities. It might be that you love to learn and discuss books or movies or the topics offered in Christian Formation. However you choose to participate, thank you for being a part of the community. However often you attend—frequently or infrequently—you are always welcome.

## **Special Liturgical Season Services**

### **Pentecost is June 8**

On Pentecost we celebrate what is commonly thought of as the birthday of the church. The Holy Spirit rushes in and sends the disciples into the world to continue Jesus' ministry. Morning services will be at 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. At 4 p.m. in the Historic Church, the choir will sing a final Evensong before their summer recess. Reception to follow, tune into "Keynotes" for more details. Please be sure to join us for this feast day.

### **Parlez-vous Français?**

If you speak a language other than English, we would love for you to participate in reading the traditional passage from Acts of the Apostles on June 8. Please contact Abigail at [abigail@stpetersgv.org](mailto:abigail@stpetersgv.org) or 610-644-2261 to let her know of your interest and availability for 8 a.m. or 10 a.m.

### **Summer Schedule Begins May 25**

**Summer schedule** begins on May 25, Memorial Day weekend, with services at 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. in the Historic Church. June 1 is the first Sunday of the month, we will worship at one morning service at 10 a.m.

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## **Parish Updates**

### **Notice of Annual Meeting Sunday, May 4**

The St. Peter's annual meeting will occur on Sunday, May 4, after the 10 a.m. service. The 2025 nominating committee has named Greg Bright, Katharine Campbell, Matt Goller, and Cassandra Shannon as vestry candidates. Their biographies can be found below.

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 Rachel at [parishadministrator@stpetersgv.org](mailto:parishadministrator@stpetersgv.org) or by calling the office.

We encourage everyone to reserve the date for this important event in our parish when we reflect on the past year and look ahead to the coming one. There are plans for a reception following the Annual Meeting.

## Vestry Thanks and Appreciation

- Thank you to Abigail Crozier Nestlehutt for her Lenten series on St. Peter, assisted by Seretha Curry, as presented during Adult Forum.
- To Melissa Shaner, Seretha Curry, Abigail Nestlehutt, session facilitators for the April Lenten Soup Supper series; Helen Ockenden, Cathy Terlescki, Michael Smith for facilitating hospitality; to all “supervisors” who brought soup and breads, and to the Rev. Kevin Dellaria, St. Francis-in-the-Fields and all from St. Peter’s who participated.
- To Bonnie Michael, Shannon Almquist, and Ukrainian citizen Anastasiia Lunova for presenting a Pysanky egg workshop; to all who participated to learn how to make Ukrainian Easter Eggs.
- To the Rev. Ned Sherrill for leading the Sunday service on April 6.
- To Steven Patchel and the Choir for presenting the Palm Sunday Evensong and Concert, and to Susan Davis, Allison Utrecht, and Pat Harvey for the delicious food afterwards.
- To all who filled 40 grocery bags for Darby Mission’s Easter dinners and to Eileen and Randy Klein, Holly Hardester, Cathy Terlescki, and Betsy Comstock who coordinated and delivered them.
- To the Bad Boys & Girls for Jesus and other volunteers including Aiden Bright for their work to clear the property so that it looks its best this spring.
- To all who contributed supplies for the new Barn Kitchen.

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## Barn Chair Update

By Michael Smith

With the new kitchen completed, work continues on evaluating options for storage of the barn chairs. As previously communicated here in the *Beacon*, the new kitchen has reduced storage space for the full current inventory of chairs, which have typically only been needed for Easter and Christmas services. Options being evaluated include replacing the excess chair inventory, with new, lighter, chairs that have more practical storage requirements. These could have the added multi-purpose benefit of table seating at barn fellowship events. After the discovery and evaluation work is complete, the chair committee will be making recommendations to the Vestry before any decision is made. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to a member of the chair committee or the Vestry.

## Family Photo Fundraiser to Benefit St. Peter’s Preschool



Professional photographer Liv Rothfuss will be on the St. Peter's grounds on Saturday, May 17, offering discounted family photo sessions. For \$100, each family will have a 10-minute mini-session with Liv and receive one complimentary photo with the option to purchase more from your family's personal gallery. A generous portion of the proceeds will be donated to St. Peter's Preschool! Bring grandparents or just get photos of your kids. Personalize your mini session however you'd like! Follow the QR code to sign up.

## Green Stewards

During April, we celebrated Earth Month with many opportunities to learn, volunteer, and enjoy the earth! Follow the QR code to the right to access our online calendar, which is regularly updated with creation care events. Our focus this year is on collaboration and plants. On Sunday, May 4, we will plant native plants on the St. Peter's campus and have a raffle of native plants to take home. We also strongly recommend visiting the Homegrown National Park website to learn more about how to transform your yard into an oasis for local plant, insect, and animal species. It's surprisingly easy to do, and thoroughly rewarding!



Further information on activities can also be found on Facebook at Christian Care for the Environment.

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# Christian Formation

## Adult Formation

Adult Formation wraps up the program year with two final offerings:

### **May 11: Stump the Clergy, with Abigail**

Bring your questions about the liturgy, about Episcopal teaching and practice, about the nature of God, and we'll see where the conversation leads us. Plenty of time to get to Mother's Day brunch afterwards!

### **May 18: The Image of God in the Garden of God, Part Two, with Seretha Curry**

In Part One, we explored different perspectives on the Creation story and what it means that human beings are made in God's image and likeness. In Part Two, we will focus more on the garden. Why a garden? Why were humans placed in the garden? Why two trees? How does the Eden imagery show up in other parts of Scripture? Please join us for the conversation.

## Children and Youth Ministries

### Vacation Bible School

**Who's it for?** Rising 1<sup>st</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> graders      **When is it?** June 23 to 27, 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.

**Register now.** Follow the QR code to the left to register. Bonus: St. Peter's Lambs Camp is available for younger children at the preschool's discounted sibling rate. Contact preschool director Erinn White ([preschool@stpetersgv.org](mailto:preschool@stpetersgv.org)) for more information about Lambs Camp.

**Call for Volunteers!** While we have leaders for most of our VBS areas, we can still use assistants, helpers, and shepherds. Please contact Seretha Curry at [slcurry@stpetersgv.org](mailto:slcurry@stpetersgv.org) for more information.

### **Sunday School Ends on May 18**

The last Sunday School session of the program year will be May 18. Please join us for our end-of-the-year celebration on May 18!

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## Outreach Commission

There are many ways we invite you to become involved with serving our neighbors. Consider volunteering with or supporting one of our outreach opportunities.

### Easter Dinners for Darby Mission



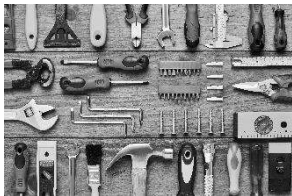
Thank you to everyone who took a colorful shopping bag and filled it with the makings for Easter dinners that were delivered to Darby Mission. The outreach commission supplemented the groceries with roasting chickens and potted daffodils. This is the eighth year St. Peter's has provided these meals and they were appreciated as they always have been. This tradition has become a wonderful way to share Easter's joy.

## Ongoing Outreach

### Habitat for Humanity

Habitat for Humanity volunteers on site on the third Saturday of every month. You can access more information or sign up for Habitat for Humanity by clicking here or pasting this link into your browser:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050548AEAB22A5FA7-49713154-brandywine#/>). For more information, please contact [outreach@stpetersgv.org](mailto:outreach@stpetersgv.org).



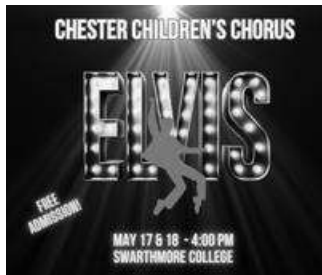
### Volunteer at the St. James School

**Go for the Gold Saturdays.** Tutors are needed to assist individual students or small groups with academics. Staff is present to support you. Select Saturdays, 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Contact Maggie Sanborn at [msanborn@stjamesphila.org](mailto:msanborn@stjamesphila.org) for further information.

**Welcome Table.** Volunteers are needed every Saturday morning, 8-11 a.m., to help organize and distribute food and clothing. Weekday volunteers are also needed, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., to pick up donations, organize, and manage storage. Contact Tiana Jones at [tjones@stjamesphila.org](mailto:tjones@stjamesphila.org) for more information.

## Chester Children's Chorus Spring Concerts

May 17 and 18, 4 p.m.



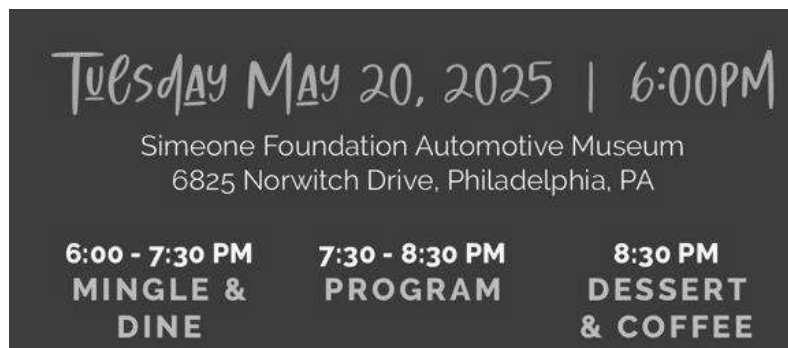
Grab your blue suede shoes and get ready to rock and roll with the Chester Children's Chorus as 100 children pay tribute to Elvis Presley. The concert's first half is a mix of classical and choral pieces.

Join us at 4 p.m. on Saturday, May 17, and Sunday, May 18, at 4 p.m. at Swarthmore College's Lang Music Building. Admission is free! Seating is limited and on a first-come, first-served basis. For more information, visit

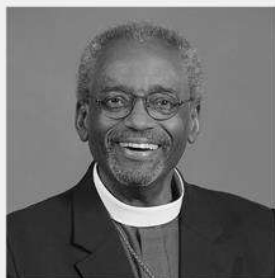
[ChesterChildrensChorus.org](http://ChesterChildrensChorus.org).

## St. James' School's Dr. Audrey Evans Benefit

May 20



## HONORING



THE RIGHT REV.  
MICHAEL B. CURRY  
27th Presiding Bishop,  
The Episcopal Church



FORMER OWNERS OF  
ROYAL ELECTRIC SUPPLY  
(L to R) Robert Schimmel,  
Larry Schimmel, Richard Morris

Visit <https://stjamesphila.org/benefit/> for more information.

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## May Parish Events

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### World Labyrinth Day: Walk as One at 1

May 3

Circle Saturday, May 3, on your calendar to come walk the labyrinth at St. Peter's. Over recent months Cate Skindeleski, who is new to St. Peter's, has applied her landscaping talents and a lot of hard work to restore the labyrinth beautifully. This is just in time for World Labyrinth Day when people around the globe will walk a labyrinth wherever they are at 1 p.m. in their time zone, creating a wave of labyrinth walking. Please join us!

### Popcorn Theology Series Conclusion

May 12, 6 p.m.

*Foxcatcher* (2014). After a long seventh-inning stretch for our Lenten Series *Faith & Duty*, please join us on Monday, May 12 at 6 p.m. for the six and final film in our "Philly's Best Movies" series that we began in October 2024. Besides the Kellys, very few families have been as influential in Philadelphia as the du Ponts. In *Foxcatcher*, Steve Carell portrays infamous chemical company heir and sports enthusiast John du Pont. The film offers a glimpse into the unsettling sports compound du Pont created on a 1,000-acre farm in Newtown Square and the man's extreme wealth and unhealthy obsessions. Simply watch the film on your favorite streaming service or by DVD and then join the Zoom meeting to discuss the moral, ethical, spiritual, and cinematic aspects of the film. The Zoom link will be sent to the parish email list on Sunday, May 11. For more information, contact Mark Nestlehutt [mark.nestlehutt@gmail.com](mailto:mark.nestlehutt@gmail.com) or Steve Ockenden [steveock@verizon.net](mailto:steveock@verizon.net). All are welcome!

### May Book Club

May 19, 7 p.m.; Zoom

In May we will discuss *Long Bright River*; a novel by local author Liz Moore: "Two sisters travel the same Philadelphia streets, though their lives couldn't be more different. Then, one goes missing. In a neighborhood rocked by the opioid crisis, two once-inseparable sisters find themselves at odds. Alternating its present-day mystery with the story of the sisters' childhood and adolescence., it is at once heart-pounding and heart-wrenching: a gripping suspense novel that is also a moving story of sisters, addiction, and the formidable ties that persist between place, family, and fate." Join us for a chance to enjoy one another's company and this gripping story. Contact [outreach@stpetersgv.org](mailto:outreach@stpetersgv.org) for more information.



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## Future Events

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### “Springtime in Paris”

**June 1, 3 - 6 p.m.**



Featuring the Hot Club of Philadelphia in Concert, one of the most renowned bands playing the style of music known around the world as gypsy jazz, which was made famous by legendary guitarist Django Reinhardt and violinist Stephane Grappelli in the famous Hot Club of France in the 30s and 40s. This special springtime treat will thrill and captivate you with incredible musicianship and the amazing singing of Phyllis Chapell.

The concert will be in the Bank Barn on Sunday, June 1, from 3 to 6 p.m. Tickets will be on sale soon at Eventbrite. (See QR code). \$25 in advance, \$30 at the door.

### Singing the National Anthem at the Reading Phillies with St. Francis-in-the-Fields

**Sunday, July 20**

Our friends at St. Francis-in-the-Fields have invited us to join them to sing the national anthem and enjoy a Reading Phillies game on Sunday, July 20. The game begins at 5:15 p.m. Tickets are on the third base line, with the sun coming from behind, are \$15 each. Please indicate your interest by emailing Abigail at [abigail@stpetersgv.org](mailto:abigail@stpetersgv.org) or calling 610-644-2261. **RSVPs are needed by May 5.**

### 2026 Choir Residency



The Choirs of St. Peter’s will be engaged in a week-long choral residency at Norwich Cathedral in July 2026. Parishioners and friends are invited to join us. Speak to Steven Patchel or any choir member if you are interested in joining in this choral pilgrimage. Deposits of \$500 will be required by July 2025 in order to hold your place, with the balance due in 2026. Past residencies have been deeply rewarding experiences of music-making and historical and spiritual enrichment.

## 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.*

## March Financial Snapshot

### Paige Infortuna and Eric Lien

	Month of March	March Year to Date	Forecast (year-end)	Budget (2025)
Parishioner Contributions	27,160	157,205	492,888	455,915
*Other Income	36,021	55,882	239,103	224,632
Total Income	63,181	213,087	731,991	680,547
Total Expense	58,265	176,240	663,853	680,975
Surplus/(Deficit)	4,916	36,846	68,138	-428

*\*Other Income: Interest, Rental, Endowment Distributions*

We are drawing on parish savings to ensure a balanced budget at year end. With pledge payments being kept up to date (thank you very much) and substantial income from other sources, we may not need to use as much from savings as we initially thought. This would be a most welcome event!

## May Dates

### May 3

World Labyrinth Day  
1 p.m.

### May 4

Annual Meeting  
After the 10 a.m. service

### May 12

Popcorn Theology,  
6 p.m., Zoom

### May 17

Family Photo Fundraiser  
Chester Children's Chorus  
Spring Concert, 4 p.m.

### May 18

Chester Children's Chorus  
Spring Concert, 4 p.m.

### May 19

Book Club, 7.p.m.; Zoom

### May 20

St. James' School's  
Dr. Audrey Evans Benefit

### May 25

Summer Schedule Begins  
Services at 8 a.m., 10 a.m.

### June 1

"Springtime in Paris"  
3-6 p.m., Bank Barn

### June 8

Pentecost Evensong  
4 p.m.; Historic Church



# St. Peter's Church

IN THE GREAT VALLEY

✦  
1700

The Rev. Abigail Crozier Nestlehutt, Rector  
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

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)

Deadline for the June  
*Beacon*: **May 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

#### *Sunday (Summer Schedule, starting May 25)*

8 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite I\*  
10 a.m. Family Eucharist

#### *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