

THE WAVE JUNE/JULY 2020

St. Peter's Episcopal Church-on-the-Canal - Buzzards Bay, Massachusetts

A MESSAGE FROM REV. PATTIE HANDLOSS

My dear friends,

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

The surveys are coming in and the "regrouping" group is meeting Monday afternoon. It is progress, but still with unknowns. It seems that the virus is ever before us. Massachusetts is doing better than many places, but people travel, and the virus apparently loves to travel as well.

I met today with the deanery clergy and it was clear that regathering is a Fall event. It will require a lot of work to get there. We will need lots of loving hands to make our church safe. I know you will all help out. It is time to acknowledge that this is a hard time. We are in an ambiguous time: *almost*, but not yet. I wish I could write and say we are set to move forward on a given date, but we are not.

Ambiguity, and more labor intensive services, are hard on people. Not being able to worship together is hard. Not taking the Body of Christ is hard. We are edgy. I am edgy. We are isolated. We want to be back with our church community. And yet, it is not yet time or wise. Hard stuff.

The good news is that we do miss each other a lot and miss our church and miss the Holy Communion. Everything has a Ying and a Yang, a plus and a minus.

We are in such new water, and yet we have a love of God and a love of each other that can and will sustain us.

I hope each of you will be patient, forgiving and accept forgiveness, active in prayer and active physically.

I miss you all and look forward to seeing you on zoom.

Blessings and love,

A REPORT FROM THE SENIOR WARDEN

Hello All St. Peter's Folks:

I hope this copy of *The Wave* finds you all healthy and safe. It's so nice to be able to "socially distance" and see people for the first time in months. We have all been quarantined for over 100 days!

Thank you to all who have been able to participate in the YouTube services on Sunday. If you have a computer/phone but don't know how to access YouTube, please call and we will walk you through the process so you are able to see the services. For those of you who cannot access YouTube, we will be sending out copies of the services shortly.

A small regrouping committee was formed consisting of Dianne Cartmill, Kathy Letzeisen, Lisa Platanitis, Rev. Pattie Handloss and myself. On June 9th we sent out surveys to everyone in the parish directory, requesting input from each of you regarding the reopening of St. Peter's for services. We have guidelines from the Diocese that must be followed, but we are interested in your thoughts, hopes, fears, and concerns. To date we have received 39 responses – in only one week. Here is a very brief rundown of responses:

- People like the idea of a drive-in like service.
- People are cautious about returning to in church services too soon.
- About half of the people returning the surveys would like quiet time in St. Peters.
- One service at 9:00 a.m. seems like a good idea if we can safely socially distance.
- Not all our parishioners have access to the internet.

The Comments:

Generally, people are anxious to get back to church, but would prefer to know that we are really safe before doing so. Keeping watch on the Covid-19 numbers is essential before opening. September seems to be a target date for both the Diocese and people in general. Those who have been able to view the YouTube service have enjoyed the service very much; the music certainly has been a bonus, so nice to hear.

We are hoping for more surveys to come in, and when they do, we will update you on the results.

The Vestry did have an out-door, socially distanced meeting. Things discussed were pledges, regrouping, and the steeple. Pledges continue to come in – if you are able, please send in your pledge so we can keep up with the expenses of the church. The steeple of the church needs to be replaced. Fortunately, we have fabulous insurance and will only have to pay \$1,000. of a \$40,000 bill. God is watching over us.

The profile put together by the Search Committee has been approved by the Diocese, and our job opening was posted on June 1st. We will now have to wait until prospective people express an interest to our committee. These are strange times with the Covid-19, so this may be a little slow; patience is necessary.

If you have any questions, concerns, need any help, please feel free to call anyone on the Vestry and we will make sure you get the help you need.

Missing you and sending virtual hugs to everyone,

Celeste Hankey, Senior Warden

SEARCH COMMITTEE NEWS

We hope this finds you healthy and well and staying safe as we begin our summer. We wanted to share with you that as of June 1st, St. Peter's has been officially listed on the Diocesan website as "receiving names". If you have access to a computer, you can find us at https://www.diomass.org/resources/parish_clergy_support/clergy_transition

You can also read our Parish Profile that we has prepared for candidates interested in applying for our clergy position.

Though we are not together right now, we ask each of you to continue to pray **The Guidance Prayer for a Parish that is in a search for a new clerical leader:**

O God, you know us better than we know ourselves. Guide us in our search for a new clerical leader. Empower each one of us to use our unique ministries, to share openly and honestly our thoughts, to respect the opinions of others, and to encourage humility, patience and joy. Instill in us a vision of the Church's family; that guided by your Holy Spirit, we will be united in love and joyfully accomplish this mission of discovering the one you have called to serve with us as our Rector. All this we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Yours In Christ,

Matthew Bruce, Larry Higgins, Nancy Kennedy, Elisabeth Kershaw, Jim Lema, and Patti Metcalf

MAIL CALL!

A reminder to use the **POST OFFICE BOX 265** address when mailing to the church. The post office will send back mail addressed to the Main Street address because we do not have a physical mailbox at the church.

READERS of FORWARD DAY-BY-DAY

Copies of Forward Day-By Day are available outside the back door of the church. Copies will be available there for pick up until we are able to resume indoor services. If you would like a copy but are unable to get here to pick one up, please let Kathy know (508-759-5641) and arrangements will be made to get one to you!

Notes from our Parish Secretary, Kathleen Letzeisen

SAINT PETER'S SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND PREVENTION SUPPORT GROUP UPDATE

Please keep the Bourne and Wareham Substance Free coalitions in your prayers. We have not been meeting due to the Corona Virus precautions. The next meeting of our group will be in limbo until we get an all clear from the Diocese. Please hold all those who suffer from addiction and are in recovery in your prayers.

A large part of the recovery process is supported by the traditional 12-Step Group meetings. These groups have been unable to meet during the crisis and it must be difficult for them at this time.

AA meetings can now be available by phone 4 times a day, seven days a week, at 7:00 a.m., 12 noon, 2:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m., by calling 425-436-6360, Access #n422932. If you have loved ones or friends who are dealing with substance abuse issues, please try to have an open ear and an open heart to be there for them.

If you are concerned for a friend, family member or yourself, you can call the Massachusetts Substance Abuse Information and education Helpline at 1-800-327-5050.

We offer up this prayer from the Book of Common Prayer, page 831:

O blessed Lord, you ministered to all who came to you. Look with compassion upon all who, through addiction, have lost their health and freedom. Restore to them the assurance of your unfailing mercy; remove from them the fears that beset them; strengthen them in the work of recovery; and to those who care for them give patient understanding and preserving love. AMEN

Larry Higgins

DO YOU RECEIVE OUR WEEKLY E-MAILS?

Every week, St. Peter's sends out a weekly email which typically includes upcoming news and events, the lessons for the upcoming Sunday, a schedule of "servers" for the week, etc. This email is also used for notifications regarding deaths in the parish family, cancellations, and other timely news.

For the past several months, the content of the weekly emails has changed somewhat, and we have added a Sunday email with the link to our YouTube Morning Prayer service.

If you are NOT receiving the emails and would like to, please contact Robin Higgins at ptown.rob@yaho.com. If you know of someone who is not receiving the email and might like to, please share this information with them! We can't just add someone to the email list – our email service requires that we have your permission to email you! We don't want anyone to miss out on events and news from the parish. Thank you!

Robin Higgins

A POEM FROM THE EDITOR'S TWELVE-YEAR-OLD GRANDSON

The Courageous Plant

By Tristan Barre
June 2020

**There I sat
In the back
Of my truck
Thinking of things that could be.**

**I looked up at the stars
I looked down at my feet
But then I saw something sprouting next to me.**

**In the bed of the pickup
Through plastic and steel
I saw an impossible sight:
A little hole
Some ragtag dirt thrown in by the wind
And out of it
A plant.**

**Courageous and strong
Like a bird against the wind
Pursuing its dreams
Others say plants can't walk
But this one goes, it grows in the most risky spot.**

**Through the wind
And the hail
The sleet and
The snow**

**She pushed through
And traveled more
Than any plant;
She stuck to her dreams
And never gave up.**

**I know this sounds
Sentimental and
Corny like a Disney
Movie, but it's true.**

MAINTENANCE NEEDS

If you see something that needs to be done (a light that has burned out or some other maintenance project), write it on the list on the freezer in the kitchen. Thanks for your help!

CAN WE E-MAIL YOU?

We make THE WAVE available electronically to anyone who would prefer to receive it via e-mail. This enables us to save money on both paper and postage. When you send your e-mail address, along with your name and mailing address (for clarification) to susanhebb@comcast.net, she will add your name to a list, and you will receive the next month's newsletter by that means; subsequently your name would be removed from the print mailing list.

PRAYER CHAIN

The Emergency Prayer Chain is up and running! When you have a prayer request, please contact Lynne Brune at 508-295-6146, or Priscilla Ellis at 508-563-7786.

If you would like to join the Emergency Prayer Chain and commit to praying for those in need, please contact one of the individuals listed above and specify if you would like to receive information by email or by phone.

Individuals will remain on the Prayer Chain for 2 weeks unless updated. All requests will be treated confidentially and only shared with those on the Prayer Chain. Please let us know if you would also like to add the prayer request to the Sunday bulletin.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The Newsletter Deadline for the **August 2020** issue is Friday, **July 24, 2020**. Send all articles to Susan Hebb at susanhebb@comcast.net.

St. Peter's Episcopal Church -on-the-Canal

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Web: saintpetersbb.org
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Staff

The Rev. Pattie Handloss, Interim Priest,
Phone: 508-380-9892
Lisa Platanitis, Music Director and Choir Director
Liesl Keller, Pianist and Organist
Kathy Letzeisen, Parish Secretary
Susan Hebb, Newsletter Editor

Vestry

Celeste Hankey, Senior Warden	617-710-5346	Alan Kershaw.....	508-224-4018
Len Hathon, Junior Warden.....	774-678-0169	Merry Smythe.....	774-404-0110
Dianne Cartmill, Treasurer.....	774-269-4348	Chuck Conway.....	617-877-1538
Lynne Brune, Assistant Treasurer.....	508-295-6146	Patti Metcalf.....	508-833-0170
Robin Higgins, Clerk.....	413-329-4651	Donna Beers.....	508-759-8283
Mark Taylor.....	508-863-1259		