

The Wave - FEBRUARY 2017

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

FROM THE RECTOR The Reverend Sue Lederhouse

Many of us are reading this either right before or on the day of our Annual Meeting, January 29. Annual Meeting is an important time in the life of a parish – a time in which we both look back in time at what the year has brought, both good and bad – and we look forward to what the year ahead may be like. It is a time in which we “recommission” ourselves and the parish to the work we are called to do as Christ’s people in this place.

Our Sunday readings during the month of February echo this call. Most of our Gospel readings during this month are from the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew’s Gospel – that time in which Jesus gathered His followers around Him and spoke to them about what was important. He told them what His ministry was about and how they were to emulate Him as His followers.

On the 5th Sunday of this Epiphany season, February 5, we have the section of the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5:13-20) that calls us to be both the “salt of the earth” and the “light of the world.” We are to be the people that “season” the world around us and the people who shine Christ’s light upon it. This isn’t always easy to do in the midst of a world that increasingly has issues with organized religion and a great divergence of faith practices. Yet this is our call – our mission. Sometimes we have to use different kinds of seasoning because the folks around us are on a “low-salt” diet. We have to find other ways to speak about our faith and we use different kinds of spices – different approaches to reach people. Sometimes the light we shine needs to be more of a night light than a headlight because a headlight can be too blinding. Sometimes that light needs to be like a candle that flickers from time to time but stays burning. One size does not fit all in the “salt and light” business.

But always we need to remember those words that we heard back on 2nd Epiphany in the calling of the disciples as told in the Gospel of John. Jesus asked them “What are you looking for?” Then He invited them to “Come and see.”

What are those around us looking for?

How can we be the salt and light that invites them to come and see?

In faith and love –

Sue Lederhouse+

THE DEACON'S CORNER

"February", like so many months in our calendar, comes from a Latin word. In this case, "Februare" which means to purify. It was a time when ancient Romans practiced a return to personal piety. There's not a whole lot going on in the month of February. It's cold, it's gloomy. At some point in my life, maybe when I was a youngster in Ohio, we used to have a term for the dread and hopelessness we all felt in the dead of winter (probably caused by sunlight deprivation) when we just kept putting one foot in front of the other, slogging through the snow, marking time until "Real Spring" (not "Mud Season Spring") arrived. We called that oppressive gloom we all felt, "**The Februarys**".

February 2nd is celebrated by the Church, not because it's the day for a holy pilgrimage to Gobbler's Knob in Punxsatawney, Pennsylvania, there to disturb the hibernation of a poor groundhog named Phil, and inquire of him if he sees his shadow or not. If he doesn't, it means spring will come early, and if he does he'll go back to bed for six more weeks of winter. Best to let sleeping groundhogs lie. They've got nasty tempers anyway.

No, the importance of February 2 to the Church is because it's forty days after Jesus' birth (at Christmas, remember). Forty days after giving birth, Mary and Joseph took their first-born son to the Temple to complete Mary's ritual purification after childbirth and to comply with the requirement of The Law that a first-born male child be presented to a priest (a lineal descendant of Aaron) in the Temple to be consecrated to the Lord. At that time a "redemption" fee was customarily paid by the father to the priest. Otherwise, he was liable to become a priest when he grew up.

Luke makes clear that Joseph, as a village carpenter, was allowed the "poor man's option" of purchasing two turtle doves and giving them to the priest for sacrifice as the "redemption" price, instead of the prescribed five shekels in silver coin. Where would a poor carpenter get five shekels anyway?

February 24th is also a "Red Letter" day in the Church. No, really! Since the Middle Ages, Feast Days and other Holy Days have been highlighted in Red on Church Calendars. February 24th is the Feast Day of St. Matthias, the Apostle, the one who was selected by lot by the eleven remaining Apostles to take Judas' place among the Twelve.

So it goes. Things slow down in February. You can tell that the Church tries to make the best it can of February, but even so it's hard. Even Annual Meetings can't enliven it much. Unless you can get away to Key West for some sun time, it's just a long hard slog to "Real Spring." By the way, I'm just a poor Deacon and can't afford to get away to Key West in the winter. Does anyone have a sunlamp they can loan me?

Deacon Robert Sherwood

VISIBLE VESTRY

1. Rev. Sue was pleased to announce to the Vestry that Deacon Bob has been approved by the Diocese for another year of service at St. Peter's. Bob has become an important part of our church and we are very happy and lucky to have his time with us extended for another year.
2. Deacon Bob continues with his work at Mass Maritime and recently is working on an arrangement where the Cadets may be able to do some community outreach service time helping with our Friendly Kitchen program.
3. Rev. Sue also announced that we have hired a new Building Manager. Frank Walker began work on January 5 and Henri Masson has been working with him to ensure a smooth transition. Frank comes with a lot of facility experience working with another church as well as within the school system. We welcome Frank to St. Peter's, and if his schedule permits, we hope to be able to introduce him at our Annual Meeting.
4. Rev. Sue also announced that we have a new snow shoveling person, Dave Nilson. We have had snow on two occasions and are very pleased with his care and handling of the snow removal.
5. Our average Sunday attendance during 2016 was 102 (92 in 2015.) We are blessed and thankful for the continued growth of our congregation.
6. Our Epiphany Service/Dinner was a success with over 40 people in attendance. Thanks to all who participated and helped in the kitchen. Also, to our folks who donated food: Deacon Bob, Priscilla Ellis, Mary Tavares, and Mark Taylor. We also thank Lisa Platanitis and Melissa Scannell for the great job with the costumes, and of course our "Wise Guys", Peter, Joseph and Donovin.
7. We recently had two ladies retire from our Altar Guild, Marge Clark and Jane Goershel. We thank them both for their years of service and they will be honored by the Altar Guild members with a luncheon.
8. Thanks to a donation we will be purchasing new fair linens (the white cover on the altar).
9. We thank Marc Fuller for another beautiful Station of the Cross, #11 that he has made for our church. We dedicated it at our Sunday service on January 15. We are blessed to have Marc's artistic as well as his musical talents at St. Peter's. Thank you Marc!!!
10. Vestry approved a proposal from Suzanne Otte (Deacon Bob's daughter) to redesign our outdated website. Suzanne has a lot of experience in the marketing field and we are thankful that she is going to share her expertise and talent with us.
11. Vestry approved the new budget for 2017 and this will be shared in more detail at our Annual Meeting on January 29. We will have one service on that day at 9:00 followed by a potluck brunch. All are welcome to attend this meeting, even if you are not a voting member of the parish.
12. The 2017 Vestry will have their retreat on Saturday, February 25 from 9:00-3:00. This retreat will also include the February Vestry meeting.

Linda Masson, Senior Warden

THANKS BE TO GOD FOR. . .

Marc Fuller and the 11th Station of the Cross which we dedicated on January 15.

Deacon Bob and the extension of his time at St. Peter's for another year!

Our wonderful Epiphany service – particularly for our 3 “Wise Guys”: Joseph Metcalf, Peter Scannell, and Donovin Tavares – and for all those who made the wonderful food for our ham and bean supper and for those who did the planning and preparation for it.

HENRI MASSON and the amazing job he has done as our Building Manager over these past almost 6 years. We owe him a big debt of gratitude for the time and the care and concern he has shown to St. Peter's. THANK YOU HENRI!!

Our new Building Maintenance person, Frank Walker and our snow shoveler, Dave Nilson.

Our outgoing Vestry members, Paul Szwed and Mark Taylor, AND for our newly elected Vestry members, Kathy Finnegan and Len Hathon, AND for all our continuing Officers and Vestry!

Marge Clark and Jane Goershel who are now retiring from their many years of service on Altar Guild. Thanks for all you have done to make it possible for our worship to go smoothly!

GOD'S FAITHFUL STEWARDS

On December 21, we delivered Christmas gifts that were purchased and donated by St Peter's parishioners for the adults at the Village at Cataumet. Gifts for children and gifts for the children to give their Moms were also donated. The Christmas spirit was evident as gifts were opened and a wonderful assortment of refreshments were served. Several of us enjoyed holding the babies and playing with the toddlers to give the grateful Moms time to enjoy the party. A big THANK YOU goes to all who purchased and wrapped gifts, donated refreshments and attended the party. It was so appreciated by the residents and a beautiful note to the church was received and is hanging on the bulletin board in the Narthex.

In 2017, we plan to continue with our monthly arts and crafts classes at Village at Cataumet. On January 25, we will be making a valentine themed craft. Going forward, we will meet on the third Wednesday evening of each month from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. The class is open to ten people over ten years old. Some of the young mothers bring their babies, so we need to have at least two adults present at each meeting. Last year, we also offered two Saturday afternoon sessions for children and plan to increase them to four this year (dates to be determined). Lots of help will be needed on those occasions as it can be chaotic with as many as 15 little ones who are very eager to participate. If you feel called to help our outreach to the residents at the Village at Cataumet, please contact one of us or let Rev Sue know.

Outreach Committee: Karen McGuinness, Margery Buckingham, Priscilla Ellis, Nancy Sherwood, and Vestry Liaison, Robin Higgins.

“JAMS AND JELLIES LADIES” LOOKING FOR A GOOD BIG POT

The “Jams and Jellies Ladies” of St. Peter’s Church, and of wide repute for their scrumptious creations, have a need. The popularity of their products produces a need for an additional big cooking pot to increase production! They have one and would like to find a second one like it: a large, four to six quart, CAST IRON pot. Something like you inherited from your husband’s grandmother. NOT A NEW ONE. Can you find it in the garage or the cellar or the attic? Take a look, for the sake of those wonderful ladies whose sales help keep St. Peter’s boat afloat! And thank you for ***your*** help.

When you finally have your hand on it, please call Priscilla Ellis at 508-563-7786.

PANCAKE BREAKFAST - FEBRUARY 5

Our traditional first-Sunday-of-the-month Pancake Breakfast will be served **on Sunday, February 5, 2017, at 9:00 a.m.** Come and join us for pancakes, scrambled eggs, sausages, juice and coffee, all served up with ample smiles by our dedicated Pancake Breakfast team. **Please also take note of those glass jars in the middle of each table – they are meant for your donations to help make these breakfasts possible. We appreciate your generosity!**

WOMEN’S BIBLE STUDY - FEBRUARY 13 & 27

On February 13, we will look at Rachel, the second wife of Jacob. On February 27, we will study Tamar, a tragic figure of the Old Testament. No previous Bible knowledge is required. A Bible is helpful but if you don’t have one, we can provide one for you. The group normally meets on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month at 12:30 p.m. All women of the parish are invited. Bring a bag lunch and there will be coffee/tea and goodies provided.

MEN’S BREAKFAST GATHERING - FEBRUARY 18

The men of the parish will join together for breakfast and a time of food and fellowship at **8:30 a.m. on Saturday, February 18th, at Persy’s Place, 3198 Cranberry Highway in East Wareham.** The restaurant is on the same side of the highway as Lindsey’s, next to Upper Cape Realty. All men of the parish are cordially invited to attend. For more information, please contact Ken Lihzis (Klihzis@gmail.com / 774-212-0453).

HEALING SERVICE - FEBRUARY 19

Each month, a faithful group of parishioners gather to join in a service of prayers for healing, anointing, and laying on of hands. This service is held on the third Sunday of the month, which will be **Sunday, February 19, at 9 a.m.**

BRING IN YOUR PALMS BY FEBRUARY 19!

Do you have palms from previous years hidden behind pictures on your walls or standing in corners around your house? We will be collecting those old palms through **February 19**. Look for the box in the Parish Hall and bring yours in!

SHROVE TUESDAY - FEBRUARY 28 - PANCAKE SUPPER AND GAMES

St. Peter's will observe Shrove Tuesday, **February 28** with a traditional Pancake Supper and Game Night starting at **6 p.m.** in Stephenson Hall. Please feel free to bring your friends and neighbors, and don't forget your favorite board games! We will also be "burying our Alleluias" again both in art work and in song. It will be a fun time for all. Please tell us how many will attend on the sign-up sheet in the Narthex.

LENTEN STUDY STARTS MARCH 2 - DEALING WITH THE WILDERNESS TIMES IN OUR LIVES -

At one time or another, everyone has a "wilderness experience," a time when life is barren and difficult and we feel alone and desperate, not knowing where to turn. When we look at the Bible, we find that the people of God often went through these wilderness experiences and these experiences changed them in profound ways. Each year we begin Lent with the story of Jesus' time in the wilderness.

For our Lenten Study this year, we will be using a book called *A WAY THROUGH THE WILDERNESS: GROWING IN FAITH WHEN LIFE IS HARD* by The Rev. Rob Renfro, a Methodist pastor from Houston, Texas. **This study will run on Thursdays from March 2 through April 6 from 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.** Signup is limited to 15. The cost of the book is \$10. Please contact Rev. Sue if you have any questions. **SIGN UP IN THE NARTHEX BY FEBRUARY 25.**

THE VILLAGE AT CATAUMET NEEDS YOUR HELP!!

St. Peter's has for several years provided aid to the families living temporarily at the Village at Cataumet. Parishioners have supplied various needs, choosing a different category each month to help these families. **For the month of February, we are collecting paper products.** These can be left in the Narthex in the provided baskets under the pews. Children's clothing in good condition is accepted every month. Thank you to all parishioners who participate in this wonderful outreach. These donations have been so gratefully received by families who have endured a period of homelessness.

PRAYER CHAIN

The Emergency Prayer Chain is up and running! When you have a prayer request, please contact the Rev. Sue Lederhouse at 508-240-2853, or 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.

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.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The Newsletter Deadline for the **February** issue is Friday, **February 17, 2017**. Send all articles to Susan Hebb at susanhebb@comcast.net

FEBRUARY 2017

5	Sunday	9:00 a.m.	Pancake Breakfast
13	Monday	12:30 p.m.	Women's Bible Study
15	Wednesday	7:00 p.m.	Craft Night at Village at Cataumet
17	Friday		NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
18	Saturday	8:30 a.m.	Men's Breakfast Gathering
19	Sunday	9:00 a.m.	Healing Service
25	Saturday	9 – 3	Vestry Retreat
27	Monday	12:30 p.m.	Women's Bible Study
28	Tuesday	6:00 p.m.	Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

Upcoming Dates

March 1	Ash Wednesday	April 9	Palm Sunday
April 14	Good Friday	April 16	Easter
June 4	Pentecost		

Weekly Schedule

Sundays	8:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 11:30 a.m.	Holy Eucharist, Rite I Holy Eucharist, Rite II Choir Rehearsal
Mondays	10:00 – 4:00 11:00 a.m. 5:15 p.m. 7:30 p.m.	Church Office Open Bible Study Friendly Kitchen AA (Men’s Closed Meeting)
Wednesdays	7:30 p.m.	AA (Co-ed Open Meeting)
Fridays	10:00 – 4:00	Church Office Open

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

P. O. Box 265 / 165 Main Street
 Buzzards Bay, MA 02532
 Phone: 508-759-5641
 Web: saintpetersbb.org
 E-mail: saintpeters@verizon.net

Staff

The Rev. Sue Lederhouse, Rector
 E-mail: lederhouse@msn.com
 The Rev. Bob Sherwood, Deacon
 E-mail: rsherwood522@gmail.com
 Bruce Lederhouse & Lisa Platanitis, Interim Musicians
 Kathy Letzeisen, Parish Secretary
 Susan Hebb, Newsletter Editor

Vestry

Linda Masson, Senior Warden	508-743-5139	Steve Cloutman.....	508-759-3128
Lynne Brune, Junior Warden.....	508-295-6146	Priscilla Ellis.....	508-563-7786
Dianne Cartmill, Treasurer.....	617-669-1051	Emily Johnson.....	774-454-2446
Lynne Brune, Assistant Treasurer.....	508-295-6146	Merry Smythe.....	508-287-1540
Robin Higgins, Clerk.....	413-329-4651	Paul Szwed.....	774-302-4347
Mark Taylor.....	508-863-1259		