

The Wave - DECEMBER 2016

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

FROM THE RECTOR
The Reverend Sue Lederhouse

WAITING

We've been waiting a lot recently – even more than we usually wait.

We've been waiting through a long political season for the campaign to be over, for there to be a final candidate chosen by each major party as nominee, waiting for the debates to be over, waiting for the election to be over.

And now we continue to wait. We wait for this transition of power to take place. Wait for all the officials of the new administration to be chosen.

Wait and see. Wait and see what our new President will truly be like. Wait and see.

Throughout our lives, we wait both for happy things and for not so happy things. When we're younger, we can't wait to be older. When we're older, we wait through doctor's appointments and new prescriptions, hoping to feel better, hoping to feel at least a little bit "young and healthy" again.

Sometimes we wait knowing what will happen, but often we wait without really knowing what's on the horizon. We are called to trust; we are called to have faith. And that's not always easy. As much as we say it and sing it, to "walk by faith and not by sight," is not easy for most of us. We want to have some hints of what's ahead – hints of what we wait for. BUT do we really want to know? If God showed us all of what was ahead for us, would that truly make us happy? Probably not. In fact, we might be more worried, more depressed than often we are when we only get glimpses of the future.

Advent is a time of waiting. We know we wait for that First Coming of Jesus that we celebrate at Christmas, but we also wait for the Second Coming of Christ as King. And even though we celebrate Christmas year by year, each year it's a little different. Things change. Some people are no longer around the tree, but some new people have also been added. And we don't know how the birth of Jesus and His coming among us once more will affect us **this** year. And so we wait. We wait and we watch and we trust.

Wait for the Lord whose day is near. Wait for the Lord. Be strong, take heart.

Advent and Christmas Blessings as we wait and watch –

Sue Lederhouse+

THE DEACON'S CORNER

It's Advent already! Christmas is just around the corner! When we think of Christmas we think of the Gospel of Luke, a Magnificent Star, the Little Town of Bethlehem, Angelic Choirs, and the Birth of the Prince of Peace. It's a peaceful, pastoral image of Christmas. Filled with goodwill and gift-giving.

Has it ever dawned on you that 2,000-plus years ago a Revolution was launched by that child? A Revolution whose message, so at odds with Rome and all it stood for, nevertheless slowly, inexorably overcame an Empire and converted its Emperor.

The Cross of Jesus was the cross that Constantine said he saw before the Battle of the Milvian Bridge, when he defeated his rival for the throne, the pagan Maxentius. The Cross appeared to him in the clouds, surmounting the setting sun, with the words: ***"In Hoc Signo Vinces - In this sign you will conquer"*** emblazoned across the skies. At least this is the story that **Lactantius**, an early Christian author and advisor to Constantine, told.

Whether true or not, it's a good story, and there probably is more than a grain of truth in it. The fact is that shortly after claiming the throne Constantine announced that thereafter persecution of Christianity would cease, and not long after that he announced his own conversion.

The Good News is no less revolutionary today than it was 2,000 years ago. It is still profoundly at odds with the values of Empire. Any Empire at any time in history. For example, in the November 1st edition of "Crux," a Roman Catholic newsletter, they quote a 19th Century French clergyman, Fr. Emmanuel d'Alzon, who decried the state of his society in the year 1835:

d'Alzon said that the more he looked at the world of his day, the more he despaired of it....politics was a dead end...no life there. Attempts to govern are in vain, **UNLESS they are informed by charity, justice and what he called "Christian Liberty"**.

What does he mean by "Christian Liberty"? He defines that as being a serious, self-giving human being who has learned to control his passions and direct them toward the good, the true and the beautiful. I think the prophet Micah (Micah 6:8) would describe it as: "Loving God, dealing justly with all mankind, and walking humbly before God."

d'Alzon concludes saying that he didn't think the world was evil, just ignorant. Political life is a misnomer....no life in it... only death. He felt that politics needed to be informed by the Christian idea in order to give it life. In other words, the world is dead or dying for want of the Good News.

Look around you. Is it not so in America in 2016?

So, as we move closer to Christmas, remember, Christianity **BEGAN** as a revolution, it continues as a revolution and you are all revolutionaries. Just **SHARING** the Good News, or committing a random, senseless act of Christian charity is a Revolutionary act! It has the power to change the hearts of men and women.....and governments. Join the Revolution!!

Peace,
Deacon Robert Sherwood

VISIBLE VESTRY

The Vestry held their monthly meeting on Monday, November 21.

1. We are doing so well on our book bin that it is overflowing before the two-week pickup time. Rev. Sue has requested that we be given a larger bin. October bin donation was \$172.48.
2. To date, we have received 62 Stewardship pledges for 2017. We encourage parishioners to turn in their pledge cards soon, as Vestry begins preparing the new budget for 2017 in the second week in December. Your pledge is crucial to our knowing what we have for dependable income, so that we will be able to draft a new balanced budget. Thank you to all who have turned in their pledges, and as always, we appreciate each one of you for your support of St. Peter's.
3. As you know, we lost one of our St. Peter's family members recently, Donald Atkins. We appreciate the family recognizing St. Peter's as one of the churches that they would like to see receive memorial donations in Donald's name.
4. Carpeting has now been installed in the large meeting room. Total price for the entire job including Rev. Sue's office and the Choir Room was \$6563.90. A great price and a nice job done.
5. The stove installation and inspection of both the stove and the kitchen by the town Board of Health are completed. Our kitchen looks fabulous!! Although we were awarded a wonderful Congregational Development Grant of \$5,845, which is over and above what we were asking, we ran into some unexpected additional expenses of yet another \$1,000. Our stove hookup was so old that it didn't meet current building code requirements, so we needed to add a costly carbon monoxide detector system. The additional cost will be taken from the Capital Fund.
6. Rev. Sue presided over a funeral on October 29 for the father of one of the Compassionate Friends leaders. One hundred plus people attended the funeral.
7. St. Peter's offered a couple of pre-election prayer opportunities for parishioners. On November 7, there were five people who were praying in the church. On November 8, Election Day, twenty people participated in a virtual prayer vigil. Copies of a prayer packet were also distributed to parishioners, as well as to those who attended Friendly Kitchen and our AA groups.
8. Christmas Day and New Year's Day both fall on Sundays this year. We will have one service at 10:00 on each of those days. Christmas Eve will have regular services at 5:00 and 8:00. Come at 7:30 for the evening service and hear your choir do their special Christmas music program!!
9. Our new Sound System has been installed. Rev. Sue would like any feedback you have concerning the system and its volume. There are still two parts that are needed to complete the installation. How does it sound to you????
10. The search for a new organist/choir director is still happening. Until we find someone, Bruce Lederhouse and Lisa Platanitis have graciously agreed to stick with us. We are very thankful to have their musical talents to help us out during the long transition and search process.
11. It is great to have had some new growth to our choir, especially thrilled to have more male voices. If you are interested in singing with us and trying out choir maybe through the holidays to see if it is something you would enjoy doing, please see Lisa, Bruce or Rev. Sue. Rehearsals for Christmas season will begin soon, so this is your chance!!!! We always need more voices.
12. On Sunday, February 12, 2017, St. Peter's will be prayed for in the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer.
13. Friendly Kitchen has set their schedule for the 2017 year. We are still short one team which has put extra work on the existing three teams. If you are interested in doing this mission outreach program, please see Rev. Sue. Due to the shortage of teams, Friendly Kitchen will be going to a bag sandwich meal on the last Monday of each month. Sandwich, fruit/vegetable, dessert and drink will be available for pickup. Meals will not be eaten at the church, however, Rev. Sue and Deacon Bob have agreed to be available for any fellowship needs for folks on those Mondays.

14. Natalie Finstad, Director of the Leadership Development Institute of the Diocese, will be meeting with Vestry on December 11 at 9:00 a.m. (between church services) to talk with folks about a new project they are promoting regarding how to provide outreach to local communities. This is an informational session only, for those interested in hearing more about how to build new relationships with our community. **(See separate article below pertaining to this meeting.)**

15. Deacon Bob is now easing back into his regular schedule. He was present for Mass Maritime office hours this past Wednesday and met with Father Jim. He also attended the Friendly Kitchen Thanksgiving Dinner, which was wonderful. (Thank you to all who worked hard to make that a success and to those who provided food donations.) Deacon Bob attended Safe Church Training and is now safe for three more years!!! We are happy to have him back with us and pray for continued healing for both him and for his wife Nancy.

16. Reminder to mark your calendars and save the date for our Epiphany Party on January 6. We will be hosting a ham and bean supper. More to come next month on this.

17. We were thrilled to have had such a successful Holiday Fair. \$1786.87 (including jams and jellies) to be exact!! Great job to everyone who donated items and baked goods, also to those who worked so hard before, during, and after the Fair, and of course to our jams/jelly ladies.

18. Nominating Committee will be meeting on November 28 at 6:30 p.m. regarding the positions to be filled for the 2017 Church year. Anyone interested in serving on the Vestry or who would like to make suggestions to the committee, this is your chance to come forward.

19. The discussion regarding whether to get solar panels is still on the burner for discussion during Vestry meetings.

20. A very real and complicated concern for Vestry is the hiring of a building manager, and what that job will entail both in duties and cost. This was a lengthy discussion that will be continued at our next meeting.

21. Vestry is reviewing and discussing thoughts on a policy for either loaning or renting out our extra tables and chairs. This will also be continued at our next Vestry meeting.

Next regular Vestry meeting will be December 19, 2016.

On behalf of your Vestry, we wish each one of you a safe and blessed holiday season and a very Merry Christmas!!!!!!!!!!

Linda Masson, Senior Warden

A NEW LOOK AT COMMUNITY OUTREACH - DECEMBER 11

On **December 11, at 9:00 a.m.**, Natalie Finstad, Director of the Leadership Development Institute of the Diocese, will be at St. Peter's to meet with the Vestry and other interested parishioners about a new way to look at outreach in the community. Currently the Church of the Good Shepherd in Wareham is exploring participation in this project to build new relationships within their community and discern the needs that are present. The session on December 11 at St. Peter's is an informational session only and the Vestry and our outreach group, God's Faithful Stewards, will discuss future involvement. All are welcome to attend this informational session; if you would like to have more information, please contact Reverend Sue. Thanks for your care and concern for our community needs!

ADVENT AT ST. PETER'S

During Advent, we mark the change in season by some changes in our liturgy. Purple is the color for Advent, the color of penitence and of expectation. We use the color purple on every Sunday except the 3rd Sunday of Advent. On that Sunday, "Rejoice Sunday", we use the rose colored vestments and hangings. In Advent, we have no flowers on the altar in keeping with the penitential nature of this season. We will bless the Advent wreath on the First Sunday of Advent (November 27) at both services. Each week we will light a new candle on the Advent wreath (assisted at the 10 a.m. service by some of our parish families).

During Advent, we make a few changes in our liturgy. At the 8 a.m. service, we will use Eucharistic Prayer I (in the Prayer Book, p. 333). At the 10 a.m. service, we will be using Eucharistic Prayer 2 from *Enriching Our Worship* (pink insert). The choir will again be doing a special introit ("Christ is Coming – Prepare the Way") each Sunday immediately before our opening hymn. For our service music, we will use the Schubert settings of the Kyrie, Sanctus, and Agnus Dei and for a post-communion piece, the Taize chant, "Wait for the Lord." These will be printed as a music insert in the bulletin. At the Presentation, we will sing one verse of "Come Thou Long Expected Jesus" (Hymnal #66) as we have done in previous years. It will be printed in the bulletin.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

If you would like to donate money to purchase Christmas altar flowers in memory of (or in honor of) family or friends, please fill in the Christmas flowers form in the bulletin on December 4 or 11 and return it with your donation. Please be sure to print the names clearly. **DEADLINE IS MONDAY - DECEMBER 12.**

CHRISTMAS SEASON AT ST. PETER'S

DECEMBER 24

CHRISTMAS EVE

5 p.m.

Holy Eucharist Rite II with Special Presentation

8 p.m.

Holy Eucharist Rite II (Choral prelude begins at 7:30 p.m.)

DECEMBER 25

CHRISTMAS DAY (ONE SERVICE ONLY)

10 a.m.

Holy Eucharist Rite II

JANUARY 1

FEAST OF THE HOLY NAME (ONE SERVICE ONLY)

10 a.m.

Holy Eucharist Rite II

Please note that both Christmas Day and New Year's Day fall on Sundays this year. There will be ONE service at 10 a.m. on both of those days. On Christmas Day, you are invited to come in casual dress (Kids in pajamas are fine, too) and bring a favorite Christmas present that you have received! We'll sing Christmas carols and have a brief homily and share in communion. On January 1, we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Name – the day that Jesus was given His name.

EPIPHANY SERVICE AND DINNER - JANUARY 6, 5:30 P.M.

Epiphany, **Friday, January 6**, is one of the major feast days in the Church Year. Most of us probably know it best as the time we celebrate the visit of the Three Wise Men. This year we will celebrate the Epiphany with a short service with music and a ham and bean supper following. And YES – of course we will be singing “We Three Kings” and “The First Noel!” **The service starts at 5:30 p.m.** Then join together in a wonderful feast after the service. Come and celebrate the beginning of this season of Light as we remember the spread of the Gospel to people throughout the world!

GOD'S FAITHFUL STEWARDS

During the Christmas season, many people generously give to needy children. We have decided to focus on the forgotten adults at Village at Cataumet, our local center for families in transition. On Sunday, November 20, a “Wishing Tree” with 25 paper ornaments was placed in Stephenson Hall. Each ornament described two wishes from one of the residents. All of the ornaments were taken that day and parishioners are requested to pick one of the wishes to fulfill and to bring the UNWRAPPED gift back to St. Peter's on or before **Tuesday night, December 13th** when we will wrap and tag the gifts, starting at **6:30 p.m.**

On **December 21st at 7:00 p.m.**, we will host a party at Village at Cataumet when the gifts will be delivered. We hope to have the children give the gifts to their parents.

If you have any questions please contact:

Karen McGuinness RubyMoon777@aol.com

Nancy Sherwood nsherwood114@gmail.com

Margery Buckingham 617-710-0174 (call or text)

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

A Nominating Committee has been formed to select a slate of candidates for parish leadership positions for the coming year. Members of the committee include Lynne Brune, The Reverend Sue Lederhouse, Linda Masson, Paul Szwed, Mark Taylor, and Donna Tripp. All Officer Positions and Delegate Positions are one year terms and all of the incumbents are eligible for re-election. It is not known yet if all of the incumbents will seek re-election. **There are 2 three-year Vestry Positions that WILL DEFINITELY need to be filled.** If you would like to be considered for one of these positions or would like to nominate someone, please contact one of the Nominating Committee members as soon as possible. For more information on the requirements and duties of these positions, contact The Reverend Sue Lederhouse or Wardens Linda Masson and Lynne Brune.

BULLETIN PRAYER LIST UPDATE

A new Prayer list will begin in the bulletin on **December 4th**. Please submit your prayer requests on the yellow forms in the Narthex. You may place them in the offering plate or bring them to the Church Office or you can email them to saintpeters@verizon.net

ANNUAL MEETING - JANUARY 29, 2017 - SAVE THE DATE

The Parish Annual Meeting will be held on **Sunday, January 29, 2017**. There will be **one** service at **9 a.m.**, followed by a potluck brunch, and then the Annual Meeting. At this meeting, new officers and parish leaders will be elected. A full slate of nominees will be published in the January WAVE and posted on the bulletin boards in the Church. Reports from parish organizations and committees will be received and the 2016 proposed parish budget reviewed. **Deadline for submission of reports for the Annual Report Booklet is JANUARY 16**. Please submit them in electronic form to susanhebb@comcast.net or in printed form to the Church Office.

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

As of November 22, we have **62 pledges** including **6 new pledges**. If you have not made a pledge yet for 2017, please do so as soon as possible. If you have been a regular contributor but have not made a pledge, please consider pledging. It helps us as we determine our budget for 2017 to be able to better gauge how much money we can expect and also ensures that your contributions can be tracked more easily. Additional pledge cards are available on the table in the Narthex. Thank you for your generosity and your support of God's mission here at St. Peter's. **Also – If you made a pledge for 2016 and you have not completed your pledge, please try to do so before the end of the year.**

PANCAKE BREAKFAST - DECEMBER 4

Our traditional first-Sunday-of-the-month Pancake Breakfast will be served on **Sunday, December 4, at 9:00 a.m.** Come and join us for pancakes, scrambled eggs, sausages, juice and coffee. All of this served up with ample smiles by our dedicated Pancake Breakfast team.

MEN'S BREAKFAST GATHERING - DECEMBER 19

The men of the parish will join together for breakfast at **8:30 a.m. on Saturday, December 17, at Persy's Place, 3198 Cranberry Highway in East Wareham**, for a time of food and fellowship. 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).

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY - DECEMBER 12

The Women's Bible Study continues to learn more and more about many interesting women of the Bible. On December 12, we will look at **Mary, the mother of Jesus**. We will skip December 26 because of the Christmas holiday and will meet again on January 9. 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.

HEALING SERVICE - DECEMBER 18 - 9 A.M.

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 normally held on the third Sunday of the month, which will be **Sunday, December 18, at 9 a.m.** All are welcome.

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 December, we are collecting toiletries for adults.** 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 **December** issue is Friday, **December 16**. Send all articles to Susan Hebb at susanhebb@comcast.net

DECEMBER 2016

4	Sunday	9:00 a.m.	Pancake Breakfast
11	Sunday	9:00 a.m. 7:00 p.m.	Special Vestry Meeting / Presentation Compassionate Friends
12	Monday	12:30 p.m.	Women's Bible Study
13	Tuesday	6:30 p.m.	Wrapping Gifts for Village at Cataumet
16	Friday		NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
17	Saturday	8:30 a.m.	Men's Breakfast Gathering
18	Sunday	9:00 a.m.	Healing Service
19	Monday	5:15 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Friendly Kitchen Christmas Dinner Vestry
21	Wednesday	7:00 p.m.	Christmas Party at Village at Cataumet
24	Saturday	5:00 p.m. 8:00 p.m.	Christmas Eve Service & Presentation Christmas Eve Service (choral prelude at 7:30)
25	Sunday	10:00 a.m.	Christmas Day Service
26	Monday		NO Friendly Kitchen

Upcoming Dates

January 1	New Year's Day Service	January 6	Epiphany Party
January 29	Annual Meeting	February 28	Shrove Tuesday
March 1	Ash Wednesday	April 16	Easter

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

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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

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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
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