



ST. PETER'S WAVE DECEMBER 2025

St. Peter's is a community called to Love, Worship, Proclaim, and Serve.

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

I have 4 important topics to write about this month - in no particular order.

- 1. Thanksgiving** - having just celebrated our annual holiday to give thanks for all the blessings of this life, I want to thank all of you who have supported St Peter's in 2025 with your pledges, contributions, gifts, time and talents. We've had a good year. And thanks to all those who have committed to St Peter's in 2026 with your pledges. The Vestry is now in the budget process for the new year and feels very positive about our future.
- 2. Endowment and Capital Funds** - in November the Vestry voted to set up two funds for our reserves - an Endowment Fund and a Capital Fund. These will be very important for our future. The Endowment will help us to encourage people to leave gifts (both in their Wills and during their active lives at St. Peter's) that will accrue and, hopefully, eventually provide an annual added income for our budget. This planned giving will become an important part of our stewardship efforts. The Capital Fund will provide additional support for improvements to our physical plant. The first item will be repair and replacement of the basement floor damaged in a recent flood.
- 3. Transitional period** - As you know, we have been in a "search process" for a new permanent Rector for over 6 years. The Bishop has suggested that we "pause" the search and see this time not as an "interim" but as an ongoing time for ministry with me as Priest. If and when a viable candidate emerges for Rector, the Diocesan leadership will keep us posted. Canon Kelly O'Connell will be with us for both services on December 21st to preach and to share in discussion with us about this change.
- 4. Christmas** - Advent starts on November 30th with one 9 AM service of Morning Prayer and activities after. Christmas is 3 1/2 weeks later. We will have our traditional Christmas Eve services at 4 PM and 7 PM (with carols and anthems starting at 6:30 PM). It is a blessed time of the year when we celebrate our Lord Jesus Christ's birth. Please plan to join us for our Advent and Christmas celebrations. Blessings for the Holy Days and New Year ahead.

Grace, Peace, Love,
Bob



Leadership

The 3rd topic for reflection during a parish transition

The Episcopal Church has a unique partnership between Priest and congregation, called the Vestry. The Vestry is a group of laity elected by the congregation, normally at our Annual Meeting. Each Vestry has officers that are either elected by the congregation or by the Vestry itself. The rules that define the policies and practices of a congregation are a combination of church canons and individual Parish Bylaws.

Every Vestry works closely with the Priest (or Rector) to support the ministry of the parish. By the canons guidance, the Priest has responsibility for worship and the use of the building. The Vestry has responsibility for financial support, maintenance of the property and the calling (employment) of the Priest.

Officers and Vestry members serve according to the parish bylaws. Normally, there is a set term of years- with a maximum for every position. This rotating leadership and membership of the Vestry helps a congregation to raise up new leaders and share the time and talents of all who wish to serve.

At St Peter's we are blessed to have 11 dedicated Vestry members- 6 serve 3 year terms, with an election of 2 each year, unless there's an opening for a position with a person leaving the Vestry or becoming an officer. The 5 officers- Senior Warden, Junior Warden, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, and Clerk (Registrar) are elected each year, normally with a total of 5 years maximum.

At the Annual Meeting we will be electing new officers and also new members to serve 3 year terms, as well as some unexpired terms. If you have interest in serving on the Vestry, please speak to Fr. Bob or a member of the Vestry.

Parish leadership also comes from staff and volunteers not on the Vestry. At St. Peter's we have part-time staff serving as Secretary, Music Director, and Organist. In addition, we have leaders and coordinators who help with the Altar Guild, Lectors, Ushers and other ministries.

Healthy, growing parishes have good leaders who rotate responsibilities and share leadership constantly. Lay leaders and Priest should communicate honestly, openly and frequently. Everyone should be on the "same page" as a parish lives out its specific mission and is open to change. The old saying holds true – "many hands make light work."





**VISIBLE VESTRY
NOVEMBER**

Finances are okay – pledges a little behind.

The budget will be discussed at the December meeting.

Discovery Preschool – the daycare area will need to be repaired. Our insurance is paying \$50,000 towards the clean-up/repair. We are getting 3 quotes for the repair work. For now they will be in the meeting room.

We have had to purchase a new generator – our old one was 10 years old and didn't have enough power for our needs. The new generator should be here around December 5th.

We have asked the Mass Maritime cadets to only park in the blue designated areas.

We continue to work on the Vestry slate for the 2026-2027 year. There are positions still to be filled, please contact any vestry member if you are interested.

We are looking into hiring a part-time bookkeeper, maybe sharing with St. John's in Sandwich.

We are disbanding the Search Committee for now as there are no candidates available.

Bob Malm will now be Priest-in-Charge, not interim priest.

Canon Kelly O'Connor, visiting in place of the Bishop, will be here December 21 to talk about moving forward for St. Peter's.

We are considering having a once-a-month collection for the food pantry. We have someone that has volunteered to get the products to the pantry.

We are thinking of having a chili party after the Annual Meeting – Super Bowl Sunday.

There will be one service on November 30th. Connie and Margery will report on the annual convention. We will be making Advent wreaths.

Cataumet House does not need our gift cards so we will not be having the giving tree this year.

Next meeting is December 16th. **Note time change to 5:00.**

A note from your Treasurer – December 2025

Firstly, I want to thank everyone who has made a pledge for 2026. If you have not done so, but would like to do so, it is not too late and would be gratefully received.

Secondly, I want to remind you about your 2025 pledges. The year is almost over and if you are unsure whether you have fulfilled your 2025 pledge please contact me and I can tell you the outstanding amount.

In early January I will be issuing year end thank you letters to all donors and tax receipts to all who donated \$250 or more during 2025. This includes all your 2025 pledged donations except those prepaid in 2024, which were tax deductible for 2024. Likewise, any prepaid pledges for 2026 received in 2025 will be tax deductible for 2025. I would also like to remind you that all donations received in 2026 will be treated as 2026 items except those postmarked December 31st, 2025, or before.

Thirdly, I will endeavor to have your 2026 envelopes ready for pick up by the last Sunday in December.

I am not planning to change your envelope number for 2026.

Lastly, I want to tell you about some important financial matters. The vestry will be considering the establishment of a St. Peter's endowment fund. Many churches have such a fund because it encourages longer term planned giving, in particular legacies. The fund will be established using certain of the existing funds shown in our annual balance sheet.

Also, we are dealing with the consequences of a flood that occurred in the basement occupied by the Discovery Pre School because of a power outage in October. We are working with our insurers on the matter. As you may have seen, the Pre School has moved upstairs to our hall while the basement is cleaned and made fit for use. The flood was caused by the failure of our emergency generator. The vestry has approved the replacement of the failed generator with a new more powerful one to cover all the sump pumps in the basement. We are likely to have to spend more than our insurance policy limit to ensure the basement is properly waterproof.

To deal with these two matters I have proposed to the vestry that we make some changes to our balance sheet. If approved, you will see these changes in our annual report for 2025 when it is issued in February next year.

If you have any questions about these matters, or any aspect of St. Peter's finances, please do not hesitate to contact me on 508 224 4018 or 443 823 4466 and by email at: kershaws@gmail.com

Regards to you all,

Alan Kershaw – Treasurer, St. Peter's Church on the Canal



At the suggestion of the Diocese, Saint Peter's is suspending the Search Committee for now, as there are no candidates available. The Bishop and our Diocesan Consultant will inform us should a candidate become available who might be a good fit for St. Peter's. At that point, the committee may reconvene. Father Bob Malm will assume the title of Priest-in-Charge instead of Interim Priest.

It has been our honor and pleasure to have served St. Peter's in this capacity. We thank you for your support over these many years and ask that you continue to keep our beloved church in your prayers.

Yours In Christ,
Larry Higgins, Donna Beers, Matthew Bruce, Nancy Kennedy, and Patti Metcalf



Our Christmas Fair was a great success earning just over \$1500 for St. Peter's! Many, many thanks to those who...

- donated items for Santa's Seconds.
- tirelessly cleaned, priced and organized it all for selling.
- prepared yummy treats to sell at our Bake Table.
- helped to set up, decorate, work the fair, and clean up, and count up all the money.
- came to shop on a rainy day or gave monetary donations to support this fundraiser.
- advertised our event through Facebook posts.
- worked behind the scenes moving furniture, hauling items from attics, and disposing of trash.

Lastly, thank you to the crafters who joined us for the day, sharing their incredible talent and art with us and the visiting public.

I apologize if I have forgotten anyone! Thank you all again!

Prayers and Blessings for a beautiful and peaceful Advent Season,
Patti Metcalf & The Fair Committee



Our second get together was held on November 1st. We had 12 attendees sign up, of which 8 were able to attend. As always, the conversation was lively and varied. Unfortunately, the Red Sox failed to move on, but the Patriots are on a roll!

Our next breakfast get together will be on **Saturday, December 13th at 8:30 AM**. As usual, we will gather at Persy's Place, 3198 Cranberry Highway, East Wareham. If you would like to attend, please add your name to the sign up sheet posted in the narthex. If you forget to sign up, please call or text Jim Hankey at 781-534-2604. This will provide an accurate count of attendees for the Persy's setup.

I look forward to seeing you at Persy's!

Best regards,
Jim Hankey

RECURRING EVENTS

Sundays: 8am - Holy Eucharist Rite I
10am - Holy Eucharist Rite II w/music
(unless otherwise noted)

Tuesdays: 11am - Bible Study

Thursdays: 8:30am – TOPS

1st Saturday, 8:30am - **Men's Breakfast** (note date chg. for Dec.)

2nd Monday, 2:22pm - Substance Abuse Team (on hiatus)

3rd Tuesday, 5:00pm – Vestry

1st & 3rd Wednesday, 12n – Women's Bible Study

ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH-ON-THE-CANAL

165 Main St., PO Box 265

Buzzards Bay, MA 02532

508-759-5641

Email: saintpeters@verizon.net

Website: www.saintpetersbb.org

Staff

The Reverend Robert Malm, Priest-in-Charge 703-772-7667

Lisa Platanitis, Director of Music/Choir

Liesl Crehan, Pianist/Organist

Kimberly Leahy, Parish Administrator

Robin Higgins, Newsletter Editor

2025 Vestry

Celeste Hankey, Sr. Warden...617-710-5346
Alan Kershaw, Treasurer...508-224-4018
Patti Metcalf, Clerk...508-685-5582
Amy Farris....978-831-2021
Connie Morrison...978-259-8068
Melissa Scannell...508-566-1594

Mark Taylor, Jr. Warden...508-863-1259
Kathy Letzeisen, Asst. Treasurer...617-755-9357
Patrick Davin....508-496-0863
Jack Kennedy...508-291-138
Elaine Robinson....774-521-7959



*4:00pm - Festival Eucharist
6:30pm - Carols for Choir & Congregation
7:00pm - Festival Eucharist w/music*