



ST. PETER'S WAVE OCTOBER, 2025

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

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

In October we celebrate Saints and Stewardship. We remember the Saints for how they acted as stewards in their own times and places. We consider our stewardship now, especially as we make financial pledges for the coming year. These 2 themes meet throughout the month as we remember Francis, Theresa, Luke, James and others, while at the same time we consider how to use our time, talents, and treasure.

On All Saints Sunday, Nov. 2, we will bless all of our offerings and the pledges for 2026. In the weeks ahead, we will be sending out a letter and pledge card to everyone on our parish mailing list. Please bring your card back to church on either Sunday, Oct. 26, or on All Saints Sunday. If you are out of town or unable to come to church, please return your pledge by mail.

The Episcopal Church's stewardship theme for 2026 is "Tell Out My Soul", based on Hymn 437- honoring St. Mary's song of praise, The Magnificat (see BCP p. 65 and Luke 1:46-55). Mary rejoiced in her call to give birth to Jesus. She gave herself to God and she gave herself to her son, all the way to the cross. Mary helped the church to grow after The Resurrection.

We can do our own part to help the church to grow; we can give ourselves to God by how we use our own lives in support of Christ's ministry through us at St. Peter's. May our souls "Magnify the Lord" with Mary and all the Saints who lead the way.

Grace, Peace, Love,
Bob +



on Interim Ministry

In the September issue of The Wave I wrote about our story/history of St. Peter's - Part I – "Founding and Growth." In this issue I will write about Part II - "Decline, Crisis, Recovery"

Decline, Crisis, Recovery, 1999 to 2025

By the end of the 20th century, St. Peter's was already showing significant signs of decline. This was obvious in both finances and attendance. Some of this was due to the secularization of the 1990's and 2000's with so many activities for families and children on Sundays.

It is hard to define what impact this had on clergy and lay leadership at St. Peter's. Fr. Richard Signore had begun as Rector in 1988 and enjoyed many years of growth and activity. But after 10 years difficulties began to impact the health of the parish.

Financial reserves were used to support the budget as annual pledge income decreased. In 2004 Fr. Richard resigned and moved to another diocese.

The clergy transition didn't go very smoothly. Perhaps this was due to financial issues - not having enough funds to support a full-time Priest. There were also personal issues that challenged steady clergy leadership. For 3 years the parish had unsettled clergy leadership, until the Rev. Sarah Conner began in 2007. That fall the average attendance on Sunday was 30 at 8 AM and 50 at 10 AM.

By 2010 when Sarah left, the parish could only afford a supply Priest on Sundays. The Rev. Sue Lederhouse began serving on Sundays. Sue's strong leadership helped St Peter's recover from the crisis of the first decade of the 21st century. By 2011 the parish was able to afford Sue at a 1/3 part-time rate. The following year Sue went from being Priest in Charge to Rector and by 2015 she was hired for 1/2 time.

We could say St. Peter's had "recovered" by 2015. For the next couple of years the average Sunday attendance was just over 100. On Easter Sunday 2018 we had 50 attending at 8 AM and 113 at 10 AM. And gradually the financial picture also improved.

Sue retired in 2019 and the expectation was for an Interim Rector to lead the parish in the transition to another steady leader, a new Rector. But then another crisis hit- Covid in March of 2020.

Dedicated volunteers tried to keep community life together through phone calls and You-Tube. But there was no priestly leadership after the Interim resigned (with Covid) and no Sunday worship at church for 14 months. On the Sunday before the Covid shutdown (3/8/20) there were 19 at 8 AM and 55 at 10 AM.

In June of 2021, a few weeks after returning to the church, we had 20 at 8 AM and 52 at 10 AM. These numbers have been fairly steady for the last 4 years.

St Peter's has recovered from the leadership and financial crisis, 2004 - 2011, and from the Covid crisis 2020-2021. But the future remains unclear. Bob Malm, the Interim Rector, serves at a substantially lower cost to the parish than a 1/2 time Priest with benefits.

Our story continues. The dedicated parishioners who rode out the storms of the last 25 years have built a solid foundation upon which we can build. The new people who have joined St. Peters since Covid give promise for our future. Together, we can continue our ministry and mission in joyful service to our Lord.

Bob+



Our finances are looking good.

We looked into using Venmo – they do not support using non-profit organizations.

The delegates to the November convention are Margery Buckingham and Connie Morrison.

We have had requests from Mass Maritime cadets to use our parking lot – we have developed a consent form – they will have to give a donation (minimum of \$400 for the year) to St. Peter's.

We are looking into having the wood around the stained-glass windows repaired.

The front doors have been repainted, the sign is next.

There is a joint meeting/concert with St. David's in Yarmouth Port on 9/25/25.

Our By-laws have been approved by the diocese.

The Stewardship Campaign will start in October, Ingathering will be November 2nd.

The installation of the columbarium will be done this fall.

We will be participating in Canal Day.

We thanked Amy Farris for using her home-grown flowers to decorate the altar when no one has requested a specific Sunday.

Aaron Willey has a food trolley – we are looking into whether he can use our parking lot a couple of times a week.

For Outreach, we are looking into a Christmas card program.

Our next joint Sunday service will be November 30th, we would like to do an Advent wreath decorating again.

The next meeting will be Thursday, October 23rd – please note the day change from Tuesday to Thursday for one month only.

VESTRY MEMBERS NEEDED!

It is time to think about establishing the vestry for next year. The following positions are open for the 2026-2027 year:

Sr. Warden – 1 year	Jr. Warden – 1 year (Buildings and Grounds responsibilities)
Treasurer – 1 year	Assistant Treasurer – 1 year
Clerk – 1 year	Member at Large – 3 years

If you are interested in being a member of the vestry, please contact either Rev. Bob Malm or Celeste Hankey. Thank you for your interest.

A BRIEF NOTE FROM YOUR TREASURER – OCTOBER 2025

By the time you read this note our 2025 stewardship campaign will be under way. I am looking forward to your continued financial support for St. Peter's. Your generosity continues to be a tremendous blessing for St. Peter's. Thank you very much for all you have given in 2025 and please keep up the good work in 2026.

We do have some likely capital expenses during 2026. The main church windows have much rot in their frames and need renovation. Our parking lot is also in need of work, particularly where the drains have had to be repaired. The vestry will be dealing with these matters in the coming months. The financial impact will be a drain on our capital fund and may necessitate some form of capital campaign.

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

Alan Kershaw – Treasurer

St. Peter's Church on the Canal



Greetings from the Search Committee! We hope you had a wonderful summer! We have had very little response from the letters sent the many theological schools, unfortunately. The Vestry has tabled the idea of priest sharing with the church in Swansea for now.

We thank you for your continued prayers for our Vestry and Search Committee as we continue our journey.

Yours In Christ,

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



Reading scripture, psalms, and Prayers of the People during St. Peter's services is a special ministry and we are lucky to have the talented and dedicated readers we listen to at our services.

We are currently in need of readers to join the ranks, especially at the 8:00 service, but also at 10:00. If you have ever thought that this is something you would like to do, now is the time! You will be given instruction on how to prepare for and perform the reader's role in the service.

There are resources available to help you, for example, to pronounce all those foreign Biblical names! You may choose to do readings/psalms or just Prayers of the People, or both (most people do both - but not on the same day!).

I post the schedule 3-4 weeks ahead time, 3 months at a time. The next schedule is December 2025 through January and February 2026. Therefore, I will need to know by mid-late October if you wish to join our Readers. Readers are also scheduled for weekday services such as Ash Wednesday and Holy Week. I email everyone before each schedule to allow the opportunity to "opt out" of any Sundays or holidays that you may be unavailable.

Please reach out to me, any of our current readers, or Fr. Bob if you are interested in learning more about this ministry. Ask all your questions! Pray on it! And then please let me know in October that I can add you to the Readers ranks! Thank you for considering joining this special group of people who contribute so much to our services! I hope to hear from YOU!

Many blessings, Kathy Letzeisen



I am pleased to announce that the new season of the monthly men's breakfast will kick off on **Saturday, October 4th at 8:30 AM**. As usual, we will gather at Persy's Place, 3198 Cranberry Highway, East Wareham. Payment will be by individual, cash or credit card.

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!

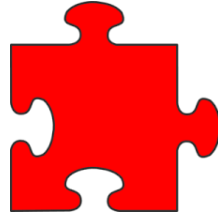
Jim Hankey



Now that Fall is upon us, it's time to think of all things cool!

St. Peter's Christmas Fair is coming up quick on Saturday, December 6th from 9am-2pm! Our first committee meeting will be on **Wednesday, October 1st** at approximately **1:30**, following Women's Bible Study. If you're not able to attend this meeting but have ideas or suggestions, feel free to reach out to me. In the meantime, please continue to bring in your gently used and unwanted Christmas/Winter items. I'm so excited about organizing this event again and appreciate everyone's input and help!

Blessings,
Patti Metcalf patmijo@comcast.net 508-685-558



Puzzle Me This!

Are you someone that loves Jigsaw Puzzles? You are not alone here at St. Peter's! We have a puzzle swap bookcase in our meeting room where you can take, enjoy or leave a puzzle. It's located just to the left upon entering the room. Have fun puzzling.



We would like to thank the parish for their continuing support through our collection jar on the second Sunday of every month. We have no meetings currently scheduled; we will attempt to regroup in the fall.

The Bourne Substance Free Coalition is sponsoring a Bingo Night and Shopping Event on Thursday October 16th from 5:00PM to 9pm. Doors open at 5pm and Bingo begins at 6:30 The event will be held at the Navigator-Portuguese Hall, 53 Ashumet Rd. in E. Falmouth. More information is available on their Facebook Page.

Recently on Channel 5, WCVB there was an investigative report about the harmful effects of marijuana on young people. There have been some serious mental health issues with heavy use, especially if used as a vape. Please check out www.wcvb.com/investigates.

If you would like to learn more about our mission, please contact one of our members. There has been some concern mentioned about the time that we meet. If you have any suggestions on a different time for when we re-group in fall, please let one of our members know your thoughts on the matter.

Sincerely Submitted,

Substance Abuse Prevention and Support members: Celeste & Jim Hankey, Jane & Jim Lema, Nancy & Bob Sherwood, Donna Beers, Larry Higgins, Diane Bergeron, and Connie Morrison.

PRAYER FOR A NEW RECTOR/SEARCH PROCESS

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.*

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
2nd Monday, 2:22pm - Substance Abuse Team (on hiatus)
3rd Tuesday, 5:30pm – 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, Interim Rector 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

