

The Wave - DECEMBER 2017

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

*FROM THE RECTOR
The Reverend Sue Lederhouse*

CHRIST IS COMING . . .

PREPARE THE WAY !!!

The choir will be singing these words at the beginning of each of our Sunday services during the season of Advent which begins on December 3.

At this time of year, we normally think about John the Baptist during this time as the one who prepares the way for Jesus – the Christ. But what if we thought about ourselves as ones who prepare the way as well? Each of us is called to help prepare the way in some fashion.

Sometimes we prepare the way by the words we say – or don't say. Sometimes we do it by the decorations we put up – or don't put up at this time of year. Sometimes we do it by helping someone else prepare the way by inviting that person to "come and see."

How are you preparing your own way as we enter into this season of Advent and approach the Christmas celebration? What are you doing to make a space for Jesus to come into your life in a new and fresh way this year? What will you do differently in this month of December 2017?

CHRIST IS COMING . . .

PREPARE THE WAY !!!

Blessings on your Advent and Christmas celebrations –

Sue Lederhouse+

THE DEACON'S CORNER

1 Thessalonians 5: 1-11

“Therefore, encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.”

Recently, Nancy and I made a trip back home to Northwest Ohio where I grew up. We made the nearly 1800 mile trip by car, mostly because it was expensive to fly, but also because I've grown to truly dislike flying. No thank you, please, I will drive my own car, and take my time enjoying the sights along the way from the relatively spacious comfort of my Subaru Outback.

If you've ever driven the New York Thruway, you know that the rest stops aren't listed in the Guide Michelin and the restrooms aren't exactly pristine either. Nevertheless, the trip was pleasant. Even the food got better as we got closer to Ohio and Bob Evans Restaurants.

It was good to see family again: Brothers and sisters, nephew George who just retired from the Air Force, and my niece Wendy who has had more than her share of medical challenges lately. Too soon though, we found ourselves back in the car and making the return trip. The weather was beastly with rain and 50 to 60 mile per hour winds all the way. Near the end of a hard first day, we pulled into a service center to refuel, etc. Remember, I told you that the restrooms on the New York Thruway are “truck-stop caliber”? Well, imagine my amazement when I discovered that this one was spotless! There was a white-haired gentleman (someone's grandfather) busily scouring and polishing, seemingly taking great pride in his work. As I was leaving, I walked over to him, complimented him for the good job he was doing, and told him how much I appreciated it. A big smile lit his face and he thanked me for noticing and making his day.

I remembered that encounter the other day as I was reading the verse I quoted above from St. Paul's Letter to the Thessalonians. Now, Paul made a point of telling us not to value one spiritual gift above another. We are all members of the same body of Christ, so we are dependent on one another. He doesn't encourage us to wish for gifts beyond those God has blessed us with, but to be content with who and what we are, and freely exercise our gifts for the benefit of others. When you think about it, all our gifts, even those that would seem to be the least, are God-given spiritual gifts if we offer them rightly. That old fellow at the rest stop was doing just that.

Ask yourself! When was the last time you encouraged, built up someone up at St. Peters? Or anywhere else in Buzzards Bay for that matter? Look around! You'll find people exercising their God-given gifts here all the time. Take the time to build them up. Encourage them. Support them. That's what St. Paul says we should be doing. We are all gifted in so many different and remarkable ways, and we need to be encouraged to keep sharing our gifts.

Deacon Robert Sherwood

VISIBLE VESTRY

The Vestry met on Monday, November 20.

1. Cape Light Compact has approved us for a 100% incentive for energy efficient lighting in the amount of \$7,000.00. Yippee! That is a lot of free lighting upgrading.
2. On All Saints Sunday, November 5, we had one baptism at 8:00 and 4 baptisms at 10:00. Attendance on that day was 146. 47 @ 8 and 99 @ 10. Total was higher than Christmas 2016 or Easter 2017.
3. We are happy to announce that Emily Johnson will be a new chalice bearer/acolyte at the 8:00 service. We know she will do a fabulous job. You may have seen Emily's picture in the *Cape Cod Times* the day after our Holiday Fair. She was our public relations elf outside jingling the bells and waving folks into our church. Thank you, Emily!
4. On November 19, Amazing Grace campers came to the church with 8 children ages 4-12 years old to make crafts and have a snack. It went very well, and we want to thank the approximately 12 adults who helped out on that project. Special thank you to Margery Buckingham for organizing the event.
5. We now have 4 Friendly Kitchen teams. We are also getting good press by the *Cape Cod Times* and the *Bourne Enterprise*. The Thanksgiving Dinner on the 20th went very well and over 60 folks were well fed. A special thank you to Diane Simski and Marie Whitcomb for heading up the kitchen team.
6. There will be a discussion and brainstorming session on November 27 @ 3:30 p.m., in follow-up to the addiction workshops that were held here recently. What are our next steps going to be? All are welcome to join this meeting, bring your creative minds and thinking caps.
7. December 3 is Barbara C. Harris Camp Sunday. Donovin Tavares will be our speaker and a special collection to support our young campers (a current income line item in our budget) will be taken.
8. There will be a Safety and Security workshop for churches to be held January 11 in Taunton. Larry Higgins and Len Hathon will be attending.
9. Thank you to everyone who worked on our Holiday Fair and a special shout out to our Jelly ladies who made around \$500 of the \$1500 raised. Great job everyone!
10. Our new Book Group has begun. Anyone interested please see Linda Masson, Priscilla Ellis or Lynne Brune. We had six ladies for our first meeting. We are reading *Canterbury Tales* this month. Our next meeting is on Friday, December 15, at 10:00 a.m., at the home of Linda Masson, 10 Tucey Avenue, Buzzards Bay. Come and join us!
11. On Friday, January 5, at 5:30 p.m., we will have our Epiphany Service, followed by a light dinner. Please mark your calendars and come and celebrate the 3 kings and enjoy our usual fun night of fellowship. More information to come.
12. The Vestry voted to make the annual outreach donations to the following organizations:

\$300 Amazing Grace Camp (previously given)	\$350 Bourne Substance Abuse Coalition
\$350 Damien's Place	\$350 Samaritans
\$350 Teen Challenge Vermont	\$350 Gosnold of Cape Cod
\$350 Cape Cod Times Needy Fund	\$216 Habitat for Humanity

In addition, we gave \$913 to Episcopal Relief & Development for Hurricane Relief from the offering at the 70th Anniversary Service on September 29.
13. December 10, Compassionate Friends will have their annual candle-lighting service at St. Peter's.
14. December 24 there will be a 4th Advent Service at 9 a.m. and Christmas Eve 5 and 8 p.m. services.

The next Vestry meeting will be December 18.

Linda Masson, Senior Warden

ADVENT AT ST. PETER'S

Advent begins on December 3 this year. 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 (December 3) 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.

A SPECIAL NOTE ABOUT DECEMBER 24

December 24 falls on a Sunday this year. That means that we will be celebrating the 4th Sunday of Advent in the morning with one service at 9 a.m. and then Christmas Eve in the evening with one service at 5 p.m. and one service at 8 p.m. (preceded by a choral prelude at 7:30 p.m.) There will be no Christmas Day service on December 25.

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 31

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

8 a.m.

Holy Eucharist Rite I

10 a.m.

Holy Eucharist Rite II

CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR FAMILIES AT VILLAGE AT CATAUMET

Because St. Peter's has for many years had an outreach ministry with the Village at Cataumet, we wanted to do something special for Christmas for the families there. The Director of the Village at Cataumet, Paula Mallard, suggested a means by which we could help. **By providing gift cards from Walmart, Target or Old Navy, in any amount, the staff would then be able to purchase gifts appropriate for each person.**

To facilitate this effort, you will see a Christmas tree in Stephenson Hall beginning **Sunday, November 26th**, decorated with ornaments *that you can take with you to serve as a reminder to obtain a gift card*. Then, *please bring the gift cards back to St. Peter's by Sunday, December 10th, and put them in the offering plate.* **MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL!**

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 3 or 10 and return it with your donation. Please be sure to print the names clearly. **DEADLINE IS MONDAY, DECEMBER 11.**

PANCAKE BREAKFAST - DECEMBER 3 - 9 A.M.

Our traditional first-Sunday-of-the-month Pancake Breakfast will be served on **Sunday, December 3, 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.

BARBARA C. HARRIS CAMP SUNDAY - DECEMBER 3

The Diocese has designated Sunday, December 3, as Barbara C. Harris Camp (BCHC) Sunday. The Barbara C. Harris Camp is a Diocesan camp and conference center. One of our teenaged parishioners, Donovin Tavares, has been an active camper at BCHC, and he will be speaking at both services about his experiences there. The loose plate offering that day will be designated for our parish budget income line item to support our parish campers at BCHC. Thank you for your generosity!

BULLETIN PRAYER LIST UPDATE - DECEMBER 10

A new Prayer list will begin in the bulletin on **December 10th**. 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

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY - DECEMBER 11 - 12:30 P.M.

The Women's Bible Study continues to learn more and more about many interesting women of the Bible. On December 11, we will look at **Salome, the mother of the disciples James and John**. We will skip December 25 because of the Christmas holiday and will meet again on January 8. 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 - DECEMBER 16 - 8 A.M.

The men of the parish will join together for breakfast at **8:00 a.m. on Saturday, December 16, at Leo's Restaurant, 249 Main Street, Buzzards Bay**, for a time of food and fellowship. All men of the parish are cordially invited to attend. Contact Ken Lihzis (Klihzis@gmail.com / 774-212-0453) for more information.

HEALING SERVICE - DECEMBER 17 - 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 17, at 9 a.m.** All are welcome.

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

The Feast of the Epiphany 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 on **Epiphany Eve, January 5**, with a short service with music and a light 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!

ANNUAL MEETING - JANUARY 28, 2018 - SAVE THE DATE

The Parish Annual Meeting will be held on **Sunday, January 28, 2018**. 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 15**. Please submit them in electronic form to susanhebb@comcast.net or in printed form to the Church Office.

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

As of November 20, we have 51 **pledges** including 3 **new pledges for a total of \$76,692**. If you have not made a pledge yet for 2018, please do so as soon as possible. If you have been a regular contributor but have not made a pledge, please consider pledging. This is a real help to us as we develop our budget for 2018. It helps us 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. **Also – If you made a pledge for 2017 and you have not completed your pledge, please try to do so before the end of the year.** Thank you for your generosity and your support of God's mission here at St. Peter's.

WOODEN REPLICAS OF ST. PETER'S CHURCH FOR SALE

Small wooden replicas of St. Peter's Church are available for purchase. The price is \$15.00 each. Please make your check payable to St. Peter's or pay in cash. If you have any questions, please contact the Church Office (508-759-5641).

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. Then our Building Manager, Frank Walker, can take care of it. Thanks for your help!

COFFEE HOUR WANTS YOU!!

Have you signed up in the Narthex to help provide goodies for our coffee hour after the 10:00 service? Coffee is already made – your pastries and fruit will make it complete. Please help make this time of fellowship a delicious one as well. And speaking of fellowship, if you see someone new, please invite them to sit with you and have some good conversation. Welcome others as you would like to be welcomed!

BOOK BIN AVAILABLE

Don't forget our book bin when you're clearing your shelves! Bring in your books, DVDs, CDs, records, and video games and see them provide additional funds for St. Peter's! We receive 3c/pound for all the acceptable materials deposited in the bin. **No encyclopedias, magazines, Readers Digest condensed books, newspapers, VHS tapes or audio cassettes, board games and toys, or anything wet and moldy.** Thanks for your donations and tell your friends and neighbors!

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.

CAPE COD AREA SUPPORT GROUP MEETINGS

CONSOLING PARTNERS / ADDICTION LOSS: Meets on the third Wednesday of every month (December 20), from 6:30-8:00 p.m. at Corpus Christi Parish Hall, 324 Quaker Meeting House Rd., East Sandwich.

ALIENATED GRANDPARENTS ANONYMOUS, INC.: Meets on the second Wednesday of each month (December 13), from 2:00-3:30 p.m., at the Barnstable Senior Center, 825 Falmouth Rd., Hyannis.

WOMEN'S RECOVERY GROUP: For any woman needing help with addiction to alcohol or drugs: Meets weekly on Thursdays at 6 p.m. at the Bourne Community Center, 229 Main Street, Buzzards Bay.

PRAYER SHAWLS

Did you know that St. Peter's has prayer shawls available for those in need? We also have a knitting group forming that would love to concentrate some of their work on making these prayer shawls!

If you would like to request a prayer shawl for yourself or for someone else you know could use this extra experience of the prayers of many surrounding them, please fill in the request form below and return it to the Church Office or place it in the Offering Plate on Sunday. You may also contact Priscilla Ellis at 508-563-7786.

PRAYER SHAWL REQUEST	
Name of recipient	_____
Your name	_____
Your phone number	_____

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 22**. Send all articles to Susan Hebb at susanhebb@comcast.net.

DECEMBER 2017

3	Sunday	9:00 a.m.	BARBARA C. HARRIS CAMP SUNDAY Pancake Breakfast
10	Sunday	6:30 p.m.	Compassionate Friends Candle-lighting
11	Monday	12:30 p.m.	CHRISTMAS FLOWERS DEADLINE Women's Bible Study
15	Friday	10:00 a.m.	Book Group at the home of Linda Masson 10 Tucz Avenue, Buzzards Bay
16	Saturday	8:00 a.m.	Men's Breakfast Gathering
17	Sunday	9:00 a.m.	Healing Service
18	Monday	5:15 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Friendly Kitchen Christmas Dinner Vestry
22	Friday		NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
24	Sunday	9:00 a.m. 5:00 p.m. 8:00 p.m.	4th Advent Service Christmas Eve Service & Presentation Christmas Eve Service (choral prelude at 7:30)
25	Monday		CHRISTMAS DAY – OFFICE CLOSED NO FRIENDLY KITCHEN NO BIBLE STUDIES

Upcoming Dates

January 1	OFFICE CLOSED - NO Friendly Kitchen – No Bible Study
January 5	Epiphany Service / Party
January 28	Annual Meeting
February 14	Ash Wednesday
April 1	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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Kathy Letzeisen, Parish Secretary
Frank Walker, Building Manager
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