

# The Wave - MARCH 2017

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

**FROM THE RECTOR**  
**The Reverend Sue Lederhouse**

This year is different because the whole month of March is within the season of Lent. Lent begins with our observance on Ash Wednesday. Ash Wednesday is one of the “days of obligation” in the Roman Catholic tradition and is a day that many people find difficult to observe. I read the following words recently and found them helpful and I hope you will too. They present a different approach to Ash Wednesday and Lent. They come from an article written by The Rev. Bruce Epperly in an online newsletter called *Patheos* on March 4, 2014 (reprinted in the March 2017 issue of *Synthesis*). He is one of our neighbors on the Cape, Pastor of the South Congregational Church in Centerville, and the author of a number of books as well as a frequent contributor to the “Matters of Faith” column in the *Cape Cod Times*. His wife, Kate, is also ordained and serves as the Minister of the Christian Union Church in Truro. Read now these words from The Rev. Bruce Epperly:

**For years, I struggled with Ash Wednesday services precisely because of their otherworldliness and asceticism. My self-denial in Lent was typically half-hearted and short-lived. These days, I am reconsidering the meaning of Ash Wednesday. The brevity and uncertainty of life now invites me to praise, wonder, and beauty, and to seize the moment— for this is the day God has made and I will rejoice in it! All that I love and care for is mortal and transitory, but mortality is the inspiration to celebration and love. Plato once described time as the moving image of eternity. We are constantly dying, but we are also constantly living as we reflect God’s vision in the world of the flesh. This day, this moment, is a “thin place” for God is with us, revealed in flesh, blood, and healing touch. This Ash Wednesday, I’m letting go of everything that keeps me from rejoicing in the passing beauty of the earth. Each year, as summer begins, I train my eyes for the first fireflies. Their season is brief, and given humanity’s destruction of the natural world, I fear that each summer will be the last. But, when I see the first firefly in late May, my heart leaps with joy and all summer long, I rejoice in the fragile flashing beauty they display.**

May this be a Spirit-filled Lent for us all with an ever increasing awareness of God’s presence in our lives.

Blessings as we start this journey once more,

Sue Lederhouse+

## THE DEACON'S CORNER

*"What to write about for March?"* I muttered to myself as I began writing this month's article. My Dog Buddy looked up from his nap (he always naps behind my chair in the office), and gave a deep sigh because my talking to myself had awakened him. He's always testy when I interrupt his nap time. Buddy and I have been companions for six years now and I fancy we can read each other's minds (I'm sure he can read mine). For instance, I think he's probably thinking right now: "Duh.....How about Lent? Why don't you write about Lent? There's a novel idea! Who ordained you anyway? How did you slip by the Commission on Ministry?"

Go back to sleep Bud. Boy, what a Grump! He's usually so happy and fun to be around, except when I disturb his sleep. OK, I'll write about Lent then. Not a bad idea. I should have thought of that myself.

Ash Wednesday is late this year. Several weeks later than last year. Don't know where this random thought came from, but I just remembered that when we lived in Alaska we had a huge earthquake (9.3 on the Richter scale) on Good Friday of 1964. A good chunk of Anchorage slid into the sea at 5:27 PM. An equally large piece of 4th Avenue (Main Street) sank into the earth leaving marquees resting on the sidewalks. Can you imagine the fear that causes? If you've been through it you get an idea of the fear the Roman soldiers experienced that first Easter morning. There were a lot of earnest people in Anchorage churches that Easter Sunday in 1964.

Most people think that when Lent begins they should give up something as part of their Lenten discipline. I like to think of it as a time to take on something new. That appeals to me because it puts a positive rather than a negative emphasis on the 40 days which begin with Ash Wednesday and end with the day before Easter (We don't count Sundays as part of those 40 days!). One of the practical disciplines I'm taking up this year is in an attempt to remedy my balance problems which sometimes cause me to wobble going from point to point around the altar on Sunday morning (Not good to have a wobbly Deacon). I've decided to enroll in Tai Ji classes. Tai Ji has been medically proven to improve strength and balance.

I'm not expecting miracles (well, maybe I am just a little), but any improvement will be all to the good. In the meantime, I will also look for productive ways to observe the Lenten season.

I urge you to give serious consideration to your own Lenten journey this year. Plan ahead. Check out the Lenten Study beginning March 2nd - "Dealing with the Wilderness Times in our Lives." How about lending a hand with the work some of your fellow parishioners are doing at Friendly Kitchen?

Peace,

Deacon Robert Sherwood

## ***REPORT OF THE SENIOR WARDEN***

Another year of Senior “Wardenhood” has zipped by and I am amazed that I am going into my fifth year already! It seems every year there are goals that are set and lists of things “to do” that just never seem to completely get done. However, every December I go back and review my monthly *Waves* and it brings on the WOW factor. It makes me realize how busy we have been and how successful we have been in the things we have actually accomplished. So, who’s complaining about deeds still undone, when so many blessings keep falling on St. Peter’s? It is such a healthy thing to have pressing issues and new business popping up and distracting us throughout the year, because it means that our church is very much alive and well with activities!

I am so happy to be part of serving St. Peter’s during its years of revival and growth. You should all be so proud of what you continue to do through your support of our church and of each other. We have so much talent, heart and spirit in this church, that it is no surprise that we continue to be blessed. “All Are Welcome” is an appropriate theme for us. We truly are “a house that is built of hope and dreams and visions”.

I have seen many fine men and women who have served you faithfully on our Vestry over the past four years, and although it is hard to see them come and go, I always look forward to our new members and a chance to once again plan new goals for our coming year.

We have just gone through our stewardship weeks of hearing what St. Peter’s means to some of our church family members. I hope again in this coming year that we all look at ways that we can become and remain an active part of our parish life. We have so many opportunities not only to serve, or to donate our time and finances, but also to become involved in worship and fellowship opportunities that make us feel a sense of ownership and investment in our church.

I recently saw a prayer that reminded me of the mission of our church. It is a prayer that appropriately leads us into a new beginning for the coming new year taken from “Our Daily Gifts” called “A Practice of Gratitude.”

“Lord, Jesus, you came among us to share our humanity and transform our lives. We are people of hope and joy because we know you will transform our lives. We will never be alone again. We want to prepare our minds and hearts to celebrate your coming in a spirit of gratitude for all you have done and continue to do for us. Send your Holy Spirit to us, so we can spend these weeks of preparation thinking about what Your coming among us truly means, and about the mystery of Your love for us, which surpasses all our hopes and expectations”.

I ask your continued prayers for your Vestry, our Rector and church leaders, and our church family. May God continue to bless us and may the Spirit speak to all our hearts. May we listen to His calling as He shows us the ways we may support each other and our church, as we begin a new year of new hopes and dreams together in 2017!!

Your Senior Warden,  
Linda Masson

## ***VISIBLE VESTRY***

There’s no Visible Vestry this month because the February Vestry meeting is part of the Vestry Retreat on February 25 – past the deadline for this WAVE. There will be a report on that meeting, the March Vestry meeting, and the Vestry Retreat in the April WAVE.

## *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 signup sheet in the Narthex.

### *AND A FEW WORDS ABOUT OUR LENTEN WORSHIP*

As we begin each new church season, we change our service music and some of the aspects of our worship together. One of the hardest things in Lent is to remember NOT to say Alleluias (and that's why we'll bury them symbolically at our Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper on **February 28**).

**Lent begins with our Ash Wednesday observances on March 1. We will have a spoken service with Imposition of Ashes and Eucharist at 12 noon. Then there will be a service with choir and Imposition of Ashes and Eucharist at 7 p.m.**

On the First Sunday of Lent, **March 5**, we will use The Great Litany for the first part of each of the services. For each Sunday after that, through **April 2**, we will use the Penitential Order for the first part of each service. As we did in previous years, we will have a bulletin insert for this. At the 8 a.m. service during Lent, we will use Eucharistic Prayer I (p. 333); at the 10 a.m. service, we will use Eucharistic Prayer A (p. 361). The service music will be the same as we have used in previous years with a bulletin insert for your convenience.

Refreshment Sunday, the Fourth Sunday of Lent, is **March 26** and the strictures of Lent are a little relaxed. We use our rose vestments and altar hangings. We also have a special surprise – see the announcement later on in this newsletter!

### *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. We also will use the companion DVD as part of the class sessions. **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 TODAY!**

## ***BULLETIN PRAYER LIST UPDATE - MARCH 12***

A new Prayer list will begin on **March 12**. 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](mailto:saintpeters@verizon.net)

## ***DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME STARTS MARCH 12***

Don't forget to SPRING FORWARD – set your clocks **ahead** 1 hour on **SUNDAY, MARCH 12** or you'll be late for church!

## ***WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY - MARCH 13 & 27***

Because of the snowstorm which cancelled our February 13 session, we have shifted our schedule. On March 13, we will study **Tamar**, a tragic figure of the Old Testament. On March 27, we will discuss **Potiphar's Wife**, a scheming woman 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 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> 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 - MARCH 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, March 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](mailto:Klihzis@gmail.com) / 774-212-0453).

## ***HEALING SERVICE - MARCH 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, March 19, at 9 a.m.**

## ***SURPRISE! PANCAKE BREAKFAST IN LENT ON REFRESHMENT SUNDAY - MARCH 26***

Usually we forego having pancake breakfasts during Lent. This year we're doing things a little different since we decided to have an Epiphany gathering instead of a Mid-Lenten party.

SO. . .there will be a Pancake Breakfast on Refreshment Sunday (Mid-Lent), **March 26, at 9 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!**

### ***EASTER FLOWERS***

If you would like to donate money to purchase Easter flowers in memory of (or in honor of) family or friends, please fill in the Easter flowers form (which will be found in the bulletins on March 26 and April 2) and return it with your donation. Please be sure to print the names clearly. **DEADLINE IS MONDAY – APRIL 3.**

### ***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 March, we are collecting cooking and serving items including pots, pans, dishes, cutlery and utensils.** 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](mailto: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 **April** issue is Friday, **March 17, 2017**. Send all articles to Susan Hebb at [susanhebb@comcast.net](mailto:susanhebb@comcast.net)

# MARCH 2017

1	Wednesday	12:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	<b>Ash Wednesday Service Ash Wednesday Service</b>
2	Thursday	6:30 p.m.	<b>Lenten Study</b>
9	Thursday	6:30 p.m.	<b>Lenten Study</b>
11	Saturday	9 – 1	<b>Congregational Business Practices Workshop</b>
12	Sunday		<b>DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS</b>
13	Monday	12:30 p.m.	<b>Women’s Bible Study</b>
15	Wednesday	7:00 p.m.	<b>Craft Night @ Village at Cataumet</b>
16	Thursday	6:30 p.m.	<b>Lenten Study</b>
17	Friday		<b>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</b>
18	Saturday	8:30 a.m.	<b>Men’s Breakfast Gathering</b>
19	Sunday	9:00 a.m.	<b>Healing Service</b>
23	Thursday	6:30 p.m.	<b>Lenten Study</b>
26	Sunday	9:00 a.m. 2:00 p.m.	<b>Pancake Breakfast Deanery @ St. Mary’s/Barnstable</b>
27	Monday	12:30 p.m.	<b>Women’s Bible Study</b>
30	Thursday	6:30 p.m.	<b>Lenten Study</b>

## *Upcoming Dates*

<b>April 9</b>	<b>Palm Sunday</b>	<b>April 14</b>	<b>Good Friday</b>
<b>April 16</b>	<b>Easter</b>	<b>June 4</b>	<b>Pentecost</b>



## *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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Buzzards Bay, MA 02532  
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Web: [saintpetersbb.org](http://saintpetersbb.org)  
E-mail: [saintpeters@verizon.net](mailto:saintpeters@verizon.net)

## *Staff*

The Rev. Sue Lederhouse, Rector  
E-mail: [lederhouse@msn.com](mailto:lederhouse@msn.com)  
The Rev. Bob Sherwood, Deacon  
E-mail: [rsherwood522@gmail.com](mailto:rsherwood522@gmail.com)  
Bruce Lederhouse & Lisa Platanitis, Interim Musicians  
Kathy Letzeisen, Parish Secretary  
Frank Walker, Building Manager  
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.....	774-269-4348	Kathy Finnegan.....	508-563-3567
Priscilla Ellis, Assistant Treasurer.....	508-563-7786	Len Hathon.....	774-678-0169
Robin Higgins, Clerk.....	413-329-4651	Emily Johnson.....	774-454-2446
		Merry Smythe.....	508-287-1540