

THE WAVE SEPTEMBER 2020

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

HELLO ALL ST. PETER'S FOLKS:

Changes, changes, changes!

St. Peter's and the world have been through so much in the last year.

Rev. Pattie Handloss has resigned – she was hit especially hard by the Covid19 and is now taking the time to heal. We wish her well and hope for a speedy recovery. Everyone at St. Peter's sends their best wishes to Pattie, Cathy and their friend Annie.

So, that leaves St. Peter's without clergy. Because right now we cannot meet in the church and we cannot receive communion, we are going to continue to conduct services with the help of lay people and post the services on YouTube. The YouTube services have been very well received.

The time for receiving names for a new rector is coming to a close. We will continue for a short period of time with lay readers. If we do not call a new rector, we can consider a bridge priest, supply clergy on a week to week basis, or hire a new interim. We are in a holding pattern for right now. You will be updated as soon as we have any news.

If you would like to participate as a reader for one of the services, please let me know and we can add you to the schedule. We are trying to get as many people as possible involved.

Please keep all St. Peter's folks in your prayers – this is such a hard time for so many. We all miss seeing each other, and praying together in church. Hopefully, we will be able to start reopening in the near future. Again, you will be kept up-to-date as changes happen.

If you have any questions, concerns or are in need of any pastoral care, please let me know and I will get you the help you need.

Also, please note that **all locks to the outside doors of the church have been changed**. If you are a person who needs a key, please let Celeste know and you will get a key. We are keeping a chart so that we know who has keys.

Love and Blessings to All.

Celeste Hankey, Senior Warden

THE VISIBLE VESTRY

The Vestry has resumed regular monthly meetings. We met on Monday, August 17, 2020. We are not meeting in the meeting room but rather in Stephenson Hall. Here we are able to safely social distance and still have meaningful meetings.

- Pledges are down a little, but we are not doing too badly.
- We are going to receive a substantial donation, but the family has not shared details yet.
- We are going to have a drive-in type service on August 30th.
- The reopening committee has been meeting and working on a reopening plan that adheres to both the diocesan and state regulations.
- YouTube services have been very well received – 51 views on the first service, 87 on the second.
- A mailing will go out requesting information to update the parish records – this will include a place for new phone numbers, email addresses, birth dates and anniversary dates. The post cards are self-addressed and stamped so it is hoped that people will complete and send back the cards.
- We will be updating the church locks.
- Sallies Garden has been refreshed and looks wonderful.
- The church was power washed – for the first time ever!
- The steeple should be completed and installed in the next few weeks; we talked about notifying the media of this event.
- Due to the Covid , the deadline for receiving names for a new rector has been extended to August 31st.
- Lisa Platanitis would like to have a St. Peter's concert towards the end of September.

The next Vestry meeting will be Monday, September 21, 2020.

Celeste Hankey, Senior Warden

A LITTLE NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

How can we keep from singing? On August 9th, we gathered once again to worship together in Morning Prayer on our YouTube channel. Many who tuned in were probably familiar with the anthem that we sang, "How Can I Keep From Singing?" The hymn, also commonly known as "My Life Flows on in Endless Song", is an American folk song originally composed by Robert W. Lowry, a Baptist minister, as a Christian hymn, based on Psalm 145.

The refrain is penned:

***"No storm can shake my inmost calm, while to that rock I'm clinging.
Since Christ is Lord of Heaven and earth, how can I keep from singing? "***

In our current times, we as a community and as a nation, have experienced a surge of storms. Some of those storms are more fierce than others, some stay around too long and some seem to just zip right through. How comforting is it then for us to know that we can't be shaken while holding on to, or clinging to, our Lord.

A couple of weeks ago, we heard in Matthew's Gospel the so very familiar story of Jesus walking on the water. Here were the disciples, out in a boat, while Jesus went to pray. A pretty hefty storm arises, and they look up to see someone walking on the water towards them. I must say, I probably would have been shaken a bit to see that too!

But, then Jesus calls Peter..."Come, Don't Be Afraid, it is I." Peter begins to walk to Jesus and the storm surges around him and he becomes fearful and starts to sink. Jesus saves him, of course, and questions his faith. Perhaps Peter lost sight of the Lord, took his eyes off for a minute and the wind and wave encompassed him and he was scared.

I have read that "Fear Not" and "Be not Afraid" are the most frequently used phrases in the Bible. If it was repeated that much, we must listen and keep our focus on the Lord and not lose sight of his love and the promises he has made to us.

PSALM 145:19-20

***"The Lord is near to those who call upon Him, to all who call upon Him faithfully.
He fulfills the desire of those who fear Him. He hears their cry and helps them."***

Stormy blasts will always come, but when we feel that they are too much for us, call upon the Lord, bless and praise His name, sing praises to Him and believe that His Love will be the beacon of hope in a world strewn with all kinds of storms.

"No storm can shake our inmost calm, while to Jesus we hold fast, because Christ is Lord of Heaven and Earth...How can we keep from singing?"

This month, we are planning a Sunday afternoon concert with the wonderful musicians of St. Peter's. Please look for the announcement of date and time in the Blast and upcoming emails!

Blessings in the weeks ahead, Lisa Platanitis, Director of Music

ST. PETER'S MUSICIANS

I would like to take time to thank the musicians of St. Peter's for their amazing talents, complete dedication, and time they give of themselves.

Marc Fuller, is known not only for his beautiful depiction of the Stations of the Cross, but also for his incredible violin playing. Last month, he played his composition "***A Tribute to Our Blessed Mother***", for the Feast of St. Mary. His composition was full of life and painted such a picture for us to envision. Marc, thank you for all of your gifts you share!

Danielle Watson, one of our longtime choir members, has gifted us her soprano voice! She not only sings, but is one of the most organized people I know! She is always ready and willing to lend a hand or her voice at a moments notice! Danielle, thank you for all you do for our church family and for all of your talents!

Matthew Bruce not only serves as our Search Committee Chairman, but he's sure got the beat! He percussed his way into the heart of St. Peter's with his steady beat of kindness and compassion, and his love for the Lord and music. Matthew, many, many thanks for the gifts you bring to St. Peter's and for always being "upbeat"!

Sean Crehan, is not only married to our organist, but weekly shares his incredible musical talents. He has added to our ensemble by playing his mandolin, which brings a flavor to the music like no other instrument. He also takes part in anthems, as well as hymns, with the gift of his voice. Sean, thank you for adding depth and width to our music and for the time you give of yourself.

I would also like to thank our organist, **Liesl Keller**. Thank you, Liesl, for continually surprising us with your talents. Thank you for going above and beyond and most of all, thank you for listening to God's call. You are a blessing to us at St. Peter's.

Without all of your time, talents and dedication, our music would Bflat.

THANK YOU! THANK YOU, ALL!

Lisa Platanitis,

Director of Music

SEARCH COMMITTEE NEWS

Greetings to All!

We hope you are continuing to stay safe and healthy. It's hard to believe that it's going to be September already! With the change of season we face whatever our "new normal" is going to look like with church, jobs, schools, daycare and activities that may or may not begin again. All the while we must be flexible and adapt to any changes, knowing that God is with each one of us and will continue to keep us safe.

Your Search Committee has been busy researching applicants and will be meeting to discuss the candidates we have received thus far. We expect to begin interviews in the near future. It is a very exciting time to be able to begin this interview process and discerning who God is calling to us to be our next Rector. St. Peter's has also been given the opportunity to remain on the Diocesan web site as still "receiving names" until October 1st.

We thank you for your prayers and support, and look forward to this next part of our journey. Please keep praying!

Yours In Christ,

Matthew Bruce, Larry Higgins, Nancy Kennedy, Elisabeth Kershaw, Jim Lema, and Patti Metcalf

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HAVE YOU UNSUBSCRIBED?

We have noticed that a number of folks have recently "unsubscribed" from our weekly email list. If you did so intentionally, we hope we haven't done something to offend you, and we will miss you. If you unsubscribed accidentally (easy to do if you read on your phone), we need you to

know that we ***cannot*** re-subscribe you! Our email service will not allow us to re-subscribe anyone who has opted out, as this is considered harassment. You may be able to correct this yourself by going to the last email you received from us, and at the bottom of the email click on “update your preferences”. If this does not work, please contact us at the church and we will forward you the weekly and Sunday emails from our personal email. We hope to update all our email addresses in the near future and correct any errors in subscriptions and/or email addresses. Thanks for your help!

Robin Higgins

NOTES FROM OUR PARISH SECRETARY, KATHLEEN LETZEISEN

MAIL CALL!

A reminder to use the **POST OFFICE BOX 265** address when mailing to the church. The post office will send back mail addressed to the Main Street address because we do not have a physical mailbox at the church.

READERS of FORWARD DAY-BY-DAY

Copies of Forward Day-By Day are available outside the back door of the church. Copies will be available there for pick up until we are able to resume indoor services. If you would like a copy but are unable to get here to pick one up, please let Kathy know (508-759-5641) and arrangements will be made to get one to you!

SAINT PETER'S SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND PREVENTION SUPPORT GROUP UPDATE

Please keep the Bourne and Wareham Substance Free coalitions in your prayers. We have not been meeting due to the Corona Virus precautions. The next meeting of our group will be in limbo until we get an all clear from the Diocese. Please hold all those who suffer from addiction and are in recovery in your prayers.

A large part of the recovery process is supported by the traditional 12-Step Group meetings. These groups have been unable to meet during the crisis and it must be difficult for them at this time.

AA meetings can now be available by phone 4 times a day, seven days a week, at 7:00 a.m., 12 noon, 2:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m., by calling 425-436-6360, Access #n422932. If you have loved ones or friends who are dealing with substance abuse issues, please try to have an open ear and an open heart to be there for them.

If you are concerned for a friend, family member or yourself, you can call the Massachusetts Substance Abuse Information and education Helpline at 1-800-327-5050.

We offer up this prayer from the Book of Common Prayer, page 831:

O blessed Lord, you ministered to all who came to you. Look with compassion upon all who, through addiction, have lost their health and freedom. Restore to them the assurance of your unfailing mercy; remove from them the fears that beset them; strengthen them in the work of recovery; and to those who care for them give patient understanding and preserving love. AMEN

Larry Higgins

DO YOU RECEIVE OUR WEEKLY E-MAILS?

Every week, St. Peter's sends out a weekly email which typically includes upcoming news and events, the lessons for the upcoming Sunday, a schedule of "servers" for the week, etc. This email is also used for notifications regarding deaths in the parish family, cancellations, and other timely news.

For the past several months, the content of the weekly emails has changed somewhat, and we have added a Sunday email with the link to our YouTube Morning Prayer service.

If you are NOT receiving the emails and would like to, please contact Robin Higgins at ptown.robin@yahoo.com. If you know of someone who is not receiving the email and might like to, please share this information with them! We can't just add someone to the email list – our email service requires that we have your permission to email you! We don't want anyone to miss out on events and news from the parish. Thank you!

Robin Higgins

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. Thanks for your help!

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.

PRAYER CHAIN

The Emergency Prayer Chain is up and running! When you have a prayer request, please contact 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.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The Newsletter Deadline for the **October 2020** issue is Friday, **September 18, 2020**. Send all articles to Susan Hebb at susanhebb@comcast.net.

St. Peter's Episcopal Church -on-the-Canal

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