

THE WAVE DECEMBER 2021

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

DEAR PARISHIONERS AND FRIENDS

Advent and Christmas are very short seasons at the beginning of the liturgical year, yet they fill us with hope, faith, joy, and love year round. The four Advent candles we light on each Sunday leading up to Christmas symbolize these eternal realities- hope, faith, joy, and love.

We have several resources to help us celebrate Advent and prepare for Christmas. The Sunday collects and scriptures lead us into the mystery of Christ's birth, we focus upon the prophets, John the Baptist, Mary, and Joseph.

Our hymns and anthems are beautiful songs of praise during this holy season. The meaning of the Incarnation shines through the music we love so dearly during Advent and Christmas.

We have a special insert to help us observe Advent at home and also a booklet from Forward Day by Day that gives us a word to reflect on each day in Advent.

What a blessing it will be to worship in St. Peter's during Advent and Christmas this year after last year's absence due to COVID. I encourage us all to come to church on Sundays and on Christmas Eve to celebrate.

"God so loved the world that he gave his only son..." This is our hope, our faith, our joy. The gift of love in the birth of the baby Jesus inspires us to be able to give, to share our love.

Blessings for Advent and Christmas.

Grace and Peace,
Bob
Rev. Bob Malm
Interim Rector

THE VISIBLE VESTRY

The November Vestry meeting was held on Monday, November 15th.

- Alan Kershaw reported that even with all the pledges that we have received, we will be running in the red next year.
- The housing allowance is being reviewed.
- We have hired Kim Leahy as the new St. Peter's secretary.
- We are looking elsewhere for snow plowing as MMA has not responded to our phone calls.
- At this time, there is nothing new from the Search Committee, but we going to have a joint meeting with the Search Committee and the Vestry.
- We will be having two Christmas services on Friday the 24th at 3:00 p.m. and at 5:00 p.m.
- There will be one 10:00 a.m. Morning Prayer service on Sunday, December 26th.
- Positions are still open to join the Vestry.
- The coin collection jug, which benefits the Bourne Substance Free Coalition, will be put out in the Narthex the second Sunday of the month.
- We still need additional people for the following ministries: alcolyte, usher, coffee hour and altar guild.
- The giving tree for Cataumet will be put out in the Narthex on the last Sunday of November.
- Both the generator and the furnace needed work this past month.
- There will be a Chime Concert on December 19th at 4:30.
- The service for George Fennell is November 19th.
- Annual Meeting is February 13, 2022.

The next Vestry meeting will be held a week early, on December 13th.

Celeste Hankey, Senior Warden

A NOTE FROM KATHY LETZEISEN

Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for the wonderful retirement party and thank you for the very generous gift. I shall miss seeing you all in a business capacity and am happy to be able to still see you at church every week! I am blessed to have you all in my life! See you on Sunday!

Love, Kathy

Don't Miss These Upcoming Events!

Services for Advent and Christmas Eve will be available on YouTube, as follows:

Morning worship will be available on YouTube beginning Advent 1, which is November 28th, through Christmas Eve. The services can be accessed via YouTube. Just search for "St. Peter's Church on the Canal." Please join us if you are unable to attend in person.

Carillon (Bell Chimes) Concert

Sunday, December 19, 2021 at 4:30 p.m.

Come and enjoy the beautiful sound of Advent and Christmas hymns from our wonderful Carillon (Bell Chimes). We will take delight in hot chocolate, cookies and of course, the joy of fellowship!

Music Notes

A Christmas Eve Story: the Year was 1818.

It all began on Christmas Eve in the Austrian Alps, at St. Nicholas Church in Oberndorf, Germany. Father Joseph Mohr was preparing for the Christmas Eve service and all was calm and bright until the organist, Franz Gruber, entered with unnerving news. The organ was BROKEN and completely unplayable. How could this happen on a night so important as this night? Faced with this big problem, Fr. Joseph didn't know what to do. After all, the music was already carefully selected for the midnight service and how would Christmas Eve be without music? Not really knowing what to do, Joseph prayed, and God had a plan. After praying, it came to Fr. Joseph to write a new song that could be sung without the organ accompaniment. He hastily wrote the words: "Silent night, Holy Night, all is calm, all is bright," and brought the text to Franz, the organist, to compose a simple tune. That night 203 years ago, accompanied by guitar, "Silent Night" was sung for the first time.

One of our long-time traditions at St. Peter's is to sing Silent Night by candlelight as our post communion hymn. As we come together to worship the King this Christmas Eve, let us be reminded that our "problems" or "crises" are God's opportunity to show us that He causes all things to come together for those who love Him. It may have been a truly silent night, but God had a different "Silent Night" in mind.

Romans 8:28

"And we know that all things work together for good for those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. May His light shine through us this Christmas season and throughout the year to come."

Christmas Blessings,

Lisa Platanitis, Director of Music

THE GIVING TREE FOR CATAUMET

We will be putting up the Giving Tree for Cataumet on Sunday, November 28th. We will be hanging small gift envelopes on the tree. When you are ready to put your gift card in the envelope, please mark on the outside how much the gift card is for so we can be sure to equally distribute the gifts. After you insert the card and mark the amount on the outside, please use the seal that is attached to close up. Then place the card back on the tree. We will be able to tell which envelopes have cards in them by the seal on the back.

A NOTE FROM YOUR TREASURER

As we come towards the end of 2021, I would like to thank all those who have made a pledge for 2022. If you have not yet made your pledge, please do so as soon as possible so that we can include it in our budget for 2022. At the time of writing, we have not received as many pledges as we did for 2021, however the total amount pledged so far is slightly up on 2021. The average pledge received to date for 2022 is 10% up on that for 2021.

We are currently working on our budget for 2022 and will share it with everyone once it is finalized and approved by the Vestry. However, despite savings we have made, or plan to make, we expect the budget to show a deficit for 2022, because of the effects of Covid on our income.

We welcome your pledge payments in whatever form or frequency suits you best. We look at the total amount paid for the year, although we do report your pledge donations to you at each quarter end. We do this so that you can see your progress during the year. If you miss any pledge payments all you need do is make one payment to bring yourself up to date. There is no need to make separate payments for each week or month that you have missed. Making one catch-up payment should make things easier for you and create less paperwork for us.

I will now outline how you can make tax efficient gifts to St. Peter's:

At the end of the year we will be issuing a confirmation of your total giving (pledge payments and other gifts/donations) to St. Peter's that is considered tax deductible. However, you may not be able to use the total as a deduction unless you are itemizing your deductions on your tax return. Since the change in the tax code a couple of years ago, almost everyone now takes the standard deduction on their return. In addition to the standard deduction, the IRS allows each taxpayer to take a \$300 deduction for charitable giving. Thus, a married couple can take a charitable giving deduction of \$600 on a joint return even when taking the standard deduction. This applies to any monetary gifts you make to St. Peter's.

If you have an IRA or 401k plan and are over the age of 70 ½ you should be eligible to make a Qualified Charitable Distribution (known as a QCD) directly from your plan to a qualified charity such as St. Peter's. This QCD will count towards the Required Minimum Distribution (known as an RMD) that the IRS makes you take. However, a QCD is not counted as part of your taxable income. The result is that you pay no federal or state tax on a QCD. The QCD will be paid directly from your plan to St. Peter's by your plan administrator. If you are in the position that you must take an RMD from your IRA or 401k plan then the best way from your tax perspective that you can give to St. Peter's is to make a QCD to St Peter's. If you are in this position I recommend that you consult your tax advisor and IRA or 401k plan administrator. Remember to ensure any donations to St. Peter's that you want to claim as a deduction on your 2021 tax returns must be dated and postmarked no later than December 31st. 2021.

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

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

HELP WANTED!

St. Peter's is up and running but we need additional people for some of the ministries.

Altar Guild - this is approximately a once a month commitment. Set up for Sunday services on Saturday, reset the altar between services and then clean up. There is more of a commitment during Lent and Christmas time. There will be training and pairing up until you are sure of yourself.

Acolytes - you will be assisting on the altar during services. Most of us could almost help now as we've seen the acolytes every Sunday on the altar. There will be training, of course.

Ushers - all you need to do is be pleasant, greet everyone coming into St. Peter's with a smile! This is a really fun ministry - and the people coming in are happy to see you!

Please contact **Celeste Hankey** if you would like to participate in any of these ministries. I look forward to my phone or email being flooded!

thehankeys@verizon.net or 617-710-5346

Thank you, Celeste Hankey, Senior Warden and Patti Metcalf, Vestry, Search Committee patmijo@comcast.net 508-685-5582

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Happy Birthday to:

Robin Higgins, on the 1st.

Millie Funnell on the 6th

Barbara Cain on the 7th

Dianne Cartmill on the 12th

Sheila Dostie on the 14th

Celeste Hankey on the 18th

GREETINGS FROM YOUR SEARCH COMMITTEE!

We hope you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving with friends and family!

On Sunday, November 28th at 11:15 the Vestry, Search Committee, and our Search Consultant Doug Harper will be meeting along with our Rector, Bob Malm. Bob has contacted our Diocesan Consultant, Rev. Kelly O'Connell, and found that there are many churches in our Dioceses that are searching as well. We are not alone in our lengthy time of searching. At this point, however, there is just not any clergy who are looking to make a move to a new parish, especially with COVID and variant cases trending upwards again. During this meeting we hope to discuss anything else we might be doing, and look forward to sharing that information with the parish next month.

Thank you to all and keep praying for St. Peter's.

Yours In Christ,

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

PRAYER FOR A NEW RECTOR

O God, you know us better than we know ourselves. Guide us in our search of a new clerical leader, empower each one of us to use our unique ministries, to share open and honestly our thoughts, to respect the opinion 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.

Yours In Christ,

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

WEEKLY E-BLAST

Please notify Robin Higgins via email at ptown.robins@yahoo.com with any **changes** to your email address **OR** if you have not been receiving the weekly email news and would like to do so in the future. We promise not to bombard you with emails! Robin Higgins

SAINT PETER'S SUBSTANCE ABUSE PREVENTION AND SUPPORT GROUP UPDATE

We had a meeting on Monday the 15th of November and discussed the following:

1. The number of opioid deaths in the region and the nation are higher now than they were a year ago. The pandemic has had a significant effect on the lives of those suffering. Support groups have had to limit meeting availability, and one on one counseling opportunities have been diminished.
2. The Bourne Substance Free Coalition is continuing its work to promote prevention efforts among our young people and is continuing its "sticker shock" campaign by placing signs and stickers on alcohol at local package stores warning parents about the dangers and penalties of hosting events that serve alcohol to minors. They have used a recent grant to purchase Resource Bags that are distributed to addicts at local hospitals and police stations that stress the availability of area treatment centers and resources. They are sponsoring a nationally known speaker for the students of Upper Cape Regional High School on the consequences of substance abuse.
3. Our group will be placing a donation jug out in the vestibule on the second Sunday of every month to help the Bourne Group. In the era of Covid, fundraising opportunities have been seriously hampered as many include person to person contact. Please watch this space for future fundraising. Donna Beers highly recommends those of you that have "HULU" streaming service to check out the series "Dope Sick"; it is very eye opening.
4. The supply of Narcan that we have at the church has expired but can still be effective if needed. We are working on updating the supply and working on an out-door training and information session in the spring.

The Next Meeting of the group will be on Monday, December 13th at 3:33 p.m. PLEASE JOIN US!

Bob and Nancy Sherwood, Jim and Jane Lima., Jim and Celeste Hankey, Donna Beers and Larry Higgins

Here are some resources that are available for those who may need help at this time:

Massachusetts Substance Abuse Hotline 1-800-327-5050
Learn to Cope www.learn2cope.org
AA Zoom 425-436-6360 Access Number = n422932

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

SANDWICH-BOURNE LIONS CLUB "COATS FOR KIDS AND FAMILIES" UPDATE

Thank you Saint Peter's, so far over 10 coats along with scarves, hats and gloves have been donated by our parish. The drive will continue through December 31st. With refugees from Afghanistan settling in the area there will be a greater need for warm clothing this year. If you can't make to the Church there are also collection boxes, all of which are in Bourne, at the Community Center, the Library and the Rockland Trust Bank on Clay Pond Road.

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.

WE CAN SEND "THE WAVE" TO YOUR COMPUTER

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.

DECEMBER 2021

5 Sunday

6 Monday 11:00 a.m. **Bible Study**

12 Sunday

13 Monday 11:00 a.m. **Bible Study**

13 Monday 3:33 p.m. **Substance Abuse Prevention Meeting**

13 Monday 7:00 p.m. **Vestry Meeting**

17 Friday **Newsletter Deadline**

19 Sunday

19 Sunday 4:30 p.m. **Carillon Concert**

20 Monday 11:00 a.m. **Bible Study**

24 Friday **Christmas Eve**

3:00 PM – The Holy Eucharist with Carols and Readings

5:00 PM – Carols for the Congregation

5:30 PM – The Holy Eucharist

26 Sunday **ONE SERVICE**

10:00 AM – Morning Prayer and Sermon with The Reverend Cathy Harper

27 Monday 11:00 a.m. **Bible Study**

Weekly Schedule

Sundays	8:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist, Rite I Holy Eucharist, Rite II
Tuesdays	10:00 a.m. - 2 p.m.	Church Office Open
Wednesdays	10:00 a.m. - 2 p.m.	Church Office Open
Thursdays	10:00 a.m. - 2 p.m.	Church Office Open

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

Rev. Robert Malm, Interim Rector
Lisa Platanitis, Music Director and Choir Director
Liesl Crehan, Pianist and Organist
Kimberly Leahy, Parish Secretary
Susan Hebb, Newsletter Editor

Vestry

Celeste Hankey, Senior Warden	617-710-5346	Nancy Moore.....	508-380-6241
Len Hathon, Junior Warden.....	774-678-0169	Merry Smythe.....	774-404-0110
Alan Kershaw, Treasurer.....	508-224-4018	Chuck Conway.....	617-877-1538
Donna Beers, Assistant Treasurer.....	508-759-8283	Patti Metcalf.....	508-833-0170
Robin Higgins, Clerk.....	413-329-4651	Dianne Cartmill.....	774-269-4348
		Mark Taylor.....	508-863-1259