

THE WAVE MAY 2020

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

A MESSAGE FROM REV. PATTIE HANDLOSS

Dear Friends,

The journey may seem long but if it keeps one person from getting this virus it is a gift you will have given that person.

There are so many losses now that cannot be tallied in money, only in memory and in the heart. When Bob Sherwood told me of his brother's death this week I ached for his loss and for the reality that there would be no period at the end of the sentence; for no, no funeral, no gathering, no time to remember and turn over to God the soul of brother Jim with the family gathered. It would have to be many individual turnings over; prayers which, while effective, are not the same as the communal rite of passage.

How significant these passages are for us. How hard when those passages cannot happen when the heart calls for them to happen, or life calls for them to happen.

There will, of course, be time, a time when we will be "we" again. But while we wait, the waiting is hard.

I am no good on the phone as breath remains a challenge; so soon I will make it an essential trip to pull in front of your house and wave and give you and yours a happy Eastertide blessing.

I miss all of you. I look forward to when we gather again as one. I am aware that when we gather, and how we gather, will depend on our Bishop. He is a thoughtful man and will proceed with all of our best health in mind.

Blessings and love,

Pattie+

Gratitude

Thank you for the prayers, cards, phone calls, emails and texts while I was sick. I appreciated very much your reaching out. I also appreciated your positive comments on the Easter service which was on YouTube thanks to the labor of Lisa Platanitis and Melissa Scannell. The addition of Liesl Keller and Sean Crehan to St. Peter's music program is a gift beyond measure. They, along with Lisa Platanitis and Danielle Watson, were the music for Easter. It was sweet indeed.

Faithfully, Pattie+

THE VISIBLE VESTRY

There is not much to report from the Vestry. I have been attending Zoom meetings with the Diocese which have been interesting and informative. The first meeting had 59 attendees, the next had 81, so Zoom is becoming the way to meet remotely.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Lisa Platanitis, Danielle Watson, Liesl Keller and Sean Crehan for the beautiful Easter Service that they put together. It was wonderful to hear our St. Peter's music again. You can still view this service by going to St. Peter's Church on the Canal Easter 2020.

Thank you to all that have sent in their pledges. Your continued financial support will help pay the bills and keep the building running.

I don't know who exactly, but Happy Birthday and Happy Anniversary to the April folks we missed on the first Sunday in April; it's strange the things that we're missing during this time of "stay at home" and "social distancing"; our "Peace Be With You" will certainly be different when we are able to be together again.

St. Peter's, as always, is here to help you, if you find yourself in need anything. Please feel free to call me at 617-710-5346 and we will find for you the help you need.

And here is my "Did You Know?" item:

THE ALTAR

The altar is a plain liturgical altar with a beautifully decorated front panel. The center panel depicts, in hand carved wood, St. Peter drawing his nets from a small boat. The side panels, also hand carved wood, show two fish breaking water. Since the early days of the Christian church, the fish has been the symbol for Jesus Christ and Christianity. The Greek word for fish made a sort of anagram that read "Jesus Christ the Son of God".

The altar was moved forward from the back of the church but before it was moved, above the altar was a canopy of wood. On the face of the canopy are five hand carved and painted shells that are native to this area. The center shell is that of the Bay Scallop, for many years the Christian symbol for baptism.

Beneath this wood panel hangs the Dossil, the curtain that hung behind the altar. The Dossil is red denoting that St. Peter was a Christian martyr who shed his blood for the church.

In the center of the Dossil hangs a "Christus Rex". This is Latin for "Christ the King". The Christus Rex shows a triumphant, risen Christ, the "King of Heaven". The Christus Rex is clothed in Eucharistic Vestments which is the symbolic clothing worn by the priest at Communion.

From a cross beam above the altar hangs the sanctuary lamp. It is kept burning at all times when the sacrament is upon the altar to remind people of Christ's presence there. The lamp in St. Peter's is a ship's wheel and symbolizes that the church is the ship which carries us upon the Sea of Life to our ultimate destination, the Kingdom of Heaven.

Alternating upon the end posts of each pew are a ship and an anchor. The ship is an old symbol for the church, the anchor symbolizes the Hope.

I hope you enjoy these little bits of information.

Celeste Hankey, Senior Warden

WEEKLY E-MAIL FROM ST. PETER'S

Each week we send out an email showcasing highlights of the coming week, the lessons for the next Sunday, those serving, and a calendar of events. We also use this community email as a means of notifying you of church service cancellations (in the event of inclement weather), of deaths in the parish family, and other emergent news. If you are not receiving this email and would like to, please send a note to Robin Higgins at ptown.robin@yahoo.com and we will add you to the mailing list. And if you have news you would like included, you can send that to Robin as well! Please note, this is not in any way a replacement for the WAVE. It is a means of reinforcing and reminding us of events and of disbursing information in a timely manner. Thanks for your support!

Robin Higgins

SAINT PETER'S SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND PREVENTION SUPPORT GROUP UPDATE

Please keep the Bourne and Wareham Substance Free coalitions in your prayers. We did not meet in March or April 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 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. If you have loved ones or friends who are dealing with this, 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 Rev. Vienna Cobb Anderson, Retired Episcopal Priest:

**Most Loving God, we ask your blessing upon all who suffer from addiction. Strengthen them to reach out for help. Enable them to take the first step to recovery. Bless them with the persistence to persevere in the fight to be free. Give courage and hope to their families, drawing them closer together in the power of Your love, which alone can transform our living.
AMEN**

Larry Higgins

FROM THE SENIOR WARDEN

It's been six weeks since we've all been together. During this time, some of you have sent in your pledges and I thank you for that. In March our usual pledges come to \$7,679 and we received \$4,166; in April we also have pledged \$7,679 – to date we have received \$4,440. Please remember that even though the church building is closed, expenses do not stop. If you are able, please consider sending in your pledges. Dianne Cartmill is depositing the pledges so we can keep up with the church expenses – a special thank you to Dianne. Kathy Letzeisen is going into the office to be sure the administrative work is continuing. Thank you to Kathy also.

An exciting note: the **Search Committee** has completed the St. Peter's Profile and will be sending it on to the Diocese for their approval. The Profile is wonderful – we will all be so proud of the work done by the committee. And we will all be proud to be part of such a wonderful parish. Thank you to the Committee.

Celeste Hankey, Senior Warden

FROM THE INTERIM RECTOR

April 22nd was the 50th anniversary of Earth Day, a day set aside to think, reflect, celebrate, and try to improve how we have treated, and are now treating, Mother Earth.

We have come a long good way. The water is cleaner, the air is cleaner, the consciousness of the people of the earth has improved regarding the condition of the earth. Yet, we still face the reality that the polar ice caps are melting at an alarming rate, the coastlines are thus rising and drought is a real threat to huge areas of the world. This translates into famine and death. Mostly the poor and species who cannot defend themselves will perish. It need not be.

There is much we can do and do as a community. The COVID-19 pandemic and our response has shown that with the dramatic drop in the use of fossil fuels the air is much cleaner, the waters, too, have sparkled with a freshness long lost, and we have enjoyed an atmosphere so much clearer that the stars are being seen from places where, due to light, pollution and smog, they had seemingly vanished.

We CAN do better. We have done better in the past 50 years. I trust we will do better.

The old saw is that we do this for our grandchildren and greats to come - and we do and we will. There are so many ways to remember God's creation, to honor it and to celebrate it. When we marvel at what we cannot create but can only enjoy we find in our heart that we want to be more kindly toward it.

Blessings and Love

Pattie+

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 **June 2020** issue is Friday, **May 22nd, 2020**. Send all articles to Susan Hebb at susanhebb@comcast.net.

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

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Kathy Letzeisen, Parish Secretary
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