

The Wave - AUGUST 2017

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

FROM THE RECTOR

The Reverend Sue Lederhouse

70th Anniversary Dates to Remember:

September 16, 2017 at 2:00 p.m. – OPEN HOUSE

September 29, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. – SERVICE OF REDEDICATION

In place of my usual article, I want to focus on our upcoming 70th anniversary celebration and share with you our newly revised historical booklet. Many thanks to Linda Masson for her work on this! It will be available at our September events. It tells the story of an amazing saga which began on March 27, 1938 with the first meeting at Red Men's Hall and continues on today as we meet in that building that came down from Hull on May 27, 1947. The Holy Spirit was present and active all through these years and continues to enliven us as we celebrate this milestone. Enjoy reading about "the little church that could!" **Blessings - Sue Lederhouse +**

THE STORY OF ST. PETER'S CHURCH-ON-THE-CANAL

A Brief History of the Cape Cod Canal:

In August 1904, August Belmont, a wealthy financier, enlisted civil engineer William Barclay Parsons to initiate construction of the Cape Cod Canal. Following much planning, in September 1910, the Buzzards Bay Railroad Bridge was first completed and on July 29, 1914, the Cape Cod Canal was subsequently completed and opened as a private toll waterway. In March 1928, the Canal was sold to the Federal government for \$11,500,000. The Canal currently is managed by the US Army Corps of Engineers. In 1933, the National Recovery Act provided 4.6 million dollars for the building of the current bridges that cross the Canal. The Bourne and Sagamore Bridges became toll free crossings on June 21, 1935. The problem, however, was that churches were only located on the south side of the Canal; this was a distance of approximately four miles for churchgoers traveling over the bridges every Sunday.

St. Peter's: People of Faith with a Dream:

The vision began on March 27, 1938 when Archdeacon Howard Bartow held the first Episcopal service on this side of the Canal at Red Men's Hall in Buzzards Bay. This was the birth of the St. Peter's congregation. This story of faith, persistence, and hard work on the part of an initial 100 believers is the foundation of our current church. The pews were folding chairs, the altar unpainted plywood, but these founders had a dream and they relentlessly pursued it in faith. Several Lay Readers carried the services for St. Peter's until November of 1944 when the Rev. John Samuel Stephenson was called by parishioners to become the official resident Priest. Under his leadership, efforts were increased to build St. Peter's. Minstrel shows, the Canal Capers of 1945 and 1946, featured the musical talents of people in local and surrounding towns. The radio broadcasts, "Vox Pop," did two broadcasts, one of which was

on “Teen Town,” a creation for the young people of the Town and the second on the Church. People donated money to the support of these programs. In 1946, after almost eight years of meeting in Red Men’s Hall, enough money had been raised to begin making the dream of a real church come true.

St. Peter’s is Born:

Father Steve found an unused church, Christ Church in Allerton, Massachusetts, a section of Hull, sixty miles away.

It was too expensive to transport the church to Buzzards Bay by highway, so it was decided that the best way was by water!

In 1947, this old abandoned shabby looking building floated down the Canal. It arrived in Buzzards Bay on May 27, 1947. Story has it that it was not going to be allowed to be hauled from the Canal down the Main Street. The initial difficulties, however, were overcome and town folk and parishioners rallied together and hauled that little building to its present location. Its new home was now Main Street. After many years and hard work, the dream was completed. The people had their little white church.

Sadly in 1950, Father Stephenson accepted a call to Grace Church in Buffalo, New York. However, in 1958, at the request of parishioners and Bishop Anson Phelps Stokes, Father Steve was happily returned to his little church in Buzzards Bay. In 1963, St. Peter’s-on-the-Canal was formally consecrated as a Parish of the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts. In 1964, a steeple and chimes were added to the building. The Church Exchange thrift shop was opened next door and was a substantial financial support to the Church for many years. Over time, two barracks obtained from Camp Edwards were added to the Church providing more needed space for the growing congregation and their busy activities. St. Peter’s is easily and uniquely identified on Main Street by the boat over the front red doors with the fisherman inside.

The Altar:

The Cape Cod Canal is such a big part of the history of our Church. Thus it is fitting that St. Peter, “The Big Fisherman,” and “on-the-Canal” would be part of our name and identity in the Buzzards Bay community. The theme of our Church is very connected with the sea.

Our altar is a plain liturgical altar with a beautifully wooden hand carved center panel depicting St. Peter drawing nets from a small boat. The side panels show two fish breaking water. The fish have been symbols for Jesus Christ and Christianity since the early days of the Christian Church. The Greek word for fish makes a sort of anagram that reads “Jesus Christ the Son of God”.

Above the altar is a canopy of wood with five hand carved and painted shells native to this area. The center shell is that of the bay scallop, for many years the Christian symbol for baptism.

Beneath the canopy is a red dossal (curtain) that hangs behind the altar, denoting that St. Peter was a Christian martyr who shed his blood for the sake of Christ. In the center of the dossal hangs a “Christus Rex” cross. “Christus Rex” is Latin for “Christ the King”. The “Christus Rex” shows a triumphant, risen Christ, the “King of Heaven,” clothed in Eucharistic vestments, symbolic clothing worn by the priest during Communion. Eucharist is the Greek word meaning thanksgiving. During the Eucharist, we give thanks to God for the salvation of the world. Hanging below the chasuble, or outer garment, may be

seen the ends of the stole, the symbol of the priest's authority. This signifies the yoke of Christ, which a priest takes upon himself or herself.

Centered behind the altar is the Tabernacle. Within this receptacle is kept the reserved sacrament, holiest of the Christian Church possessions. This is the sacrament set apart and used in the visitation of the sick. The door to the Tabernacle is of hammered bronze and is emblazoned with a compass rose. The compass reminds us that people are guided to their heavenly home through the unfailing direction of God within the sacrament.

From a crossbeam above the altar, hangs the sanctuary lamp. The lamp is always kept burning when the sacrament is in the Tabernacle, to remind people of Christ's presence there. The lamp at St. Peter's is enclosed in a ship's wheel and it symbolizes that the Church is the ship which carries us upon the sea of life to our ultimate destination, the Kingdom of Heaven.

The carvings of the altar and canopy were made by the Lippich Brothers of Bowansville, New York. Miss Joan Welt of Buffalo did the polychrome. The altar and pews were made by Tradition House in DePew, New York. 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 hope.

WERE YOU THERE??

In May of 1947, the building that would become St. Peter's Church-on-the-Canal in Buzzards Bay was floated on a barge from the town of Hull, MA through Cape Cod Bay and the Cape Cod Canal to its current location on Main St. St. Peter's will be holding several events in September to celebrate the 70th anniversary of this monumental event. **Were you there? Do you have family or friends who may have been there? Do you or they have pictures?** We would love to hear your stories and see your pictures! If you or a loved one would be willing to share your memories or pictures, we would love to hear from you and include you in our celebrations! Please contact the parish office via phone at 508-759-5641 and leave a message, or by email at saintpeters@verizon.net.

WHO AM I?

My story starts when I was about 50 years old. Up until that time I had a pretty fun filled life. Lots of friends and company came to visit me. Suddenly my health began to deteriorate. I wasn't what I once had been and slowly I began to lose my friends. People stopped coming by and I found gradually that I was of less and less use to all those around me and to my community. I lost my self-esteem and my identity. Each day got worse as I began to feel that my time had come and I was just invisible to those around me, wasting away and waiting to collapse and eventually to die lonely and alone.

One day, as miracles do happen, a man showed up at my door, the first person I had seen in six long years, and said he was sent from God. He said he had many friends and they had an idea and a dream and that God must have led them to me. I laughed and said, "Look at me, I am about as low as can be possible and there is no way that I could be of any use to you, let alone to God". Well, he looked me over and said, "No, I am sure this is the right place that God has led me. God can do all things, and with a lot of prayer and faith you too are going to do great things for Him and many others".

Well it took a lot of faith, but from that day on, you could say that I was "saved to serve". The Holy Spirit breathed new life into me, and God really did do his marvelous "thing". You remember in the Bible when God called anyone special to serve Him, He changed their names such as Saul to Paul or Abram to Abraham? Well, he did the same for me, which must mean I was and am still very special because. . . **(HAVE YOU GUESSED WHO I AM?)** . . . when God called me I was Christ Church in Hull, and am now proudly serving God as St. Peter's Church-on-the-Canal in Buzzards Bay and that's my story.

I guess you could say there is a story here for all of us. We are never too old or useless to be called by God to serve Him. Or maybe we should be that person who shows up at someone's door who feels alone, useless and abandoned and reaches out to him or her with love, faith and prayer. Father Stephenson and his congregation had faith and a dream and look at us now, 70 years later. Miracles happen every day when you believe!

Hmmm. . . I bet you can write your own story.

Linda Masson, Senior Warden

A BIT OF ST. PETER'S HISTORY FROM OUR INTERESTING ARCHIVES!!

While Buzzards Bay awaited with excitement for their new little church to come down the Canal, the people of Hull were experiencing a touch of sadness as they bid their little Church of Our Saviour / Christ Church, farewell. Articles from the Hull newspaper read as follows:

"Parishioner Bids Bon Voyage as Church Sails from Hull" - May 26, 1947

An elderly white-haired man, ending a two-day vigil, stood on the Nantasket Steamship Pier this afternoon and waved good-bye to his parish church of 35 summers as it slipped seaward toward Buzzards Bay on a barge in tow of a tug.

While police sirens screamed and steam whistles shrilled in a farewell salute, Charles B. Duncklee, 73, of Brookline, snapped a last picture with his tiny camera of Church of Our Saviour, moving 40 miles by water to become the new Church of St. Peter's On-the-Canal at Buzzards Bay. "I've been down all today and yesterday to say good bye to my old church," he told the small crowd gathered to see the church off.

Moved onto a barge Saturday, the one-story church building, firmly lashed with chains and cables, laid over at Pemberton over Sunday awaiting fair weather. She departed on the high-water slack between 3 and 4 o'clock and with weather favoring, will reach Buzzards Bay tomorrow.

"Hull Church Goes to Sea Today for New Buzzards Bay Home" - May 24, 1947

The tug "Onward" stood by in Hull harbor tonight, ready to haul an abandoned 50-year-old church at high tide to a new home at Buzzards Bay. The tug is expected to pull the barge to which the church is lashed off the beat at 3 a.m tomorrow.

Several hundred spectators watched tonight as the church was rolled on logs from the old site on N Street and shifted onto the barge at the beach. It was moved from its foundation a week ago. The Hull fire department lit the scene with flood lights. "This is the first time I've ever towed a church," the Onward's captain, Russell Smith, said as he watched the work, "but I know we're going to get her there all right. We'll hug the shore line till we get to the Canal at Sandwich, and then the short run down the Canal is easy."

The church will be called St. Peter's on-the-Canal Episcopal Church. The Rev. Mr. Stephenson raised funds for its transportation through a nation-wide radio broadcast. The church was abandoned for six years. It is 40 feet high and 35 by 70 feet in dimension.

And from Buzzards Bay: These excerpts are taken from our Vestry meetings:

March, 1947 – "The possibility of our securing the abandoned church building in Hull was discussed and the Rector, Mr. Stephenson, was authorized to investigate the possibility. The church was Christ Church and is located in a section now entirely Jewish. It could be moved here for less than \$10,000. The church in South Weymouth has offered us some pews, an altar and a baptismal font. It was moved and seconded that we use our money to move the church (if we may have the building) and we try to borrow \$10,000 more to take care of alterations. This was passed unanimously." Alice Tyson, Clerk.

April and May 1947- "The church in Hull has been given to us by the Diocese. Some difficulty about borrowing money but will try again after the church is brought here. Church to be moved here on a barge when ready. Suspense! Excitement! Church put on a barge...Monday, May 26 at 3:00, left Sandwich Tuesday, May 27 at 9:00 a.m. (Beautiful spring day.) Church arrived in Buzzards Bay around 10:00 a.m. Quite an audience, planes overhead, many cameras.

Sunday, May 25, Mr. Stephenson announced that the former parishioners of the Hull church had presented us with the altar linen and silver saying they felt it should go along with the church. Nice gift."

So there you have more of the amazing story of our little church. Don't you just love this stuff!!!

Linda Masson, Senior Warden

THE DEACON'S CORNER

Wait a minute! Where did July go? This summer is slipping through my fingers like the sand on Menauhant Beach. I've nothing against August, mind you. Our daughter Suzanne was born in August. Good things happen in August! The Lectionary readings for August are filled with Good News. The undercurrent of all the stories is about Jesus trying to reveal Himself to His closest followers. For instance:

Luke 9:28-36 tells the story of the Transfiguration. Jesus takes Peter, James, and John, the leaders of the Apostles, with Him up on “the mountain” to pray. While there, He gives them a startling revelation of who He really is, but do they get it? Don’t be too hard on them. Would you get it? Would I?

Matthew 14:22-33 finds the Apostles in a boat that is foundering in a storm when Jesus comes walking over the waves toward them. He tells them: *Don’t be afraid, it’s really Me.*” Peter jumps out of the boat at Jesus’ invitation and starts to walk toward Him, but doesn’t get far before he sinks. Jesus must rescue him and upbraids him for his lack of faith. I think I’d be right there with Peter, sinking, drowning with him, but for the grace of God.

Matthew 15:21-28. This is the story I’m really interested in. I’m going to preach on it on August 20th. Matthew tells us of Jesus’ encounter with the Canaanite woman in the vicinity of Tyre and Sidon. What is He doing in what is now Lebanon? The story doesn’t say. What is clear is that the woman is pleading with Jesus (with little success) to intervene and heal her daughter of the demons which torment her. Jesus coldly informs her that what He offers is only for the *“lost sheep of the House of Israel.”* He appears to have no intention of offering it to Canaanite **dogs**. Here is a Jesus we’re not familiar with. He sounds like an ethnocentric bigot! But the woman’s response softens His heart: *“Yes Lord, but even the dogs are allowed to scavenge under the Master’s table.”* He appears to have a change of heart. He commends her great faith and heals her daughter instantly. Think about it! We are in the same boat as the Canaanite woman. The Scribes and Pharisees of Jesus’ day would consider us “dogs” too. How do you interpret this Gospel story?

Matthew 16:13-20. One day, Jesus suddenly turns to His Apostles and asks them bluntly: *“Who do the people say that I am?”* They shuffle their feet and fumble around. Then He asks more pointedly. *“But who do **you** say that I am?”* He doesn’t seem to care much what the people say. It’s the Apostles who matter. It’s important that they understand. How would you answer Him? I think that all of us continue to struggle to comprehend this mystery.

So much to do in August. So much of “The Story” to unpack. Ordinary Time? Not likely. All time is God’s time, therefore anything but “Ordinary.” Many good things and much to ponder. Join Sue and me this month as we mine these stories for the “Good News” embedded in them.

Deacon Robert Sherwood

VISIBLE VESTRY

The Vestry had their monthly meeting on July 17, 2017.

1. Remember to save the dates for our Open House on Saturday, September 16 at 2:00 p.m. and for our Service of Rededication on Friday, September 29 at 6:30 p.m. in honor of the 70th anniversary of St. Peter’s Church building coming to us from Hull. More details on both events to come.

2. Bruce Rockwell will be here on August 23 to conduct our annual audit.
3. We need to purchase a required fire rated file cabinet for the office, in order to be in compliance with this year's audit. We were cited for this in our last year's audit, therefore, we will be purchasing the file cabinet before August 23.
4. Frank Walker has finished filling the potholes in our driveway. He also painted the women's bathroom by the Sacristy. The ballasts in the lights over the altar were replaced by the electrician.
5. Our average Sunday worship attendance has climbed to an average of 102. On July 9, we had 41 people at 8:00 a.m. service which is more than Easter and more than any non-Baptismal or special service Sunday in the past 7 years!!!!
6. A number of parishioners spoke with Amazing Grace folks on July 9 after their presentations at both services. We are planning to host one of their monthly programs for the kids on November 19. (More information regarding this to come).
7. Vestry voted and approved a donation to the Amazing Grace Camp of \$300.
8. Village at Cataumet programs are in recess for the summer.
9. Rev. Sue has had a busy summer with all the pastoral care issues with our parishioners in nursing homes from Buzzards Bay to South Dartmouth and places in between – parishioners facing surgery, major pain and a variety of other medical issues. If you are a card sender, this is a good opportunity to show your support to our church family members.
10. A huge thank you to all who supported our 4th of July event. It was a \$2000.00 success!!! It takes much support to make these fund raisers a success. As usual, your donations of your time, baked goods, grocery items, and money donations were extremely appreciated.
11. Larry Higgins, Deacon Bob and Rev. Sue had a meeting regarding substance abuse and other social issues that are concerning to all of us. It is possible that we will be able to have some educational speakers in the fall to better educate us on many of these issues. More information regarding specific topics soon to come.
12. Deacon Bob will be officiating at a service at Mass Maritime on August 27.
13. On Wednesday, August 2 at 10:00 a.m., there will be a planning meeting regarding the pot luck supper for the September 29 rededication service. Also, anyone interested in helping to decorate our bulletin boards with items from our history are welcome to attend this meeting.

Our next Vestry meeting will be August 28, so that the Vestry will be able to approve the August 23rd audit by the September 1 deadline.

Linda Masson, Senior Warden

Music Notes



Calling All Who Love To Sing!

We will be having a choir open house on Sunday,

August 27, 2017

at 11:30 a.m. in the choir room.

*Please come and see what St. Peter's Choir is all
about!*

Experience the joy that music brings to our hearts!

*“Sing and make music with your heart to the
Lord!” Ephesians 5:19*

Lisa and Bruce

HEALING SERVICE - AUGUST 20 - 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 held on the third Sunday of the month, which will be **Sunday, August 20, at 9 a.m.**

TOM NORDQUIST'S PAINTINGS ON DISPLAY AT THE PLYMOUTH LIBRARY THROUGH SEPTEMBER 2017

Tom Nordquist, our substitute organist, is a man of many talents. Tom has an exhibit in the Gallery at the Plymouth Library entitled “Two for the Show,” selected works by Maureen Brookfield and Tom Nordquist. It is open during regular library hours from June 7 through September. Check it out!

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!

INGATHERING FOR THE VILLAGE AT CATAUMET

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. **During the month**

of August, we will be collecting school supplies. These items 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.

CREATING MATTRESSES FROM PLASTIC SHOPPING BAGS

You may have noticed a box in the Parish Hall inviting you to donate plastic shopping bags. This is an innovative ministry that has been started by one of our Friendly Kitchen guests. The plastic bags are being used to create mattresses for those who are homeless. They are soft but also sturdy and will be helpful to all who need them. Please help this mission by adding your plastic bags to the box. If you want more information or would like to help create these mattresses, the contact information is on the box. Thank you for your help!

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 (August 16), 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 (August 9), from 2:00-3:30 p.m., at the Barnstable Senior Center, 825 Falmouth Rd., Hyannis.

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 **September** issue is Friday, **August 18, 2017**. Send all articles to Susan Hebb at susanhebb@comcast.net

AUGUST 2017

2	Wednesday	10:00 a.m.	Celebration Committee
18	Friday		NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
20	Sunday	9:00 a.m.	Healing Service
23	Wednesday	10:00 a.m.	Audit
27	Sunday	11:30 a.m.	Choir Open House
28	Monday	7:00 p.m.	Vestry

Upcoming Dates

Sept 3	Labor Day – OFFICE CLOSED
Sept 11	Bible Studies Resume
Sept 16	70th Anniversary Open House
Sept 29	Rededication of church building / Bishop Gates visitation
Nov 4	Diocesan Convention at Cathedral
Nov 5	All Saints Sunday

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 [RESUMES SEPTEMBER 10]
Mondays	10:00 – 4:00 11:00 a.m. 5:15 p.m. 7:30 p.m.	Church Office Open Bible Study [RESUMES SEPTEMBER 11] 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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Staff

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The Rev. Bob Sherwood, Deacon
E-mail: 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
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