

The Wave *OCTOBER 2019*

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

A MESSAGE FROM REV. PATTIE HANDLOSS

Dear Friends,

It is a pleasure and a blessing to be here with you. We are, as a parish, on an exciting journey to choose the new Priest-in-Charge or Rector.

Journeys are always fascinating times. Sometimes they seem to slog along, other times they move far too quickly and perhaps a little chaotically. At other times, journeys are peaceful. But the good thing about a journey is that we are going somewhere.

God is calling us right now to go on a journey to find a person who will best be suited to be in and with this congregation over the long-haul.

This is no small task. Let us enter this new time of exploration and introspection with hope, love and laughter.

Let the journey begin.

Blessings,

Pattie+

THE DEACON'S CORNER

Dear Friends,

Quite a few people came up to me last week and said that they had not realized I was retiring so soon and had missed my last official sermon the previous week. So rather than submit a newsletter article, I thought it might be better if I reprinted that sermon as a Wave article. For those of you who have heard it already, you can just skip over it. Those of you who are reading it for the first time, I hope it speaks to you. It came from the heart:

“For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven.”

These are the words of “The Teacher”, son of David, King in Jerusalem. I’m not going to preach on any of the readings for today. I think these words from Ecclesiastes are more appropriate to what I want to talk about.

Today is probably the last sermon I will be preaching here. I have decided to resign my position as Deacon of St. Peter’s and retire from active ministry. Ten years ago I began a journey which eventually led to my Ordination as a Deacon. On the day I was Ordained, the Bishop questioned me closely as to whether I believed I was truly called by God and His Church to the life and work of a Deacon. Then he asked if I fully committed myself to this trust and responsibility. He asked me many more questions. It was a very thorough public examination, conducted before the assembled Church at St. Paul’s Cathedral. I made some serious commitments that day.

Six years ago my journey led me to St. Peter’s and to you. These past six years have flown by. It has been a rewarding time for us (Nancy, Suzanne, Carsten and I). We have come to know you individually and collectively. Our lives have been touched and enriched by each of you, and by those who are no longer present with us in the body.

During the past year and half I have come to realize that I can no longer perform the liturgical duties of a Deacon. My physical limitations won’t allow it. I have discussed this with Bishop Gayle and the Archdeacons (Pat and Chris) and we have come to the decision that it is time to end my active ministry as a Deacon. I have decided to resign my position here and retire, not later than October 15th, 2019, in accordance with Bishop Gayle’s instructions which require me to retire within 30 days of the Interim Priests arrival. The good news is that I will be staying here as a member of the Congregation. Usually, when a clergy person retires they are required to move away and not to return for two years. This is to avoid confusion over roles once the new Rector and Deacon arrive.

When I retire my role changes. After September 30th, I will no longer be your Deacon and can no longer act in any official diaconal capacity here. There are conditions specified by the Bishop that I have to live up to. The details of these conditions have been explained fully, in writing, to the Wardens and Vestry by Bishop Harris. A copy of her instructions is in the Clerk’s possession. What the conditions amount to is that: I can no longer exercise my calling as a Deacon here. Since I will still be an Ordained Deacon, I am permitted to function in that capacity outside the bounds of the Parish. Also, since I am not, strictly speaking, a member of the Parish I may not serve in any Parish Leadership position, such as Warden, Vestry Member, or Committee Chair. Deacons, even retired Deacons, report to the Bishops. Not to worry though, Nancy and I will both be here, supporting the Parish with our pledge and our labor.

Nancy is happy that we are staying here. Our new puppy, Bagel, is happy we are staying, although she wishes it weren't so far away. We are both looking forward to worshipping with you in my new capacity. Someone jokingly observed to me the other day: "Now you will be sitting with the back-benchers. I responded: "The nicest people sit back there, don't they?" :-)

Why did we choose to stay here at St. Peter's? Why choose to drive 36 miles round trip from Falmouth when we could have found a church within 5 miles? That's easy. As Obe Wan, the Jedi would say: "The force is strong here!" (Remember Star Wars? - That Obe Wan)

A man I know, who isn't even a member of this church, but a Roman Catholic, summed it up pretty well. He said:

"I love to come here. I will always be a Catholic, but I like to come here for services occasionally. When I walk in and sit down in one of those pews I immediately feel at peace. I sense the presence of the Spirit here, the love that you have for one another. "

It is evident in the dozens of quiet ways that people have of saying they care for one another. I don't want to embarrass anyone by naming names, and I probably don't know all the names anyway, but this church doesn't clean itself, repair itself, trim the lawn, wash the windows, prepare the altar for services, assist the priest and deacon in celebrating the Eucharist, oversee the business affairs of the Parish, transport people to medical appointments, visit them in the hospital, and the dozens of other things that get done here that only the clergy knows about.

That love extends beyond the bounds of this parish. It reaches out into the surrounding community. It's evident in:

- The supplies that you donate to the mothers and children at Cataumet Village.
- The paper ministry which provides necessary paper goods (paper towels, Kleenex, T.P.) to the poor who can't buy them with food stamps.
- The sense of caring community which you extend to the people who come here for "Friendly Kitchen". The dedicated team members who buy, prepare and serve those meals.
- Your participation in the Bourne Coalition against opioid abuse, and monetary support for Gosnold of Cape Cod.
- Your support of the Diocesan Summer Camp program and Youth Leadership Council.
- The donations you make to Camp Amazing Grace which strives to provide the Summer Camp experience to children whose parents are incarcerated.

There are 100 ways that you give to this Parish, this Diocese and this Community. There are probably easily 100 more that only God (and you) know about. You are terrific. Thank you for all that you are and all that you do! Thank you for the support and assistance you've given us in the past six years.

Deacon Bob Sherwood

THE VISIBLE VESTRY

The Vestry met on Monday, September 17, 2019, at 7:00 p.m.

- The minutes from the July meeting were approved with one change.
- Financial Report – Chuck Soule gave the vestry an update of our finances.
- We have moved some of our money from the checking accounts into money market accounts so we can start gaining interest.
- The Search Committee and Vestry will be meeting together on October 5th to start the search for a new rector.
- The Vestry is looking into a new Time and Talent form to be distributed to the parishioners; some changes were made to the form presented.
- One parishioner doesn't like the locked back door, but understands that we have to do it.
- We are going to look into having the chimes repaired, but this is low priority.
- Paper Pantry is going strong – a letter is going out to other churches asking for support. According to the Diocese we are able to use some of our Outreach funds to help support this mission.
- We are looking into getting WiFi throughout St. Peter's. Celeste will look for some help with this project.
- We need to update the website and are looking for people who can help.

The next Vestry meeting will be on Monday, October 21, 2019 at 7 p.m.

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

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

St. Peter's Pancake Breakfast returns this month from a summer hiatus. We will be serving up pancakes, eggs, sausages, juice and coffee on **Sunday, October 6, at 9 a.m.** Come one, come all! A great get-together for the whole church.

I'm still looking for volunteers to help with the set-up and with serving the meal. If you would like to join in this effort, please call me at 774 212-0453, email me at KLihzis@gmail.com, or see me after each service.

Your brother in Christ,
Ken Lihzis

MEN'S BREAKFAST GATHERING

The Men's Breakfast Gathering is also returning in October from its summer hiatus. This group meets on the 3rd Saturday of the month through June. The meeting will be **Saturday, October 19 at 8 a.m.** We meet at **Persy's Place**, located in East Wareham at 3198 Cranberry Highway, next to Upper Cape Realty. All men of the parish are welcome to attend.

Your brother in Christ,
Ken Lihzis

BOOK CLUB RESUMES

The Book Club meets once a month on the third Friday at 10 a.m. Meetings are held at the home of Linda Masson. Please join us! If you have any questions, you may call Linda Masson at 508-743-5139 or Lynne Brune at 508-295-6146.

BIBLE STUDY BEGINS AGAIN

Monday morning Bible Study will start up again on Monday, October 21st at 10 a.m.

SAINT PETER'S SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND PREVENTION SUPPORT GROUP UPDATE

The substance abuse prevention and support group will meet on Monday October 21st at 3:33 p.m. The next date for the donation Jug for the Bourne Substance Free Coalition will be Sunday, October 13th.

The group is exploring the following activities:

Narcan Training
Talking about Vaping

Guest Speakers
Fund raising.

All are welcome to join us, and we welcome input and suggestions from the congregation.

Larry Higgins

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 October, we will be collecting products for babies and young children.** 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.

ALTAR FLOWERS AND SANCTUARY LAMP DEDICATIONS

Altar Flower and Sanctuary Lamp charts have been posted for 2019 outside the Church Office. Please fill out a pink request form and submit it to the Church Office to make a request. Secretary Kathy will fill in the name(s) on the poster. Dates may be selected far in advance. Payment may be made at a later time but must be made before the chosen date (\$35 for flowers, \$7 for Sanctuary Lamp).

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!

COFFEE HOUR WANTS YOU!!

Have you signed up in the Narthex to help provide goodies for our coffee hour after the 10:00 service? Coffee is already made – your pastries and fruit will make it complete. Please help make this time of fellowship a delicious one as well. And speaking of fellowship, if you see someone new, please invite them to sit with you and have some good conversation. Welcome others as you would like to be welcomed!

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.

CAPE COD AREA SUPPORT GROUP MEETINGS

CONSOLING PARTNERS / ADDICTION LOSS: Meets on the third Wednesday of every month (October 16), from 6:30-8:00 p.m. at Corpus Christi Parish Hall, 324 Quaker Meeting House Rd., East Sandwich.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

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

OCTOBER 2019

5	Saturday	9 a.m. to 12 p.m.	Search Committee and Vestry Meeting
6	Sunday	9:00 a.m.	Pancake Breakfast
13	Sunday		
15	Tuesday	3:00 p.m.	Paper Pantry
18	Friday	10 a.m.	Newsletter Deadline Book Club Meeting at Linda Masson's
19	Saturday	8:00 a.m.	Men's Breakfast Gathering
20	Sunday		
21	Monday	10:00 a.m. 7:00 p.m.	Bible Study Vestry Meeting
27	Sunday		

UPCOMING DATES

Weekly Schedule

Sundays	8:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist, Rite I Holy Eucharist, Rite II
Mondays	10:00 – 4:00 5:15 p.m. 7:30 p.m.	Church Office Open Friendly Kitchen AA (Men's Closed Meeting)
Wednesdays	7:30 p.m.	AA (Co-ed Open Meeting)
Thursdays	8:30 a.m.	TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly)
Fridays	10:00 – 4:00	Church Office Open

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

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Lisa Platanitis, Music Director and Choir Director
Kathy Letzeisen, Parish Secretary
Susan Hebb, Newsletter Editor

Vestry

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Henri Masson, Junior Warden.....	508-743-5139	Merry Smythe.....	774-404-0110
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