



ST. PETER'S WAVE MARCH, 2026

St. Peter's is a community called to Love, Worship, Proclaim, and Serve.

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

March marks the beginning of Spring. Our liturgical title for the month, Lent, comes from an old English word meaning Spring, and related to our word, lengthen. Our sunlight lengthens during the month as Spring formally begins on the 21st. The days will seem much longer when we move to Daylight Savings time on March 8th.

Lent was introduced in the Church as a season to prepare for Christ's Passion and Glory- Holy Week and Easter. We have an early April Easter this year. Holy Week begins on March 29th.

Just as the hours of sunlight grow this month, the Holy Season of Lent invites us to grow in our relationship with Jesus Christ. On Ash Wednesday the readings encourage us to "return" to God (Joel). St. Paul writes "be reconciled to God..." (2 Corinthians). And Jesus tells us "you must not be like the hypocrites..." (Matthew 6:5). I find these 3 teachings to be an excellent guide as I reflect upon any relationship with Christ and my own daily behavior.

Holy Week always seems to come fast. We have almost the entire month of March to prepare. I hope you find some useful practices to help in your preparation. Several people attend the Thursday noon Stations of the Cross and Eucharist. Some use the small booklet "Living Well Through Lent." Just following the daily lectionary in the Book of Common Prayer can help, and/or finding a few moments each day for quiet reflection and prayer.

We look forward to the month ahead, to our journey to the cross and beyond, and to the new life promised.

Grace, Peace, Love,
Bob





LITURGICAL NOTES

Reconciliation of a Penitent

Many Roman Catholics and former Roman Catholics are familiar with the Rite of Private Confession. Few Episcopalians have practiced this and it is rare to find a “Confessional booth” in an Episcopal church. When the 1979 Book of Common Prayer first came out it included for the first time ever a form for a private confession with the title - Reconciliation of a Penitent. (see p.447)

There is an excellent introduction to the Rite and two options. Form One follows the traditional rite with very little dialogue between the Priest and Penitent. Form Two is based on the parable of the Prodigal Son and has an extensive exchange between the Priest and Penitent. The choice of which to use is the Penitent’s.

There’s an old saying that can be helpful for those considering a private confession, “All can; none must; some should.” Anyone with questions or wishing to make a confession and use the Prayer Book rite can contact Fr. Bob.



In a world filled with constant noise- Lent invites us into the *sound of silence*. I love that Jesus himself sought silence. In the midst of demands and crowds, “ He would withdraw to deserted places and pray” (Luke 5:16). Yes, the Son of God stepped away from the noise to commune with the Father. If Christ needed silence, how much *more* do we?

My January seminary intensives were indeed intense. However, to balance that out we had the privilege of participating in Silent Prayer with Anglican theologian Sarah Coakley. Thirteen of us gathered into the side Chapel, where, after receiving instructions from Dr. Coakley, we sat in silence for 40 minutes. In that silence, God spoke.

Silence is not emptiness; it is space. It is the clearing where we begin to hear what truly matters. During lent, we have permission to step back, to turn down the volume of daily life, so we can hear the whisper of grace.

Mother Teresa once said, “In the silence of the heart God speaks.” She knew that silence is not simply the absence of sound, but the presence of attentive love. And John of the Cross wrote

that God's first language is *silence*. When we grow quiet, we begin to notice God's gentle invitations—to repentance, to gratitude, to compassion, to life.

This Lent, consider carving out small moments of silence each day. Turn off the music in the car. Sit for five minutes. Pause before responding in conversation. In the sound of silence, Christ is ever present.

May this season lead us into the sacred silence where God waits to meet us.

Peace and Quiet, in Christ,
Lisa Platanitis
Resident Seminarian

Introduction

A letter of introduction from your new Senior Warden:

Since I have been a member of St Peters for a relatively short time, I suspect many people don't know much about me and might be curious to know more. So here is a brief sketch of my life. I grew up in rural southeastern Ohio on a hog farm. I went to college at Denison University in Ohio where I majored in Physics. I earned a Masters in Physical Oceanography from The Graduate School of Oceanography at the University of Rhode Island. I work at the U.S. Geological Survey in Woods Hole, where I have been studying sandy beaches and their movement for 30 years. My hobbies include: baking, knitting, gardening, reading and making quilts. I have a dog that I take for a long walk every morning.

I was married for 20 years and have been divorced for 10 years. I have two children. My daughter lives in Boston and teaches elementary school science for Boston Public Schools. My son graduated from the University of Maine last spring with a degree in Biology. He is living with me and working for the Post Office while he looks for a job in his field.

Growing up, I occasionally attended a Methodist church. In graduate school I started attending a small Episcopal church much like St Peters (Chapel of St John the Divine in Saunderstown, RI) and I have been an Episcopalian ever since. I have been a member of both St Barnabas in Falmouth and Church of the Good Shepherd in Acton. I moved to Buzzards Bay in 2022 and joined St Peter's. Being a part of this community has enriched my life immeasurably. I am so grateful to call St Peter's my spiritual home.

I am honored to be your new senior warden. Because of the reverence I hold for the church, I feel the weight of the responsibility keenly. I will do my best to serve the church as well as I can. However, Celeste left some very big shoes to fill, so I ask everyone's patience as I find my footing. Please grant me grace when I inevitably stumble and struggle to follow God's will.

Amy Farris

ANNUAL MEETING



A BRIEF SUMMARY

We approved the minutes of the previous Annual Meeting and the revised by-laws. The new slate of Officers and Vestry was presented:

Officers:

Senior Warden: Amy Farris
Treasurer: Alan Kershaw
Vestry Clerk: Connie Morrison

Junior Warden: Mark Taylor
Assistant Treasurer: Aaron Wiley

Members at Large:

Barbara Johnson	Jim Hankey	Henri Masson
Mathew Bruce	Melissa Scannell	Elaine Robinson

Delegates to Diocesan Convention: Conne Morrison and Robin Higgins Alternate: Melissa Scannell

This slate of representatives was voted on and approved.

Alan was ill and unable to be present, so Fr. Bob discussed the budget. While Fr. Bob stressed the uncertainty associated with any projected budget, he did note that this budget estimates we will be able to meet our expenses next year. He thanked Alan for the many hours of work he has done for St Peter's.

Celeste Haney spoke briefly as the outgoing Senior Warden. She said that it has been an honor to serve St Peter's in that capacity. She introduced the new Senior Warden, Amy Farris.

Lisa spoke in praise of Celeste Hankey and her excellent, tireless work for St Peter's as Senior Warden for the past seven years.

Copies of the Annual report, budget and by-laws are still in the Parish Hall if anyone would like to review them.



Please join us on Thursdays at noon during Lent as we walk the Stations of the Cross and celebrate Holy Communion. Our Stations were lovingly created for us by our own Mark Fuller. We will gather for a bag lunch and fellowship following the service. If you have never experienced walking the Stations, you might be surprised how moving it is. We would love to have you join us.



Our fifth get together was held on February 7th. We had 8 attendees sign up, of which 8 were able to attend. As always, the conversation was lively and varied. Unfortunately, the Patriots were defeated in the Super Bowl, but we are on to the Celtics, Bruins and Olympics!

Our next breakfast get-together will be on Saturday, March 7th at 8:30 AM. As usual, we will gather at Persy's Place, 3198 Cranberry Highway, East Wareham. If you would like to attend, please add your name to the sign-up sheet posted in the narthex. If you forget to sign up, please call or text Jim Hankey at 781-534-2604. This will provide an accurate count of attendees for Persy's set-up.

I look forward to seeing you at Persy's!

Best regards,
Jim Hankey

RECURRING EVENTS

- Sundays: 8am - Holy Eucharist Rite I
- 10am - Holy Eucharist Rite II w/music
(unless otherwise noted)
- Tuesdays: 11am - Bible Study
- Thursdays: 8:30am – TOPS
- 12:00pm – Stations of the Cross (during Lent)
- 1st Saturday, 8:30am - Men's Breakfast
- 2nd Monday, 2:22pm - Substance Abuse Team (on hiatus)
- 3rd Tuesday, 5:00pm – Vestry
- 1st & 3rd Wednesday, 12n – Women's Bible Study



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Liesl Crehan, Pianist/Organist
Kimberly Leahy, Parish Administrator
Robin Higgins, Newsletter Editor

2026 Vestry

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