



ST. PETER'S WAVE JANUARY 2026

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

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

Last December, after our Christmas Eve celebrations at St Peter's, Leslie and I flew down south to spend some time with our families. Jekyll Island has wonderful Christmas decorations and lights. One road has a lighted display of the 12 days of Christmas song.

Unfortunately, these decorations are removed before the 12 days of Christmas are over. I was commenting on this to a clerk at a local store and she told me that the 12 days of Christmas are before the 25th! I didn't see the point in correcting in her.

We'll have 5 extra days of the Christmas season since we'll celebrate Epiphany on Sunday, January 11th.

I actually like to celebrate our Lord's birth right through the Feast of the Presentation on February 2! The mystery of the "Word Made Flesh" is something we can celebrate every time we celebrate The Holy Eucharist and receive "The Body of Christ."

The Holy Eucharist reminds us that Christ can be daily born in us as we become His "body" in the Church, in the world. Epiphany is the "manifestation" of Christ to the world, symbolized by the visit of the 3 Kings. The Church is called to manifest Christ to the world in our own day and time.

January will also give us a chance to celebrate St. Peter, our Patron. We will keep the Confession of St. Peter on Sunday, January 18th. We are blessed as a parish to have the name of St. Peter. Peter lived the rest of his life, after naming Jesus the Christ, trying to faithfully manifest this reality to the world - even after the darkness of his denials during Jesus' last hours.

January continues the joy and excitement of Christmas and the New Year. May we all share in God's abundant blessings during 2026.

Grace, Peace, Love,
Bob



The 4th topic for reflection during a parish transition

St. Peter's, as an Episcopal church, is connected far and wide. The Episcopal church in the U.S. is an important part of the Anglican Communion across the world. These are churches that grew out of the Church of England.

Of course, we are connected to all the other Episcopal churches in the U.S. Most of our active parishioners have come to St. Peter's from other Episcopal churches. Some come from other denominations.

And we are part of the Diocese of MA. We have two elected delegates who represent us at the Diocesan Convention. Parish clergy are also involved in Diocesan and Regional ministries. Our region stretches from Plymouth down the Cape, including the Islands. St. John's in Sandwich and Good Shepherd in Wareham are the 2 parishes in closest proximity to St Peter's. We are called to share our mission with each other.

Hopefully our parishioners are connected and exercise ministries beyond the formal church. In the workplace, neighborhood, other volunteer groups. We are all connected to families. Family ministry may be the most essential for many of us.

St. Peter's Vestry is continually looking at Outreach and Mission opportunities in our Buzzard Bay community. We try to connect as we are needed. These outreach ministries can change over time. We are connected to one another in the parish through our worship and pastoral care. The essence of Christian connection is found in our Lord's command to "love one another as he has loved us..."



The Meridian Fund will pay for the new St. Peter boat refurbishing and the new Advent candle stand.

We are almost finished getting a new slate for 2026.

We are working on the budget for next year.

The Christmas Fair was very successful – and will be continued next year.

Discovery will replace the faucets in the lady's room and men's room.

We are looking into how best to correct the problems with water in the lower level.

We have 24 Mass Maritime Cadets parking in the back lot.

We will be having a visit from a diocesan representative on December 21st for both services

We sent out 68 cards to service folk.

We will celebrate Epiphany on January 11, 2026.

The Annual Meeting will be February 8th. There will be one service at 9:00 followed by the meeting.

The next meeting will be January 20, 2026 at 5:00.



Joy all year long...

"Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice." (Philippians 4:4)

As the season turns and we look toward the new year, I find my heart returning again and again to the theme of joy—not a fleeting happiness, but the deep and abiding joy that comes from knowing we are held, guided, and loved by God.

In January, I will travel to Virginia Theological Seminary for two intensive weeks of study. These weeks will be full - early mornings, long days of learning, prayer, and conversation - and, I go with gratitude and joy. There is something life-giving about stepping more deeply into formation with my fellow seminarians, about being shaped for ministry in community, and about trusting that God continues to do new things in us, even when the road ahead feels demanding.

When I return, I will begin a full spring semester, and I do so with excitement and humility. Seminary is God's work. However, it is not work done alone. I carry you with me into classrooms and chapels, into lectures and prayers. Your encouragement and support, your questions, and your faith are part of my formation. For all of you, I give thanks.

Scripture reminds us that joy is not dependent on ease or certainty. The prophet Isaiah proclaims, *"You shall go out in joy, and be led back in peace"* (Isaiah 55:12). And Jesus himself tells us, *"I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete"* (John 15:11). Joy is meant to move outward—from God to us— from us— to the world God loves. Joy is a gift of the Spirit, a sign that God is present and at work.

As we move together into this next season of ministry and learning, my prayer is that we remain attentive to joy—especially in unexpected places. May we offer joy through kindness, through listening, in shared worship, in quiet moments of prayer, in laughter, and in the steady assurance that God is faithful.

Thank you for walking with me on this journey. Please hold me in your prayers during these weeks at VTS, as I hold St. Peter's in mine. May we continue to rejoice together in the Lord, always trusting that God's joy will strengthen us for all that lies ahead.

With love and joy always,
Lisa Platanitis 🎵 Resident Seminarian

MUSIC NOTES

De-LIGHT-ful Hymns...

January often arrives wrapped in quiet - short days, cold air, and the calm that follows the great celebrations of Christmas. Yet in the Episcopal Church, January is anything but subdued. It opens into the Season of Light, a time when the joy of Christmas continues to unfold through the Feast of the Epiphany and the Baptism of Our Lord. During this season, liturgical music plays a particularly joyful role, helping us not only remember Christ's coming into the world, but rejoice in his revelation to all people.

The Feast of the Epiphany, celebrated on January 6 (11th), stands at the heart of this season. It proclaims that Christ is made known beyond Bethlehem, beyond Israel, and beyond expectation. The story of the Magi, guided by a star, is a story of light that leads, gathers, and delights. The Hymnal 1982 gives voice to this mystery with hymns that sparkle with wonder and confidence. First among them is "Songs of thankfulness and praise" (Hymn 135), a joyful and theologically rich hymn that traces Christ's manifestation from the star over the manger to the waters of baptism and the promise of glory yet to be revealed. Sung with energy, it becomes both proclamation and praise.

Other Epiphany hymns deepen this joyful exploration of light. "As with gladness men of old" (Hymn 119) invites the congregation to follow Christ with the same eager devotion as the Magi, reminding us that discipleship itself can be an act of joy. "Brightest and best of the stars of the morning" (Hymn 117) offers a more tender expression, encouraging us to bring the gift of our own lives in response to God's gracious light. Likewise, "What star is this, with beams so bright" (Hymn 124) draws us into quiet reflection while still holding fast to the joy of Christ revealed to the world.

The music of January does more than mark a season on the calendar. It forms us as a joyful people who recognize Christ's light and carry it into the world. Even as winter lingers, we continue to sing with confidence and delight, proclaiming that the light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it. Through the hymns of this Season of Light, we are invited to sing our faith, deepen our joy, and step forward as witnesses to the radiance of Christ.

So sing boldly this January. Even in the quiet of winter, the church of songs reminds us that light and joy are already among us.

Peace, Love and Joy,
Lisa 🎵



Our third get together was held on December 13th. We had 10 attendees sign up, of which 9 were able to attend. As always, the conversation was lively and varied. Unfortunately, the Patriots streak has been broken, but confident they will have what it takes to make the playoffs!

Our next breakfast get together will be on Saturday, January 3rd 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 the Persy's setup.

I look forward to seeing you at Persy's!

Best regards,
Jim Hankey



Annual Meeting will be on Feb. 8. It is not too early to prepare your report for inclusion in the parish Annual Report! If you chair/lead any program, ministry, or other activity at St. Peter's, please submit your report to Kim in the office no later than Jan. 20. Thank you!



Parishioner and choir member Heather Harris has offered the following "review" of a Bible podcast devotional and its current connection to the streaming series "The Chosen". For those who might not be familiar, The Chosen is a Christian drama series based on the life and ministry of Jesus, as seen by those who interact with him, including the disciples, religious leaders, and others. Heather's review follows:

I have discovered an excellent podcast in The Bible Recap, hosted by Tara-Leigh Cobble, as well as its phone app with Bible study plans. One such 30-day plan takes snippets of The Chosen with accompanying devotional and scripture. The second lesson sees a despairing woeful Mary about to drown herself in drink before Jesus draws near to her. She runs from him and stops when Jesus calls Mary by her true name as a Child of God. From Isaiah 43:1 he tells her

"I have redeemed you. I have called you by name. You are mine."

And Mary is healed.

With the magnificent production values of The Chosen in its cast, music and storytelling, the creators let the words of Scripture jump off the page and into the scene. We get to hear the living Word of God as in another dimension, renewed and animated. The devotional brings us into our modern day world where we are called many things while being easily distracted from who we truly are.

"I have called you by name. You are mine."

Heather H.

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
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

ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH-ON-THE-CANAL

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Lisa Platanitis, Director of Music/Choir
Liesl Crehan, Pianist/Organist
Kimberly Leahy, Parish Administrator
Robin Higgins, Newsletter Editor

2025 Vestry

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Alan Kershaw, Treasurer...508-224-4018
Patti Metcalf, Clerk...508-685-5582
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