

The Wave - FEBRUARY 2018

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

FROM THE RECTOR
The Reverend Sue Lederhouse

DO YOU WANT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE BIBLE??

It has been our practice at St. Peter's during the Lenten season to offer a Lenten Study – a time to explore a topic in depth. Over the years, we've had a number of different topics – for instance, we've looked at Holy Week, Forgiveness, Wilderness, and the "I AM" statements of John.

This year, we're going to take a look at the Bible. I'm labeling this study "Bible for Dummies" after the popular series of books that start with the basics about a topic, but it's really designed for anyone who wants to learn more about what's in the Bible. Obviously we can't cover EVERYTHING in a 6 week study, but we will explore some basic concepts and try to get everyone a little more comfortable with also doing more study on their own. We'll be using as our primary text a book called **HOW CAN ANYONE READ THE BIBLE? A Little Book of Guidance** by The Rev. L. William Countryman. Father Countryman is an Episcopal priest and retired Professor of New Testament at the Church Divinity School of the Pacific in California. Chapter titles include: How can anyone read the Bible, How do I get started, What should I expect to find, Some suggested approaches, and What does it all mean.

We're also going to try a new time for this Lenten Study. In past years, we've held it on Thursday evenings, but we're going to try a new time this year: **Thursday afternoons from 2-3:30 p.m.** I hope this will be an easier time for people who don't want to be out after dark or who have problems driving.

Above all, this is a class in which all levels of Bible familiarity are welcome! **YOU DON'T NEED TO FEEL LIKE YOU'RE A BIBLE SCHOLAR – YOU DON'T NEED TO KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THE BIBLE!**

John Chrysostom was a preacher of some acclaim in the late fourth and early fifth centuries. He urged his congregation of old to "dive into" the Scriptures, but then added, "Don't simply dive into them. Swim in them." This Lenten Study will hopefully give you the tools to be able to "swim" in the Scriptures with some greater ease.

Check out the article about the study in this month's WAVE and sign up in the Narthex to be part of this Study. And as always, talk to me if you have questions.

Blessings on your Lenten journey!

Sue Lederhouse+

THE DEACON'S CORNER

“He who would, in this Month, be warm within,
And when abroad, from Wet defend his Skin,
His Morning's draught should be of Sack or Sherry,
And his Great Coat be made of Drab-de-berry”

So advises the satirical 17th Century writer 'Ned' Ward (1667-1731). The “Drab-de-Berry” he refers to is a heavy woolen cloth made in Berry, France. Of course, he prescribes sherry only for medicinal purposes, to drive away the winter chill. Me, I'm a tea man. In fact, I'm sipping a cuppa right now. By now we're all ready to endure the worst that winter can throw at us. We're also preparing for Lent which is almost upon us. What Lenten discipline will we take on or what will we give up? We venture outdoors less frequently now, to cook meals at Friendly Kitchen, to Vestry Meetings, to visit the sick, and to attend services at Olde St. Pete's, hard by the Canal, to name a few instances. At least that's what some of us are doing. Other have fled to the warm weather in Florida. Still others are wondering why they didn't do the same.

What's old Bud up to you ask? As I suspected, he's found a comfy patch of sunlit thick carpet. He's snoozing away, every once in a while emitting a low rumbling growl which is a sure sign he's contented. He's dreaming the dreams of the just as he chases things only he can see. Bud is a natural contemplative sort. Not hard to guess how he will observe Lent. Right now, I'm settled at my computer, answering e-mails, writing this article, and collecting notes for a sermon. Plenty to keep me busy right now. Hope you're beginning to think about Lent too.

When is Lent? The beginning and end of the 40 days of Lent is calculated based on a Lunar Calendar, so it doesn't fall on the same day each year. This year it starts on February 14, or **Ash Wednesday**, with the imposition of ashes, and ends on Saturday, March 31. Sundays are not counted in the 40 days.

The day before **Ash Wednesday** is referred to as **Mardi Gras**, or “**Fat Tuesday**.” It's the last day for celebrations prior to Lent. We Episcopalians call it **Shrove Tuesday**. Traditionally, we celebrate with a pancake dinner. Why Pancakes? Because Pancakes are made with rich ingredients like eggs, cream, butter, and maple syrup. We're clearing all those rich ingredients out of our refrigerators and cupboards because we will abstain from eating such rich foods for the next 40 days. At least some of us will. Some Christian denominations don't observe Lent at all.

What is Lent all about? Lent begins a season of penitence and prayer. It is a time of spiritual preparation for Easter, the most important religious holiday for Christian believers. By observing the 40 days of Lent, Christians replicate Jesus' withdrawal into the desert for 40 days following His Baptism. It's also about His self-sacrifice for our sake. Lent is marked by fasting, both from rich food and drink, and from merry-making. But Lent doesn't necessarily have to be solely about self-denial. If we're not careful, that way can lead to pride in the sacrifices we make. There's a danger there. I think we can also observe Lent by deliberately taking on new ministries or going on retreats, or engaging in practices aimed at helping us to grow spiritually. In the early Church, the 40 days of Lent was a time of preparation for Baptism. No matter what Lenten discipline you observe this year, keep the reason for observing Lent in mind all the time. It's not about what we give up. It is a serious time, a time to reflect on our own baptismal promises, and recommit ourselves to the work of following Christ. See you on the road!

Deacon Bob

VISIBLE VESTRY

The Vestry had their monthly meeting on Monday, January 15, 2018.

1. We experienced some frozen pipe problems during the last cold spell in the bathroom near the kitchen. The back- door lock also froze. We had to raise the heat in the building during the week.
2. We still need to place twelve-inch numbers on the front of our building to meet Fire Department code requirements.
3. We had an amazing attendance on December 24 with the 4 Advent service in the morning and the two Christmas Eve services in the evening with a total attendance that day/night =215!!! Several Friendly Kitchen folks attended the 8pm service. Thank you to all who attended and participated in these wonderful services.
4. Our average Sunday attendance for 2017 was 104, up from 102 last year!!!
5. We had a wonderful baptism January 7 and will have 2 more expected in February and more to come after Easter.
6. We also had a fabulous first (since Rev. Sue has been with us) wedding ceremony on January 13. Congratulations to Matthew Bruce and Emma Williams and of course adorable William!!
7. Larry Higgins and Len Hathon attended a Safety and Security workshop for churches on January 11 in Taunton and Len wrote an excellent summary of the workshop and things that we can do as a church to improve our security. It will be a discussion topic at the Vestry Retreat.
8. Don't forget our Annual Meeting on January 28 with a pot luck brunch. There will be one 9:00 service that Sunday.
9. Vestry has approved the 2018 budget to be presented at the Annual Meeting. Thank you to all who made a pledge for 2018 and to our faithful donors. We now have 67 pledges totaling \$103,220. If you have not made your pledge yet, please prayerfully consider your support to St. Peter's. We need you!
10. Vestry will be planning their 2018 Retreat to be held on Saturday, February 10.
11. The Buzzards Bay Community Center had extensive damage due to the freezing temperatures and we have been approached by several groups about meeting at St. Peter's while the Community Center is closed. The Vestry had extensive discussion about a policy for housing these temporary groups. It was decided that these groups should pay the same amount as the regular AA groups that meet at St. Peter's which is \$35/week. Also all meetings should take place in the Parish Hall not in other parts of the building. The Vestry will also be reviewing the current policy and charges.
12. The Substance Abuse Prevention and Support Group met prior to the Vestry meeting and has plans to hold a Spaghetti Supper on March 2 to benefit the Bourne Substance Abuse Coalition. See additional article in this edition of the WAVE!
13. Robin Higgins reported on behalf of the Communications Team about the plan to start a regular "email blast" that will update parishioners about upcoming events and weather cancellations as well as regular announcements, Sunday worship assignments and scripture lessons.
14. Friendly Kitchen's new teams will start up this month. We are thankful for the new team leaders: Charlotte Daigle, Lynne Brune, and Merry Smythe as well as the continuing Taylor family team and the St. Margaret's holiday team.

Next Vestry Meeting will be part of our February Retreat.

Linda Masson, Senior Warden

SHROVE TUESDAY - FEBRUARY 13 - PANCAKE SUPPER AND GAMES

St. Peter's will observe Shrove Tuesday, **February 13** with a traditional Pancake Supper and Game Night starting at **6 p.m.** in Stephenson Hall. Please feel free to bring your friends and neighbors, and don't forget your favorite board games! We will also be "burying our Alleluias" again both in art work and in song. It will be a fun time for all. Please tell us how many will attend on the signup sheet in the Narthex.

AND A FEW WORDS ABOUT LENT AND OUR LENTEN WORSHIP

Lent starts VERY early this year. And it starts on a day that most people would not want to be fasting or starting their "giving up" routines. YES – this year Lent starts on Valentine's Day, February 14. What a day to begin our Lenten journey! Perhaps we'll have to have some chocolate to add to our Shrove Tuesday celebration on February 13! And if it's not ironic enough to have Valentine's Day as Ash Wednesday, we also have April Fool's Day (April 1) as Easter this year! One of the hardest things in Lent is to remember NOT to say Alleluias and that's why we'll bury them symbolically at our Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper.

Lent begins with our Ash Wednesday observances on February 14. We will have a spoken service with Imposition of Ashes and Eucharist at 12 noon. Then there will be a service with choir and Imposition of Ashes and Eucharist at 7 p.m.

On the First Sunday of Lent, **February 18**, we will use The Great Litany for the first part of each of the services. For each Sunday after that, through **March 18**, we will use the Penitential Order for the first part of each service. As we did in previous years, we will have a bulletin insert for this. At the 8 a.m. service during Lent, we will use Eucharistic Prayer I (p. 333); at the 10 a.m. service, we will use Eucharistic Prayer A (p. 361). The service music will be the same as we have used in previous years with a bulletin insert for your convenience.

Refreshment Sunday, the Fourth Sunday of Lent, is **March 11** and the strictures of Lent are a little relaxed. We use our rose vestments and altar hangings. We also have a special surprise this year. . . See the March WAVE for more information!

LENTEN STUDY STARTS FEBRUARY 15 - "BIBLE FOR DUMMIES"

How much do you know about the Bible? Want to know more? This is your chance! No one of us knows everything but all of us know something and this is your opportunity to learn something more!

For our Lenten Study this year, we will be using a book called HOW CAN ANYONE READ THE BIBLE? By The Rev. L. William Countryman, and Episcopal priest and retired New Testament Professor. This book is very user-friendly – not dense – and will be a good stepping off place for us. **This study will run on Thursday afternoons from February 14 through March 22 from 2:00 – 3:30 p.m.** The cost of the book is \$8. Please contact Rev. Sue if you have any questions. **SIGN UP IN THE NARTHEX TODAY!**

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY - FEBRUARY 12 & 26

At both of our Women's Bible studies in February, we will be studying Esther – a major character in the Old Testament and one of the few women who has a book of the Bible named after her! No previous Bible knowledge is required. A Bible is helpful but if you don't have one, we can provide one for you. The group normally meets on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month at 12:30 p.m. All women of the parish are invited. Bring a bag lunch and there will be coffee/tea and goodies provided.

MEN'S BREAKFAST GATHERING - FEBRUARY 17

The men of the parish will join together for breakfast and a time of food and fellowship at **8:00 a.m. on Saturday, February 17** at Leo's Restaurant, 249 Main Street, Buzzards Bay, for a time of food and fellowship. All men of the parish are cordially invited to attend. Contact Ken Lihzis (Klihzis@gmail.com / 774-212-0453) for more information.

HEALING SERVICE - FEBRUARY 18

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, February 18, at 9 a.m.**

SPAGHETTI SUPPER - MARCH 2

The St. Peter's Substance Abuse Prevention and Support Group is planning a Spaghetti Supper on **Friday, March 2, at 6:00 p.m.** to benefit the work of the Bourne Substance Abuse Coalition. Admission will be \$10 for adults and \$5 for children up to age 10. Because it is a benefit, donations of food for the dinner will also be appreciated. Look for the sign up sheets in the Narthex and for more information in the Sunday bulletins. Thank you for your support to help in the work to stop the opioid crisis in our community!

WOMEN OF THE SPIRIT RETREAT - JULY 20-22, 2018

Women of the Parish: Does a spiritual retreat this summer sound interesting? If so, please join us for a relaxing 3-day get-away to a charming Country Inn in Vermont with like-minded women to explore spirituality in our life experiences, attend services at the Weston Priory and be pampered with delicious meals provided at the Inn. The retreat has been an annual event attended by women of St. Peter's and other parishes. In 2018, the program will be led by Deacon Sharon Powers. For more details, please speak to Priscilla Ellis (508-563-7786 or cpellis59@comcast.net) or Nancy Sherwood 508-540-5817 or nsherwood114@gmail.com). A meeting will be held in February for those interested. Watch for more information.

WHO WROTE THAT HYMN? "SHALL WE GATHER AT THE RIVER"

Robert Lowry 1826-1899: "Music, with me has been a side issue. I would rather preach a Gospel sermon to an appreciative audience than to write a hymn. I have always looked upon myself as a preacher and felt a certain depreciation when I began to be known more as a composer." He may not have liked it, but he certainly is more remembered for his many wonderful hymns: "We're Marching to Zion," "I Need Thee Every Hour," "Nothing but the Blood of Jesus," and "Christ Arose," just to name a few of his famous hymns. Of interest is that he had at times, during his lifetime, partnered with Fanny Crosby, whom I wrote about in the June 2017 WAVE, who wrote "Blessed Assurance".

At the age of 17, Robert became a Baptist and at age 28 graduated from the University of Lewisburg (now Bucknell) with highest honors. Over the next 45 years, he pastored many churches in Pennsylvania, New York, and New Jersey. From 1869 on, he was a teacher, then chancellor at his alma mater. He was known as a brilliant and interesting speaker with a high sense of humor and his vivid descriptions were inspiring to others. He had a great love of instruments from an early age and when older possessed one of the finest musical libraries in the country, having some in his collection that were over 150 years old.

He came to write "Shall We Gather at the River" late in the Civil War while he was lying prostrate from the heat. His mind began to think of that passage from Revelation that describes the river flowing from the throne of God. He stated, "I began to wonder why the hymn writers had said so much about the 'river of death' and so little about the 'pure water of life clear as crystal proceeding out of the throne of God and the Lamb'. Shall we be among the privileged number who stand before the throne singing the praises of the Savior," he asked himself. He answered his own question with, "Yes, we'll gather!" That became the foundation of this hymn.

He said of this hymn: "It is brass band music, has a march movement and for that reason has become popular, though for myself, I don't think much of it." He did admit though to having been moved on occasion by hearing it sung. He relates a story that while traveling to Lewisburg, he got into a car filled with half drunken lumbermen. "One of them starting singing 'Shall We Gather at the River.' They sang it over and over repeating the chorus in a wild and boisterous way." He said he did not think much of the hymn then listening to that, but he said he did think that "perhaps the spirit of the hymn, although flippantly uttered, might survive and be carried over into the lives of those careless men, and ultimately lift them upward to the realization of the hope expressed in my hymn." I'm sure if they realized who was riding with them that day, they would have toned their singing down considerably!!!

I don't imagine that Rev. Lowry would have appreciated how his famous hymn and melody has been used and even abused over the years, in so many other different ways as well:

1. It was one of Director John Ford's favorite hymns and he and other Directors used it in many Western films from 1939 to current times such as: "Stagecoach," "Tobacco Road," "My Darling Clementine," "Three Godfathers," "The Searchers," "The Oregon Trail." "Cat Ballou," "Major Dundee," "The Wild

Bunch,” “Hang ‘Em High,” and “Jeremiah Johnson,” as well as many other films.

2. The melody was used in Sweden in 1876 for another popular revivalist movement hymn, “O, how blessed it is to walk.” Another song to the same melody, partly mocking the religious message of the Swedish original, is one of the most popular drinking songs at Swedish universities.

3. In 1937, the tune was adopted in Japan to a popular Enka song, which was parodied into a juvenile song about the testicles of the tanuki. Strangely enough, this song remains popular among Japanese children and adults to this day. Yikes!

4. The University of Antioquia in Medellin, Colombia uses the same melody in its official song.

When asked once about his method of composition: “Do you write the words to fit the music or the music to fit the words,” he replied: “I have no method.” He explained that he watched his moods and if something good struck him, words or music, no matter where he was, he jotted it down in the margin of a newspaper or it could be the back of an envelope. He said there was music running through his brain, at all times, like a spinning machine. He didn’t pick the tune by using an instrument, but wrote it all on paper before trying it on an organ. And frequently the words of the hymn and the music were written at the same time.

No matter how he created his many beautiful hymns, he was clearly a gifted composer and his hymns will live on for generations to come. “Shall We Gather at the River”, is found in our multi-colored *Lift Every Voice and Sing* (LEVAS) Hymnal #141.

Wikipedia and other links provided the information summarized to write this article.

Linda Masson, Senior Warden

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 February, we are collecting paper products.** 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.

WOODEN REPLICAS OF ST. PETER’S CHURCH FOR SALE

Small wooden replicas of St. Peter’s Church are available for purchase. The price is \$15.00 each. Please make your check payable to St. Peter’s or pay in cash. If you have any questions, please contact the Church Office (508-759-5641).

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!

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!

BOOK BIN AVAILABLE

Don't forget our book bin when you're clearing your shelves! Bring in your books, DVDs, CDs, records, and video games and see them provide additional funds for St. Peter's! We receive 3c/pound for all the acceptable materials deposited in the bin. **No encyclopedias, magazines, Readers Digest condensed books, newspapers, VHS tapes or audio cassettes, board games and toys, or anything wet and moldy.** Thanks for your donations and tell your friends and neighbors!

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 (February 21), 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 (February 14), from 2:00-3:30 p.m., at the Barnstable Senior Center, 825 Falmouth Rd., Hyannis.

WOMEN'S RECOVERY GROUP: For any woman needing help with addiction to alcohol or drugs: Meets weekly on Thursdays at 6 p.m. at the Bourne Community Center, 229 Main Street, Buzzards Bay. [NOTE: COMMUNITY CENTER IS CLOSED FOR REPAIRS AT PRESENT TIME].

ALZHEIMER'S & DEMENTIA CAREGIVER EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT GROUP: Meets on the 2nd & 4th Wednesdays from 10:00-11:30 a.m. at the Bourne Community Center, 229 Main Street, Buzzards Bay. [NOTE: COMMUNITY CENTER IS CLOSED FOR REPAIRS AT PRESENT TIME].

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 **February** issue is Friday, **February 16**. Send all articles to Susan Hebb at susanhebb@comcast.net

FEBRUARY 2018

6	Tuesday	6:30 p.m.	Buzzards Bay Water District
10	Saturday	9 – 3	Vestry Retreat
11	Sunday	10:00 a.m.	Baptisms
12	Monday	12:30 p.m. 3:30 p.m.	Women’s Bible Study Substance Abuse Prevention Group
13	Tuesday	6:00 p.m.	Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper
14	Wednesday	12:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Ash Wednesday Service Ash Wednesday Service
15	Thursday	2:00 p.m.	Lenten Study
16	Friday		NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
17	Saturday	8:30 a.m.	Men’s Breakfast Gathering
18	Sunday	9:00 a.m.	Healing Service
21	Wednesday	11 – 1:30	Bourne Senior Cyclists
22	Thursday	2:00 p.m.	Lenten Study
25	Sunday	9:00 a.m.	Special Vestry Meeting
26	Monday	12:30 p.m.	Women’s Bible Study

Upcoming Dates

March 2	Spaghetti Supper	March 25	Palm Sunday
March 30	Good Friday	April 1	Easter
April 28	Diocesan Altar Guild	May 20	Pentecost

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

P. O. Box 265 / 165 Main Street
Buzzards Bay, MA 02532
Phone: 508-759-5641
Web: saintpetersbb.org
E-mail: saintpeters@verizon.net

Staff

The Rev. Sue Lederhouse, Rector
E-mail: lederhouse@msn.com
The Rev. Bob Sherwood, Deacon
E-mail: rsherwood522@gmail.com
Lisa Platanitis, Music Director
Bruce Lederhouse, Organist
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	Len Hathon.....	774-678-0169
Priscilla Ellis, Assistant Treasurer.....	508-563-7786	Emily Johnson.....	774-454-2446
Robin Higgins, Clerk.....	413-329-4651	Merry Smythe.....	508-287-1540