



ST. PETER'S WAVE SEPTEMBER, 2025

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

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

When I began Interim Ministry at St. Gabriel's in Marion during the Fall of 2019 the Bishop asked me to do the intentional training for Interim Ministry. Covid had started in the Spring of 2020, so I had to do the training with another group of clergy, all online via zoom.

It was a very rich time each week we gathered. And it certainly was valuable, especially after the covid shutdown ended, and when I came to St. Peter's from St. Gabriel's in May 2021.

We studied and discussed five important steps in the interim- history, mission, leadership, connections, future. I plan to share my reflections on these five areas for St. Peter's as we move ahead into a new "program year" season this month.

These will be substituted into the Wave Liturgical Notes spot each month. I hope they will be helpful as we move into St. Peter's future.

September is always filled with new beginnings- school, sports, meetings, etc. Many people begin to plan for the winter- sometimes leaving New England for the South for many months. I love September as we look ahead. Let us continue "looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our Faith..." (Hebrews 12:2).

Grace, Peace, Love,
Bob



on Interim Ministry

For the next several issues of Wave I will share my own perspective on 5 areas congregations need to "study" as they go through transitions: 1. Story/ history 2. Mission 3. Leadership 4. Connections 5. Future. In this September issue, I will look at our Story and History - Part I, "Founding and Growth," 1938-1998 Part II, "Decline, Crisis, Recovery, 1999-2025, will be in the October Wave.

Founding and Growth, 1938-1998

Episcopalians in Buzzards Bay gathered together in 1938 to start a mission named St. Peters Church. They met in a community hall under the leadership of Archdeacon Howard Bartow until being led by Fr. Samuel Stephenson in 1944. Working with the Bishop, Fr. Stephenson arranged for an unused church building in Hull to be shipped on a barge down Massachusetts Bay, and through the Cape Cod Canal to Buzzards Bay. Thus, in 1947 St. Peter's was "planted" on Main St.

Two Quonset huts from Otis Air Force Base were added, along with several repairs and additions and the little congregation began to grow. Fr. Stephenson accepted another call in 1951 and for the next 7 years the Mission church was led by 2 faithful Priests. In 1958 Fr. Stephenson returned and helped the parish to grow and achieve Parish Status in 1965.

After Fr. Stephenson retired in 1968, the parish was led by 2 rectors for the next 14 years, the second being Fr. Phil Jacobs who served several parishes in the Diocese before retiring in Mattapoisett. It is unclear why the years 1982 - 1988 were filled with changing clergy leadership. Fr. Richard Signore was called in 1988 and served at St Peter's for 16 years.

After achieving Parish Status in 1965, St Peter's enjoyed steady growth, as did the Episcopal Church nationally. Even with the changes and turmoil of the 1970's St. Peter's grew. On Easter Sunday 1989 attendance at the 8am service was 56; 193 attended at 10am. Many long-time parishioners remember active ministries with Sunday School, youth groups, classes, and all kinds of programs.

All this began to change in the late 1990's and early 2000's. On Easter Sunday in 2004 attendance at 8am was 40; at 10am 118. The numbers 7 weeks later on Pentecost are even more revealing- 23 at 8am, 68 at 10am. Many factors led to the growth of St. Peter's for 60 years from 1938 to 1998. The 3 main contributors were the growth of Buzzards Bay and the surrounding areas; steady clergy and lay leadership; overall national and regional expansion of the Episcopal Church.

Fr. Bob+



AUGUST 2025

Finances look good due to combining pledges, donations and loose plate

We have notified the diocese that the updated by-laws have been approved by the congregation

Flood lights have been installed around the stained-glass windows so they shine at night and can be seen from outside

The columbarium has arrived – it will be installed soon

The organ was serviced

The trim around the stained-glass windows needs to be replaced

The front door has been repaired and repainted

St. Peter has left the boat – to be repaired, restored and fiber glassed

The pre-school rent was increased for the next year

We discussed delegates for the convention

There will be one service 8/31 followed by a “sharing banquet” – the service will be Rite I

Canal Day is 9/20 – so far plans have included free popcorn, free snow cones, donation parking, tours of the church, hopefully jams and jellies, and Aaron’s Trolley. If you would like to help, please contact Amy Farris

Stewardship campaign will start in October

The Bishop will be at St. David’s, Yarmouth in September - we will try to get a group together to attend

There is nothing new to report from the Search Committee

We are seeking an Outreach Project – any suggestions?

SAM – on hiatus until the fall



CAPE COD CANAL DAY

Canal Day will be held on Sat., Sept. 20. Thousands of people will be in town to celebrate. In the past St. Peter’s has offered parking for a donation, jams & jellies. This year we would like to expand on that! We will be offering popcorn, Lisa & Liesl will provide music, and Aaron’s food truck “Trolley Bites” will be on site. We would also like to offer tours of the church, showcasing our unique connection to the canal. Sounds like a blast! But we can only do this with your help. Please contact Amy Farris at amyreads42@gmail.com to offer your support! “Many hands make light work”.



“Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord; let us shout aloud to the rock of our salvation.” ~Psalm 95.

The scriptures encourage us to use music... a gift from our Creator. We are truly blessed at St. Peter’s to have such a wonderful group of musicians and dedicated choir members to lead us in lifting up our praises to God. Although choir has been on hiatus for the summer, we welcome their return back to singing on September 7th at the 10 AM Eucharist. If you are interested in joining the choir, please see one of the choir members after the service for more details.

On August 19th, we held a successful event called Tunes and Tacos. We warmly welcomed the delicious food from Aaron Willey's famous Trolley Bites and the rocking music of Cricket and the Hearths-Tones. With our bellies full and toes a tappin, it was a great time had by all. Thank you to all who came out and participated in this gathering! We are looking forward to more adventures like this...so keep your eye out for upcoming events in the Wave and on Facebook.

Looking ahead, on September 25th @ 5:30 PM, St. Peter's is invited to join in a special event held at St. David's Episcopal Church in South Yarmouth. Our new Bishop, Julia Whitworth will be visiting St. David's for a "Revival" service with music and prayer. If you are interested in attending a carpool or other transportation will be available. This is a wonderful opportunity to meet with the Bishop as well as engage with a sibling- church in our diocese. Please keep your eye out for updates on this special liturgy.

God has so many good things in store for the community of St. Peter's. I'm looking forward to another year of "Singing and making melody in our hearts to the Lord!" Let our praises resound!

Peace,

Lisa Platanitis 🎵
Director of Music



Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Did you know that all 13 of St. Paul's Letters contain the words Grace and Peace although in slightly different forms and he sometimes adds on Mercy to make it a three-fold greeting? He used words like Grace, Peace and Mercy because Paul experienced them and wanted others to do also. I wonder how it would be today if we greeted one another in the ways of St. Paul with Grace, Peace and Mercy. We have so much we can learn from all the Saints/saints we encounter on our journey.

I am very excited to begin my second year at General Theological Seminary! And yes, if you didn't already guess, this semester my course schedule includes New Testament I. In addition-my classes include- Introduction to Theology- Faith, Forgiveness and Social Justice, Christian Mission and Many Religions I & II and Liturgical Music and Arts. I will continue my dual internship at St. Peter's and St. David's. Indeed a full schedule!

I am thankful for the promises that God has made to us and I am encouraged and strengthened by the scriptures... "For I can do all things through Christ who gives me the strength" (Phil 4:13).

Please keep me in your prayers... 🙏

"I thank my God each time I think of you, and when I pray for you, I pray with joy"~ St. Paul

Peace and Joy,
Lisa Platanitis
St. Peter's Seminarian



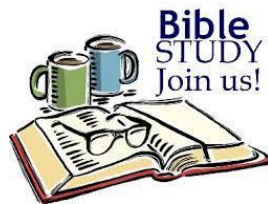
We would like to thank the parish for their continuing support through our collection jar on the second Sunday of every month. We have no meetings currently scheduled; we will attempt to regroup in the fall.

The Bourne Substance Free Coalition recently installed Narcan Stations at the high schools for emergency use if needed and again participated in the warning label program with local package stores. They also helped to put on an alcohol free after prom party at the community center.

Recently on Channel 5, WCVB there was an investigative report about the harmful effects of marijuana on young people. There have been some serious mental health issues with heavy use, especially if used as a vape. Please check out www.wcvb.com/investigates.

If you would like to learn more about our mission, please contact one of our members. There has been some concern mentioned about the time that we meet. If you have any suggestions on a different time for when we re-group in fall, please let one of our members know your thoughts on the matter.

Sincerely Submitted,
Substance Abuse Prevention & Support members: Celeste & Jim Hankey, Jane & Jim Lema,
Nancy & Bob Sherwood, Donna Beers, Larry Higgins, Diane Bergeron, and Connie Morrison.



WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY will resume on Wednesday, Sept. 3. We gather at noon for lunch and fellowship. At 12:30 we get serious. Well, sort of! We study a different woman from the Bible, and discuss the culture then and now. The conversation can get quite lively! All women of the parish are invited to join us. Please see Nancy Kennedy or Linda Masson to learn more!

WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY will resume on Tuesday, Sept. 16 at 11am. We study the lessons for the upcoming week and review the lessons of the last week. All are invited to attend. Please see Fr. Bob to learn more!

PRAYER FOR A NEW RECTOR/SEARCH PROCESS

O God, you know us better than we know ourselves. Guide us in our search for a new clerical leader. empower each one of us to use our unique ministries, to share openly and honestly our thoughts, to respect the opinions of others, and to encourage humility, patience, and joy. Instill in us a vision of the Church's family; that guided by your Holy Spirit, we will be united in love and joyfully accomplish this mission of discovering the one you have called to serve with us as our rector. All this we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

RECURRING EVENTS

Sundays: 8am - Holy Eucharist Rite I
 10am - Holy Eucharist Rite II w/music
 (unless otherwise noted)
Tuesdays: 11am - Bible Study (resumes Sept. 16)
Thursdays: 8:30am – TOPS
1st Saturday, 8:30am - Men's Breakfast (resumes in Oct.)
2nd Monday, 2:22pm - Substance Abuse Team (on hiatus)
3rd Tuesday, 5:00pm – Vestry
1st & 3rd Wednesday, 12n – Women's Bible Study (resumes Sept. 3)

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

165 Main St., PO Box 265
Buzzards Bay, MA 02532
508-759-5641

Email: saintpeters@verizon.net
Website: www.saintpetersbb.org

Staff

The Reverend Robert Malm, Interim Rector 703-772-7667
Lisa Platanitis, Director of Music/Choir
Liesl Crehan, Pianist/Organist
Kimberly Leahy, Parish Administrator
Robin Higgins, Newsletter Editor

2025 Vestry

Celeste Hankey, Sr. Warden...617-710-5346
Alan Kershaw, Treasurer...508-224-4018
Patti Metcalf, Clerk...508-685-5582
Amy Farris....978-831-2021
Connie Morrison...978-259-8068
Melissa Scannell...508-566-1594

Mark Taylor, Jr. Warden...508-863-1259
Kathy Letzeisen, Asst. Treasurer...617-755-9357
Patrick Davin....508-496-0863
Jack Kennedy...508-291-138
Elaine Robinson....774-521-7959