

The Wave - MAY 2017

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

FROM THE RECTOR The Reverend Sue Lederhouse

How is your Easter JOY? Do you still have it or has it gone flying away?

It's awfully hard to hold onto joy. So often it gets lost and trampled upon by the major events of the world and the people around us. Those people – those things - that try to persuade us that this world is not a joyful place and that we have no right to be joyful when there are so many joyful things going on around us.

But most of all our joy gets trampled by the day to day stuff of our lives. Joy gets lost in the routine and mundane. We need to cultivate joy, not let it slip away.

Many people would be amazed to discover how many references to joy can be found in the Old Testament. For many, the Old Testament is a harsh series of writings that are distinctly unjoyful. Yet if you consult a concordance, joy runs like wildfire throughout the Old Testament, particularly in the Psalms. For instance in Psalm 95, we read: "Come let us sing to the Lord, let us shout for **joy** to the Rock of our salvation." And then in Psalm 100, "Make a **joyful** noise unto the Lord."

Jesus speaks joy to the people He encounters throughout His earthly ministry as well. And throughout many of Paul's letters, we have references to joy. In his letter to the Galatians, he reminds us that the fruit of the spirit begin with love and joy (5:22).

A wise priest and mentor of mine advised me long ago: "Don't let Satan steal your joy." And that's still good advice for all of us. Don't let the evil forces of this world steal your joy. Hold onto it, cultivate it, and share it!

In this Easter season, I offer you these words from our *Book of Common Prayer* (p. 60, 73, 102, and 126) and from Paul's Letter to the Romans (15:13): "May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing through the power of the Holy Spirit."

God's bountiful blessings and joy be with you –

Sue Lederhouse+

THE DEACON'S CORNER

*"Long stormy spring-time, wet contentious April, winter chilling the lap of very May;
but at length the season of summer does come." Thomas Carlyle*

It may be that the gloom of winter and "Mud Season" has departed at last, but people here are like Sam McGee in Robert Service's poem, *The Cremation of Sam McGee*, who hasn't been warm "since he left Plumtree, down in Tennessee." We can't remember the last time that we were warm. Also, we hardened Cape Codders aren't quite ready to be taken in by a few crocus blossoms and a warm breeze or two. Nosiree! Like a Doubting Thomas, we want a solid week or two of 70 degree weather and clear, sunny days before we'll believe.

Well, whether we believe or not, the calendar says that May is upon us. Mother's Day, Memorial Day, baseball, hot dogs, apple pie, and all that stuff are just around the corner, doo-dah, doo-dah!

The Church calendar tells us that May 1st is the Feast Day of St. Philip and St. James, Apostles. Not much is known about the Apostle James. He was definitely NOT James the Brother of Jesus, or James, who with his brother John, was known by Jesus as "The Sons of Thunder." In fact, he is often referred to as James "the Lesser" to avoid confusing him with those other two named James. The Apostle Philip came from the same town (Bethsaida) as Peter and Andrew, probably also a fisherman. He is often confused with Philip the Deacon. Called directly by Jesus, he immediately went and told Nathaniel (another Apostle sometimes known as Bartholomew) about Jesus, whereupon Nathaniel famously responded: "*Can anything good come out of Nazareth?*" Like James, Philip gets very little mention in the New Testament.

Ascension Day, the 40th day of Easter, is the date when we celebrate the bodily ascension of Jesus. The earliest possible day it can be celebrated is April 30th, and the latest is June 3rd. This year, we celebrate the day on May 25th. The three days preceding Ascension Thursday are referred to as "**Rogation Days**", and the preceding Sunday as "**Rogation Sunday**". Rogation is a Latin word meaning "to ask". They are days of fasting and prayer when we ask for God's blessing or his mercy. Rogation Sunday is the day when the Church has traditionally asked God's blessing on the fruits of the earth and the labors of the workers who grow them.

May 31st, the Feast of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, commemorates the visit of Mary (Mother of Jesus) to her Cousin Elisabeth (Mother of John the Baptist).

There's also a note here that says I'm preaching on Mother's Day. First time I've ever done that. Ought to be fun! I also have a birthday in May. I'm keeping it low key though so as not to get Buddy upset again. He's still having a "hissy" because I forgot to ask you to pray for him on his birthday back in April.

Yes, I think spring has definitely come to Cape Cod. St. Peter's attendance is up. There are more new faces in the congregation. Warm breezes are definitely blowing here, and people are beginning to take notice. We need to give that a nudge though. Have you ever noticed how many people are regular members of the congregation because a friend invited them? Reminds me of a wonderful story a friend told me once about the time a pretty girl called him up on Sunday and invited him to go to church with her. He became a regular attendee, a regular church-going man, as a result. People just naturally want to be part of a group of people who genuinely love, care for, and support one another. They especially enjoy being personally invited to join in. It isn't all that hard. Invite someone! Make a stranger feel welcome and glad to be here. Pays big dividends. Works every time!

Peace, Deacon Robert Sherwood

WHO WROTE THAT HYMN?

According to Wikipedia, this is how it all began:

“Horatio Gates Spafford (1828 – 1888) was a prominent and successful American lawyer/businessman and Presbyterian church elder. He lived in Chicago with his wife Anna and 5 children. Their young son died of pneumonia in 1871 and in that same year more tragedy struck his family when his business was lost in the great Chicago fire. By God’s grace Horatio brought his business back to success once more.

On November 21, 1873, his wife, Anna, and four daughters boarded the French ocean liner Ville du Havre for Europe. Horatio had to finish up some business at home, and was to meet up with them at a later time. Four days out to sea, the Ville de Havre, with its 313 passengers collided with the Scottish ship, the Loch Earn. The ship sank along with the four Spafford daughters. Anna was rescued and brought to Wales, where she immediately sent a telegram to her husband with the message “Saved alone, what shall I do?” Mr. Spafford later had that telegram framed and hung in his office. Another survivor, Pastor Weiss, heard Anna saying, “God save me, my four daughters have been taken from me, someday I will understand why!”

Mr. Spafford immediately booked passage to meet up with his grief-stricken wife. Four days out to sea, the Captain told him that this is the place where your children went down. According to Bertha Spafford Vester, a daughter born later after the tragedy, it was then that Horatio wrote the words to the hymn, “It is well (with my soul)”. Anna later had three more children and one died at 3 years old from scarlet fever in 1880. The Spaffords left the Presbyterian congregation and held faith-based prayer meetings in their home. Their Messianic sect was dubbed “The Overcomes” by the American press. They moved to Jerusalem in 1881 and set up the American Colony. The Colony members later joined by Swedish Christians engaged in philanthropic work among the people regardless of their religious affiliation. They gained the trust of Muslims, Jewish and Christian communities. They ran soup kitchens, hospitals and orphanages after World War I. Horatio died in 1888 of malaria and is buried in Jerusalem in Mount Zion Cemetery.”

I would guess that Mr. Spafford could never have known when he wrote those heartfelt words out of his great grief yet steadfast faith in God, that over 140 years later they would become a powerful message of faith and inspiration touching so many other hearts.

“It is Well With My Soul” was first published in 1876. It is in our “Lift Every Voice and Sing” (LEVAS) hymnal, hymn #188:

“When peace like a river, attendeth my way,
When sorrows like sea billows roll;
Whatever my lot, Thou has taught me to know
It is well, it is well, with my soul
Refrain:
It is well (it is well)
With my soul, (with my soul)
It is well, it is well, with my soul.”

We don’t always know God’s plan when we go through a wilderness experience, but what a blessed gift to others it might be if we have the faith to trust in Him. As with the Resurrection, these are two beautiful endings to two tragic stories. A message of how God’s love and grace will endure and bring new hope to all who believe. “And the peace of God which passes all understanding, shall keep your hearts, and your minds in Christ Jesus”. (Philippians 4:7) Linda Masson, Senior Warden

VISIBLE VESTRY

The Vestry met on April 17, 2017.

Bishop Alan Gates will be coming to St. Peter's on September 29 for a service of rededication in honor of the 70th anniversary of our church building coming down the Canal from Hull. More details to follow.

1. We have a new, and much needed upgraded copier in our church office.
2. We should have a new book bin from Big Hearted Books arriving soon. Stay tuned.
3. Our parish hall floor has now been stripped and waxed; thank you to Frank Walker for a great job! Thanks also to Henri Masson and Larry Higgins for assisting Frank with the removal of all the Parish Hall tables and chairs.
4. St. Peter's hosted a Deanery Clericus meeting on April 6. It was well attended.
5. Communion classes for our children ages 7+ will begin on April 23. We have three children who will be presented at the 10:00 service on Pentecost, June 4.
6. Our church had a very large funeral service on April 1 for Maureen Marzelli-White.
7. Village at Cataumet had an Easter craft on April 1 and Easter Baskets were presented to the children. Thank you to all who donated and assisted in making this a successful outreach event.
8. Our average Sunday attendance to date is 97 with 138 for Easter services.
9. Thank you to all who participated in the Holy Week Services. Special thanks to Bruce, Lisa, the choir and all our musicians for making the week extra special with beautiful music for the services.
10. Our Lenten Bible Study, "A Walk through the Wilderness: Growing in Faith when Life is Hard," by Pastor Rob Renfroe, has been completed and was enjoyed by all who participated.
11. Monday morning and the women's Bible studies continue to do well with an average of 12-15 participants.
12. Save the date of May 13 from 9-12 for our annual yard cleanup crew. Many hands make for light work and we have been fortunate to have anywhere from 12-15 folks volunteer over the past couple of years. The cleanup usually is completed within 3 hours. Please consider signing up to help. Deacon Bob tried to work out a team with the Mass Maritime cadets to assist us with the cleanup, but unfortunately, they could only do it during Holy Week, which didn't work for us. They are willing to try to coordinate a fall clean up date with us, when the cadets return to school.
13. The Vestry will again be researching lawn care businesses, as we have done in the past. Our lawn is in need of care and estimates in the past have been very expensive. If you know of anyone you could recommend who has a lawn care business, please see Rev. Sue.

14. Vestry members have been working hard on their story boards for the Ministry Fair, Sunday April 23 after each church service. We are praying that we have the volunteer support of the congregation for the many Mission Teams we are forming. If you can't make it to the Fair, ask Rev. Sue or any Vestry member for an overview and a handout explaining what each team has to offer that you might be interested in.

Linda Masson, Senior Warden

THANKS BE TO GOD FOR. . .

Everyone who participated musically in our Holy Week and Easter services – our choir, choir director, and organist and our other musicians: Matthew Bruce, Marc Fuller, and Ethan Watson. What a gift you are to all of us!

Our readers and chalice bearers and acolytes and ushers during Holy Week and Easter and for our Altar Guild who set up and took down and rearranged and polished and cleaned for all these different services.

Our new copier and for all the copies it made for the bulletins of Holy Week and Easter.

Our Secretary, Kathy Letzeisen, who typed and copied and collated and folded and for Robin Higgins who helped mightily.

Our working stove and those who were able to determine the source of the problem and fix it.

Those who took part in the Ministry Fair and who signed up to help in various areas.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY - MAY 1 & 22 @ 12:30 P.M.

Please note that because of various scheduling needs, we will be meeting on the FIRST and FOURTH Mondays this month. On **May 1**, we will continue our Easter journey with a look at the **Women at the Tomb**. On **May 22**, we will study **Sapphira**, who was part of the early Christian community that we read about in Acts. 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.

PANCAKE BREAKFAST RETURNS MAY 7 @ 9 A.M.

After our hiatus during Lent, Pancake Breakfast returns on **Sunday, May 7 at 9:00 a.m.** Come and join us for pancakes, scrambled eggs, sausages, juice and coffee. All of this served up with ample smiles by our dedicated Pancake Breakfast team.

HELP CLEAN UP OUR YARD - MAY 13 - 9 A.M. -12 NOON

Winter has taken its toll on our yard and we need to spruce it up for spring! Join with fellow parishioners to do some work on our front yard and other areas of our property. Bring your own tools and gloves. Many hands make light work! Sign up in the Narthex!

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES - MAY 14

Birthdays and anniversaries for the month of May will be celebrated at both services on May 14.

MEN'S BREAKFAST GATHERING - MAY 20 - 8 A.M.

The men of the parish will join together on **May 20** for breakfast and a time of food and fellowship at a new time and a new place beginning this month. The time is now **8:00 a.m. and the place is the Breakfast Nook on Cranberry Highway across from Lindsey's Restaurant.** The address is 3147 Cranberry Highway, East Wareham. All men of the parish are cordially invited to attend. For more information, please contact Ken Lihzis (Klihzis@gmail.com / 774-212-0453).

HEALING SERVICE - MAY 21 - 9 A.M.

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, May 21, at 9 a.m.**

MEMORIAL DAY SCHEDULE CHANGES

Memorial Day falls on **Monday, May 29**, this year. The office will be closed that day and there will be no Bible study. Thanks to our friends from St. Margaret's, Friendly Kitchen will be held as usual and dinner will be served at 5:15 p.m.

The Office **WILL** be open on **Tuesday, May 30** from 10-4 and Bible Study will be held at 11 a.m. that day.

LOOKING AHEAD TO PENTECOST

Pentecost is one of those “forgotten” holy days. It doesn’t get nearly the same kind of “press” as Christmas or Easter and yet it’s an important day when we think about the Church and the formation of Christian community. Like Easter, it’s a movable feast. In fact, the date of Pentecost depends on the date of Easter since it falls 50 days later. And since Easter was very late this year, so Pentecost is late this year as well. This year, it takes place on **JUNE 4**.

One of the great Pentecost traditions is to proclaim the Gospel in many different languages, mirroring that first Pentecost in which people heard the Apostles speaking to them in their own native languages. If YOU can speak another language and would like to help proclaim the Gospel in that language on **Pentecost Sunday, June 4 - at the 8 a.m. or 10 a.m. service**, please let me know by **MAY 21**. There will be a signup sheet in the Narthex beginning May 14. I will provide the reading for you.

At the 10:00 service, we also will welcome 3 of our children who have been part of the communion class this spring into a fuller understanding of the Holy Eucharist.

And remember the other Pentecost tradition – **WEAR RED TO CHURCH THAT DAY!** Let’s make the congregation a sea of red!

Sue Lederhouse+

SAVE THE DATE!! SEPTEMBER 29

St. Peter’s has a special anniversary this year! It has been 70 years since our church building sailed down on a barge through the Canal from Hull and became St. Peter’s home!

In honor of this anniversary, our Bishop, The Rt. Rev. Alan Gates, is going to come to St. Peter’s to preside at a service of rededication for the Church and for our ministry here in this place. Mark your calendar for the evening of **FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 29** – time to be announced!

Plans for this evening and for other events in September to celebrate this wonderful part of our history are in the works. If you would like to be part of the planning, please contact Reverend Sue. ALSO – if you were in Buzzards Bay at that time back in 1947 and remember anything about the building on the barge, let Rev. Sue know that, too. She’ll put you in touch with those who are working on this project.

INGATHERING FOR THE VILLAGE AT CATAUMET

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. **During the month of May, we will be gathering twin bed sheets, standard pillowcases, blankets and anything to help make a bed comfortable and pretty.** 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.

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!

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 (May 17), 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 (May 10), from 2:00-3:30 p.m., at the Barnstable Senior Center, 825 Falmouth Rd., Hyannis.

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 **June** issue is Friday, **May 19, 2017**. Send all articles to Susan Hebb at susanhebb@comcast.net

MAY 2017

1	Monday	12:30 p.m.	Women's Bible Study
7	Sunday	9:00 a.m.	Pancake Breakfast
13	Saturday	9 - 12	Cleanup Day
14	Sunday		Birthdays and Anniversaries Observed
15	Monday	7:00 p.m.	Vestry
19	Friday		NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
20	Saturday	8:00 a.m.	Men's Breakfast
21	Sunday	9:00 a.m. 11:30 a.m.	Healing Service Communion Class
22	Monday	12:30 p.m.	Women's Bible Study
29	Monday		Memorial Day – OFFICE CLOSED NO Bible Study
30	Tuesday	10 – 4 11:00 a.m.	Office Open Bible Study

Upcoming Dates

June 1	Deanery Meeting at St. Christopher's / Chatham
June 4	Pentecost / Presentation of Communion Class
June 5	Women's Luncheon
Sept 29	Rededication of church building / Bishop Gates visitation

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)
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
Bruce Lederhouse & Lisa Platanitis, Interim Musicians
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	Kathy Finnegan.....	508-563-3567
Priscilla Ellis, Assistant Treasurer.....	508-563-7786	Len Hathon.....	774-678-0169
Robin Higgins, Clerk.....	413-329-4651	Emily Johnson.....	774-454-2446
		Merry Smythe.....	508-287-1540