

THE WAVE AUGUST 2020

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

A MESSAGE FROM REV. PATTIE HANDLOSS

My dear friends,

One of the things I learned a long time ago but find hard to practice is "letting go". Life, yours and mine, becomes filled with things essential and non-essential. Things urgent and not so urgent. Usually everything gets bumped up to the urgent level. That is a recipe for nothing getting our full attention. Or a recipe for our bodies taking issue with our bad choices and demanding that we slow down.

Spiritually, if we are to be present in the lives of those around us, we need to cull the "urgent" matters to a few, maybe only two or three. We need to let go of the rest. Spiritually, if we want to be able to hear what God is saying to us, we MUST let go of all the things that distract us from God. There is a corny phrase, "Let go and Let God". Nothing could be truer for our spiritual life.

When I have spent time being scattered on many things, that time has not been time well spent. The gift of COVID is that I have had to slow down. The illness is not a gift but the time to pray and think and rest has been. I have refocused my energy to mainly listening and healing. I have stopped trying to be all things to all people. I am even getting rid of the strum and detritus of my life to make it simpler. I have stopped saying "yes" to most requests, taking on only the ones closest to my heart, that I believe God is calling me to do.

Richard Rohr writes about the "tyranny of the urgent". Illness takes that away. The rushing and constant worrying leaves. The mistakes made in the cyclone of urgency end. Instead there is a place for peace and contemplation and prayer.

It is of course, in the place of peace that healing begins. And so I leave you to heal, to figure out how to get rid of the lasting pieces of COVID. Contemplation, prayer, art and medical interventions will be the team that does the healing. Thank you for your prayers, cards and letters, chocolates and treats.

Blessings and Love, Pattie+

THANK YOU

Did you know that the office team led by Kathy Leitzen and assisted by Robin Higgins, and on occasion Celeste Hankey, during the time away were the ones who got the mailings out? Kathy stepped up to the plate and kept things going while I was sick and we have been on a COVID break. Thank you Kathy for a job well done.

Celeste made sure the ball stayed in the air during my time wrestling with COVID. Robin did extra work getting out the Sunday Blast and making it all lovely and wonderful. Talent indeed. Thank you so much. Sue Hebb did her always magnificent job with the Wave even when we all forgot the Wave was waving to us for articles. Nancy Moore became our garden design committee when she put the gorgeous geraniums in front of the church on the steps. Thank you Nancy. Mark Taylor made the lawn look good. Thank you, Mark. His mom, Jackie continues to recover at home from her stroke. Ken is recovering from his heart surgery.

Blessings and Love, Pattie+

THE VISIBLE VESTRY

The vestry meet for an informal updating meeting. Here is what we discussed:

Rev. Pattie Handloss's resignation – Rev. Pattie has resigned as a result of the impact the Covid 19 virus has had on her life. She needs time to recover and needs time to spend with her partner, Cathy and their good friend, Annie. Pattie's resignation will be effective August 6, 2020. The Vestry wishes Rev. Pattie, Cathy and Annie only the best and we are hoping for a speedy recovery for Rev. Pattie.

There was a Regrouping meeting via zoom and the group is starting to come up with a plan for reopening – but not before September.

The steeple is being taken down and replaced either the week of July 11th or July 18th. Sallies Garden will have a full clean up the second week in August.

Len Hathon is looking into the quotes to power wash the entire outside of St. Peter's – church, hall, Sallies Garden area.

Search Update – the deadline for receiving names has been extended to August 30th.

Friendly Kitchen is closed permanently.

Paper Pantry will start up again once we are able to restock – right now with limits on supplies we are unable to restock after one session. Hopefully soon.

Celeste Hankey, Senior Warden

SEARCH COMMITTEE NEWS

Greetings to All!

We hope you are staying happy, healthy and finding a cool place to enjoy this humid and hot summer. Our committee has been informed by the Diocese that the due date to receive clergy candidate applications has been extended from August 1st to September 1st due to the COVID pandemic. We will continue to review any applications as they are received, and meet together as needed. Please keep praying!

If you have access to a computer, you can find us at https://www.diomass.org/resources/parish_clergy_support/clergy_transition

You can also read our Parish Profile that we have prepared for candidates interested in applying for our clergy position.

Though we are not together right now, we ask each of you to continue to pray **The Guidance Prayer for a Parish that is in a search for a new clerical leader:**

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.

Yours In Christ,

Matthew Bruce, Larry Higgins, Nancy Kennedy, Elisabeth Kershaw, Jim Lema, and Patti Metcalf

NOTES FROM OUR PARISH SECRETARY, KATHLEEN LETZEISEN

MAIL CALL!

A reminder to use the **POST OFFICE BOX 265** address when mailing to the church. The post office will send back mail addressed to the Main Street address because we do not have a physical mailbox at the church.

READERS of FORWARD DAY-BY-DAY

Copies of Forward Day-By Day are available outside the back door of the church. Copies will be available there for pick up until we are able to resume indoor services. If you would like a copy but are unable to get here to pick one up, please let Kathy know (508-759-5641) and arrangements will be made to get one to you!

SAINT PETER'S SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND PREVENTION SUPPORT GROUP UPDATE

Please keep the Bourne and Wareham Substance Free coalitions in your prayers. We have not been meeting due to the Corona Virus precautions. The next meeting of our group will be in limbo until we get an all clear from the Diocese. Please hold all those who suffer from addiction and are in recovery in your prayers.

A large part of the recovery process is supported by the traditional 12-Step Group meetings. These groups have been unable to meet during the crisis and it must be difficult for them at this time.

AA meetings can now be available by phone 4 times a day, seven days a week, at 7:00 a.m., 12 noon, 2:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m., by calling 425-436-6360, Access #n422932. If you have loved ones or friends who are dealing with substance abuse issues, please try to have an open ear and an open heart to be there for them.

If you are concerned for a friend, family member or yourself, you can call the Massachusetts Substance Abuse Information and education Helpline at 1-800-327-5050.

We offer up this prayer from the Book of Common Prayer, page 831:

O blessed Lord, you ministered to all who came to you. Look with compassion upon all who, through addiction, have lost their health and freedom. Restore to them the assurance of your unfailing mercy; remove from them the fears that beset them; strengthen them in the work of recovery; and to those who care for them give patient understanding and preserving love. AMEN

Larry Higgins

DO YOU RECEIVE OUR WEEKLY E-MAILS?

Every week, St. Peter's sends out a weekly email which typically includes upcoming news and events, the lessons for the upcoming Sunday, a schedule of "servers" for the week, etc. This email is also used for notifications regarding deaths in the parish family, cancellations, and other timely news.

For the past several months, the content of the weekly emails has changed somewhat, and we have added a Sunday email with the link to our YouTube Morning Prayer service.

If you are NOT receiving the emails and would like to, please contact Robin Higgins at ptown.robin@yahoo.com. If you know of someone who is not receiving the email and might like to, please share this information with them! We can't just add someone to the email list – our email service requires that we have your permission to email you! We don't want anyone to miss out on events and news from the parish. Thank you!

Robin Higgins

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. Thanks for your help!

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.

PRAYER CHAIN

The Emergency Prayer Chain is up and running! When you have a prayer request, please contact 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.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The Newsletter Deadline for the **September 2020** issue is Friday, **August 21, 2020**. Send all articles to Susan Hebb at susanhebb@comcast.net.

St. Peter's Episcopal Church -on-the-Canal

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Staff

The Rev. Pattie Handloss, Interim Rector,
Phone: 508-380-9892
Lisa Platanitis, Music Director and Choir Director
Liesl Keller, Pianist and Organist
Kathy Letzeisen, Parish Secretary
Susan Hebb, Newsletter Editor

Vestry

Celeste Hankey, Senior Warden	617-710-5346	Alan Kershaw.....	508-224-4018
Len Hathon, Junior Warden.....	774-678-0169	Merry Smythe.....	774-404-0110
Dianne Cartmill, Treasurer.....	774-269-4348	Chuck Conway.....	617-877-1538
Lynne Brune, Assistant Treasurer.....	508-295-6146	Patti Metcalf.....	508-833-0170
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