

# The Lower Lights

St. Peter's-at-the-Light Episcopal Church, Barnegat, New Jersey 08006

August 2020

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Nancy Rudko, Jean Archer and Sue Hofer are pleased to introduce *The Lower Lights* to you. We will continue sending out this newsletter to all parishioners on a bi-monthly basis beginning August 2020. This is our first issue and we ask that you contact us if you have any questions or additional ideas for future issues! We welcome your assistance! In the event you have a major family gathering (difficult we know with the current COVID19 pandemic) or something else you wish to share with your fellow parishioners please do not hesitate to contact us.

We are pleased to provide you with the following updates from:

## **Rev. Lee Powers, Interim Vicar**

At the May Mission Committee meeting I was asked to assume additional duties as your Interim Priest and to work with them in having a Transition Steering Team formed to begin the process towards the calling of your next Vicar. This Team will work with the Bishop's staff in preparing a Search Profile that will describe St. Peter's Church, the community we serve the parish's history and ministries, our hopes for the future, and the gifts we think would be in a Priest who would lead us forward in ministry. The goal of this process is to advertise your position widely and provide prospective candidates the fullest amount of information to help them discern if our Lord is directing them to inquire about serving as your next Vicar. This process worked very well fifteen years ago in helping Fr. Don Turner learn about the opportunity for ministry at St. Peter's-at-the-Light. Our goal is to achieve that same good outcome.

Your Transition Steering Team has divided into four working groups. Below is a brief description of the work of each group, and who is serving in that function:

**Communications:** Jean Archer and Nancy Rudko: They are working on updating our members' contact information so that everyone is included in the sharing of information and the invitations to be part of the discernment process. With help from Allacen Rathbun, Catherine Cuff, and outside consultants, they are hoping to have an updated website and Facebook page and resume *The Lower Lights*. Having the updated website will enable visitors to be informed about what's happening at St. Peter's and provide a place where links can enable clergy to view our Profile and other helpful information. Nancy and Jean have made great progress as this edition of *the Lower Lights* attests. Watch for further information about the website and Facebook page in the updates that Nancy and Jean provide during our worship services.

**Finances and Property:** Joanne Kranch: She is working with the Treasurer, Bookkeeper and Jr. Warden to prepare a summary of our budget, financial resources and property, and gathering photos of the Vicarage for including in the Search Profile. The Vicarage was left in very good shape by Don and Candy, making it easier to freshen it up for its next occupant(s).

**Parish and Community Information:** Dottie Reynolds and Bob Schmidt are gathering historical documents and resources to prepare a narrative and visual material that will help clergy to know about our Parish's past and present facilities and ministry, and the nature of the communities we are called to serve on Long Beach Island and beyond. Also, information about the Diocese of New Jersey and the Atlantic Convocation will be added to the Search Profile.

**Congregational Gatherings:** Tony Bakum and Maribeth McGrover: Your participation in the gatherings that Tony and Maribeth organized enabled us to hear from our members about your

hopes and dreams for the future ministry we share at St. Peter's, and the gifts and experience we think would be most helpful in a Priest considering serving as your next Vicar. Hopefully, by the time you read this, you will have participated in one of the Congregational Gatherings, or have sent in your responses to the questions being explored at those gatherings. If it is determined that further information would be helpful, we may ask you to participate in an online survey that asks very specific questions.

Where are we headed? Hopefully, the work of these sub-groups will produce the Search Profile and begin the advertisement of the position of Vicar at St. Peter's Church by late August. In August the Mission Committee will form the Discernment Committee, who will take over the actual process of working with Canon Brian Jemmott in receiving and reviewing profiles of clergy interested in serving here. When the list is shortened to a few candidates, background checks will be completed, and then the Mission Committee will prayerfully discern to whom they wish to issue a call. If approved by the Bishop and accepted by the Priest, the final package and details will be negotiated and a moving and starting date announced. It is our hope to have this all completed and the new Priest present by the end of the year.

We ask your continuing prayers for your Mission Committee, Transition Steering team, and our Bishop's staff that the Lord will guide all our efforts to result in the calling of the person best suited and anointed for this ministry. God bless you!

### **Tom MacArthur, Sr. Warden**

We were last able to gather for worship inside of St. Peter's on March 8<sup>th</sup>. It has been a long four months, and I know we all long to return to something more normal in every part of our life, including our spiritual life together as a congregation.

Your Mission Committee met recently to consider your responses to the recent survey on whether we should reopen St. Peter's for in-person worship at this time, and what steps we could take to do this safely. We received 66 responses – more than half of those sent out – and gained much insight from all of you. We recognized that this is one of the most important decisions we will make and we considered it prayerfully and carefully. We also used the Guidelines for Reopening as well as a training video from the Bishop's COV19 Reentering, Reopening, Reimagining (RRR) Task Force, on which I have been serving since its inception a few months ago. I would encourage you to check out <https://diocesofnj.org/covid-19-guidance/guidance-for-reopening>, so you can review the myriad of issues and guidance we considered.

Overriding our every consideration was the Task Force motto, *"This Is How We Love One Another"*. The members of the Mission Committee want to reopen St. Peter's as soon as we can do so lovingly and safely. After considering the size and layout of St. Peter's and the demographics of our congregation, we have decided that we will not reopen in-person worship at St. Peter's until at least autumn. We simply cannot maintain the required distances for more than a handful of worshippers or manage the cleaning, disinfecting and other protocols that reopening would require.

We will continue to host worship services on Zoom and Fr. Lee will be scheduling additional online gatherings for people who are interested. He has also offered to make pastoral visits for those who would like this. The Mission Committee will continue to consider when, and how, we can safely reopen St. Peter's, and we ask for your continued prayers for wisdom. Meanwhile, please know that we care about each of you and that you are in our prayers.

## **Jim Girgenti, Jr. Warden**

St. Peter's has been unoccupied for some time due to the COVID19 Virus, and I thought that I would assure you that all of the buildings and grounds are being cared for and maintained. If anyone see something that needs attention, leave a message at 609-494-2398 or via email at [officestpeterslbi@gmail.com](mailto:officestpeterslbi@gmail.com). I make weekly visits, sometimes more often, to check both the buildings and the garden. Several necessary repairs have been completed and others are in progress.

The Vicarage interior is being repainted, the exterior power washed and the cedar shakes stained with a preservative. It takes a lot of upkeep to keep St. Peter's in good condition, and I appreciate all your support and suggestions.

**Important Dates:** We extend our warm birthday wishes to the following parishioners who will celebrate a birthday in either August or September. In August we extend warm wishes to: Kathy DiAntonio (3), Nancy Follett and Allan Phillips (10), Ron Kolla (13) Dick Evleth and Thelma Pollit (15), Tom Stone (20) Sean Mayhew (21) and Louise Shipps (25). In September we recognize and congratulate Greg Albright (1), Pat Feeney (5), Joanne Kranch (8), Jim Follett (10), Michael Bush (14), Susanne Gilbert (15), Sue Hofer (16), Reg Smith (22), Barry Putt (23), Sharon Sappington (28) and Richard Stoops (29).

Wedding anniversary congratulations are extended to the following parishioners who will celebrate in August: Nancy and Jim Follett (3), Tony and Joni Bakum (19), Robert and Maria Schmidt (23), Michael and Maribeth McGrover (24) and Richard and Sally Potts (29). We extend very special congratulations to Bob and Maria Schmidt as they will celebrate 50 years of marriage on August 23. Congratulations!!! In September heartiest congratulations are extended to Angela and Alan Thomas (7) and Dick and Donna Evleth (9).

Are you missing? If so, please notify [nrudko@verizon.net](mailto:nrudko@verizon.net), [jeanmad@comcast.net](mailto:jeanmad@comcast.net), or [nightbird526@comcast.net](mailto:nightbird526@comcast.net). We also welcome all comments and suggestions for future newsletter consideration!

**Personal Data Changes:** If any of your personal data changes (i.e., address, telephone number(s), email addresses, etc.), please be sure to keep St. Peter's advised of your new information. You may direct all such changes to our office at:

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P. O. Box 428  
Barnegat Light, NJ 08006  
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## **Contact Information:**

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