## **July 2025**

Holy Innocents'
Episcopal Church
Pearl & Marine Streets
Beach Haven, NJ 08008

Church Email hichurch08008@gmail.com Website: www.hiecbh.com Office: 609 492 7571 Parish Office Hours Monday thru Thursday 9:00am - 2:00pm

#### **Inside this Issue!**

A Word from Fr. Peter 1
Parishioner Spotlight 6-7
July Calendar 11





## THE PARISH POST











#### A Word from Father Peter

A community of faith, sharing the love of the Holy Spirit, seeking and serving Christ in his creation.

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

July marks one of the highlights of the summer season with our celebration of July 4. From what I hear, it also marks a significant time of change on LBI with increased traffic and the dreadful Saturday shift of renters who come to share the beauty of this place so many of us call home. The celebration of our nation's independence shifts our awareness from the immediacy of our place on the Jersey Shore to the history of our nation in what is approaching 250 years.

In the Episcopal Church, Independence Day is celebrated with a proper collect and readings for the celebration of the Holy Eucharist. I would like to share the collect for that day:

Lord God Almighty, in whose Name the founders of this country won liberty for themselves and for us, and lit the torch of freedom for nations then unborn: Grant that we and all the people of this land may have grace to maintain our liberties in righteousness and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Even though the Episcopal Church published our first Book of Common Prayer in 1789 and revised it in 1892, only in 1928 did we celebrate Independence Day with a collect in the Book of Common Prayer. That first collect, which referred to the "our fathers (who) won their liberties of old," was expanded in 1979 to speak of "the founders of this country" since many Native Americans are Episcopalians and that original collect would not match their experience.

In times of conflict among the different groups in our nation, July 4 reminds us of our common heritage and our prayer arises for maintaining "our liberties in righteousness and peace." These comments on the history of the July 4<sup>th</sup> collect enable us to see how our prayer expands to become more inclusive of all the members of our church and the various historic circumstances which make this a nation of people from different cultures and national backgrounds.

On July 4, I invite you to pray this collect for our beloved country. Most of us who are Episcopalians know that our church enjoys a history of creating a big tent in which diverse political opinions are respected even as we work to make our church and society a more inclusive community bringing into our houses of worship and neighborhoods people who do not look like us yet who are the beloved children of our God and so we call them our sisters and brothers.

We Episcopalians bring this unique gift to our nation of knowing how to create this big tent of inclusion and respect. May God bless us all and strengthen us to become vehicles of God's grace to all whom we meet.

Peace.

Fr. Peter

#### **Words From Your Wardens**

Your Vestry and Search Committee have attended an Anti-racism Seminar required by the Diocese. It is given to insure that as we interview and call a new Rector, we are able to do so without perpetuating racism. We learned how to actively oppose racism by challenging attitudes, behaviors and beliefs that we may hold and that perpetuate racism.

The temperatures have been hot, hot, hot! New air conditioning in the church and offices should be up and running by the time you read this. Thank you very much to Larry Peacock for getting bids, interviewing companies and overseeing this major capital improvement. Painting of the choir loft has given it a greatly needed freshening. The altar wall was also painted as we removed the old speakers above the altar and added small air returns you now see there.

Next up is the Rector's office painting that got delayed this spring. Our intent is to freshen up this space, repair the bathroom in the office and purchase a new desk that fits the space.

Remember that we are always available for your questions and thoughts and hope to keep an open line of communication and transparency with the congregation.

Peace.

Pat & Dave, Wardens







#### **NEW FLAGS ARE FLYING!**

Rich Cashel and Vince Contreras raise the new American flag, graciously donated by Cindy Longenbach's brother, Chris Jones.

They are also hoisting new vibrantly colored Episcopal and NJ State flags.



#### **Minister of Music**

#### THANK YOU CHOIR!

The Choir of Holy Innocents will be singing for Sunday morning services through July 6th, and then taking off the rest of the summer.

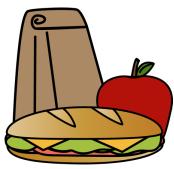
Please thank our members for their musical offerings, as well as their time and dedication. I know the choral music will be missed until they return in the fall. (not pictured in the photo

Larry Peacock & Ellen Kehr)

Yours in Christ, Ellen Dondero, Minister of Music ejdondero@comcast.net



## **Sandwich Ministry**



The Sandwich Ministry began at Holy Innocents' in January 2024. Since then, we have produced 1,360 bagged meals that were distributed to those facing food and housing insecurity. A group of between 9 and 13 parishioners meet on the second Wednesday of every month from 9:30 until 10:45. They produce 80 bagged meals that typically include a sandwich, napkin, water bottle, oranges, carrot sticks, granola bar, and cookies. The Nook (food pantry/food assistance branch of Bright Harbor) has a driver pick up our meals by 11am on the second Wednesday of the month. In the 18 months we've been working, 23 different parishioners have

participated. Everyone is welcome, and although there is a core group of "monthlies", different people arrive each month to pitch in. There is laughter, almost always some counting confusion, and always a feeling of doing something good for someone struggling. Please check it out. Our next time will be Wednesday, July 9 at 9:30 in Martin Hall/Kitchen. ~ Alexa Fahner

A new air conditioning system will be installed in our sanctuary in the coming weeks. It became clear at the end of last year that the 20+ year old system was beyond repair and needed total replacement. An engineering firm prepared a design that will provide more even cooling with units in the choir loft, as well as behind the altar. Bare with us as construction continues in the sanctuary. ~ Larry Peacock





Photos show the old speaker panels being removed and framed for air ducts.



Austin & Carson from Air Technical putting in new mini split AC units in the Rector's Office and Administrator's Office.

#### **Parish Prayer List July**

If you need to add or delete a name, please contact Lisa Halpin, our Parish Administrator

Lara Sparks Deitz Mary Ann Crewdson Dennis

Connie Anderson Christian Balint Christine Hendricks Warren Lamon Ann White Pierro Family

Lovas FamilyDebbie & Joe ReisingConnieJoePeg ApplegetDcn. JudyLynne WeidmannAlycia MullinMeg Neff

Rob MeyerTinoFlorence LamonMelanie HarmanPatKathy RiceJessieRichCharles SullivanDoug HunterMarie KleberJoAnn KingEllis BarbieriJudy HamiltonCindy Wood

Diane Ray M. Gia
Jeannine Phil Frank

Fran Iozzi Johnny Johnson, Jr. Bill Bentley

Dr. John Cris Grapa Scott

Margie Wilson Jean & Keith Aclin Nellie Riley Adam Baulderstone Chris Mercer Katie Gillis

Frank, III Will Locovare Mary Jane Mannherz

#### Those serving in the military and other dangerous professions:

Paul Bailey, Justin A. Dumhart, Joseph Alexander, Danny Melega, Andrew Wall, Brandan White

## ECW Father's Day Boutonniére Making & Church Audit



Episcopal Church Women making boutonniéres for Father's Day!





It's been very busy here at Holy Innocents'. We are in the process of doing an audit as required by the Diocese during our Transition & Search.

Many thanks to Ellen Dondero Meyer, Jeannette Bond and Robin MacMillan (not pictured) for volunteering to help us with this paperwork intensive process.

Almighty God, you know the needs of your Church in every place. Look graciously upon us, the people of Holy Innocents' Episcopal Church, and grant us the guidance of your Holy Spirit as we seek a new Priest for this parish. Give us discernment, wisdom and confidence in your timing. We pray for the life of our parish, that we may continue to be to be strengthened in our mission. All this we ask as we walk in your ways to the glory of your name. Amen



## **Environmental Education & Advocacy Committee**



## Six Easy Things You Can Do To Conserve Energy and Reduce Your Carbon Footprint

- 1. Change the filter in your furnace: Keep heating and cooling systems running efficiently.
- 2. Do not place lamps near a thermostat: The thermostat senses the heat produced from the lamp, which can change how often your heat or air conditioner will run.
- Reduce plastic and paper bag consumption by using recycled reusable bags. Less waste in our landfills and oceans.
- **4. Combine car trips:** Plan your errands to reduce transportation time.
- 5. Recycle aluminum cans, glass bottles, plastic, and paper!
- 6. Plant a deciduous tree: Three or more large trees strategically placed on sunny sides of a house shade it from the hot summer sun, which can reduce air-conditioning costs by as much as 30 percent.

## A New Ministry At Holy Innocents'



#### TOGETHER HELPING OUR PARISHIONERS IN NEED

Would you like to help one of our parishioners get to a doctor's appointment?

Go grocery shopping for them? Or take them shopping?

Take out their garbage/recycling cans?

Take a meal to someone?

Visit someone who is lonely?

I just need your name and phone number. Tell me what you are willing to do for our parishioners.

Are you someone who needs help, but you don't want to bother anyone?

I totally understand how hard it is to ask for help, but I do feel like we have people in our parish who are more than willing to reach out. Let me know your needs. I will do my best to find someone to help you.

I am willing to be the contact person to coordinate this.

**Judy Contreras** 

judyc3956@gmail.com Cell phone: 856-906-6725

Are you in need of a prayer? Do you need us to pray for a friend or family member? Just give Judy Contreras a call, 856-906-6725. All are welcome to attend our monthly gatherings.



WHEN: WEDNESDAY – July 16, 2025

WHERE: IN THE CHAPEL

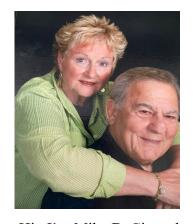
**TIME: 4:00 PM** 



### A Prayer for our Nation on Independence Day



Lord God Almighty, you have made all the peoples of the earth for your glory, to serve you in freedom and in peace. Give to the people of our country a zeal for justice and the strength of forbearance, that we may use our liberty in accordance with your gracious will; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen. --The Book of Common Prayer, page 258





Parishioner Spotlight is a regular feature in The Post. The purpose is to provide insights into the background and personalities of our fabulous parishioners!

We hope you enjoy getting to know the people of Holy Innocents'!

July Parishioner Spotlight ~ Mike DeCicco

Hi. I'm Mike DeCicco, born and raised in Maplewood, New Jersey. My two brothers, sister and I all went to the same grammar and high schools, as did my children. Our family led a simple life, living on a policeman's salary, while my mother was a homemaker. My maternal grandmother lived close by, as did most of my mother's 10 brothers and sisters. We were a big (mostly) happy Italian family and I never lacked for cousin playmates.

My maternal grandfather, who died before I was born, had owned a large construction company in the 1930s and it had been my father's dream that my older brother and I would go into the same business. In 1956, after my brother Jim was discharged from the Army and I graduated from high school, with help from our father, we started a construction company called DeCicco Brothers. I couldn't believe that at the age of 17, I was the owner of a small business and partially responsible for the work of men more than twice age. After a while, however, Jim and I had other ideas and the business only lasted five years.

I started college at the age of 22, married my first wife and had four children by the time I was 31. I worked several jobs, in banking and as a school teacher and administrator, but I had always been interested in public service. I was asked to run for a seat on the Township of Maplewood governing body and by some miracle, I won. By now my father had advanced to police captain and I was in the position of being my father's supervisor. It never became a problem, however, because ten days before I was sworn in, my father died. My acceptance speech was bittersweet.

My new position brought me to the attention of Governor Brendan Byrne who appointed me to be Deputy Director of the Lottery Commission. Working in Trenton and living in Maplewood proved to be a strain on our family life, however, and my first wife and I divorced. I found a job at NJ Transit in Maplewood so I was closer to home and nearer to my children, the youngest of whom was still in high school. I'm happy to say that I rarely missed a lacrosse game during his last two years and his successful lacrosse career at Rutgers.

My life took a dramatic turn a few years later when, while teaching a course on drugs and alcohol for NJT executives, I was introduced to Kay Regan. She was in charge of the Capital Funding Department and that evening I called to ask her out. Our first date was October 11 and on New Year's Eve I asked her to marry me. We were married at Trinity Episcopal Church on Wall Street in Manhattan and the next 36 happy years are history. Kay was a big help and support during the  $6\frac{1}{2}$  years I spent working and going to night school but I was finally awarded my M.A. degree in 1999. I ended my career at NJT in 2004,working as a psychotherapist in the Employee Assistance Department.

Anticipating retirement, Kay and I moved to an adult community in Waretown where we have lived for the past 21 years. During my "retired" years at Greenbriar, I have taught at Kean University, worked as a mediator for Ocean County and served on the Board of Directors of our community for eight years, one as President.

### **Parishioner Spotlight Continued**



As an aside, during this time, Kay served as Co-President of the Greenbriar Women's Club and President of the Board of Directors of the Ocean County Literacy Volunteers. The pictures in the collage show my relaxing and domestic sides – one vacationing in Hawaii, one with our kitten, and one decorating Christmas cookies.

When we first moved from north Jersey in 2003, we actively searched for a church and knew we had found a home when we visited Holy Innocents'. Fr. Frank was in the pulpit and we were warmly accepted

at coffee hour. During the summer, the 19-mile trip to Beach Haven can be a trial but we've learned to adjust our timing and

accept the traffic. We rejoice when the lights are turned off. We were grateful for Fr. Frank's long tenure at Holy Innocents' and we felt blessed to worship under Mtr. Caroline's too-short stewardship but we are confident that the Search Committee will find the right person to shepherd us in the future.

I participate at Holy Innocents' by ushering and greeting people and attending various events and functions. I enjoy the coffee hour and the people I talk with. The picture of me at the Silent Auction with all the gift cards was taken after my winning ticket was selected two years ago.



## **Church Grounds Clean-up Day!**

Thanks to all the women & men who turned out for the Grounds Clean-up! We had a great turnout, perfect weather and got so much done! Thank you, thank you, thank you. So very much appreciated! ~ Rich Cashel







#### Join the Stream Team!



The Holy Innocent's Stream Team is asking for volunteers to serve as an occasional back-up for streaming Sunday Services on Facebook Live. When our primary and backup team members are unavailable, we rarely, but occasionally need another Team Member to help us out. Contact Vince Contreras: 856-906-6726.

### Bible Study/Book Club



The **Bible Study/Book Club** was on hiatus for the month of June and will resume meetings on Thursday July 10th. As usual, we will meet in Martin Hall at 2:00 pm or via Zoom. The Zoom link will be sent closer to that date.

Our first book for July will be **Luke in the Land: Walking with Jesus in His First-Century World** by Kristi McLelland. Lifeway Books, \$24.99 with video access:

Follow the author through Israel in this seven-session video-based study that takes you to locations in Israel that are mentioned in Luke's Gospel. See how Jesus, the

Messiah, brought His kingdom to earth for His people." If you haven't visited the Holy Land yet, this is a visual introduction to significant locations in the gospel of Luke, and if you haven't read that book of the Bible from beginning to end, here is an opportunity to do so.

For more information or to sign up for notices and the Zoom link, please email or text Leila Sullivan at 919-280-4602.

## American Flag Cake Recipe~ A Fourth of July Favorite!

#### **INGREDIENTS**

- 18 1/4 ounces vanilla cake mix
- 8 ounces cream cheese
- 9 ounces frozen whipped topping (slightly thawed)
- 3 tablespoons powdered sugar
- 1 pint blueberries
- 1 to 2 pints raspberries

#### **DIRECTIONS**

- 1.Gather all ingredients
- 2. Prepare cake in a 9 by 13 inch baking dish, according to package directions.
- 3.Let cake cool 15 minutes, then invert onto a serving platter to cool completely. Freeze cake while you prepare the frosting (this makes the flag cake easier to frost).
- 4. With an electric mixer beat the cream cheese, whipped topping and powdered sugar until smooth.
- 5. Frost flag cake with this frosting.
- 6.To decorate your flag cake, outline a square in the top left corner with blueberries. Fill in with remaining blueberries, leaving some white space showing through. These are the stars on your flag cake. Make several lines of raspberries next to and below the blueberries. These are the stripes of your flag cake.

Refrigerate flag cake until ready to serve. Serve and enjoy! TIP: If your frosting seems a bit runny, freeze the cake 15 to 45 minutes before adding the berries. Then you can either freeze the flag cake until 2 hours before serving (leave it out to thaw) or refrigerate until ready to serve.





# Beach Haven Community Arts Program Presents

#### CONCERTS ON THE GREEN 2025

Beach Haven Veterans Memorial Park Beach Ave between Engleside and Amber

## Wednesdays at 7:30pm

*Bring a Chair	*Spread a blanket	*Enjoy a free concert
June 25	The Pickles	Classic Rock
July 2	Tequila Rose Band	Country
July 9	Jimmy and the Parrots	Buffett Cover Band
July 16	Rave Ons	Pop/Soul
July 23	Diablo Sandwich Band	Classic Rock
July 30	Suyat Band	High Energy Hits
August 6	The Kootz	Classic Rock
August 1	3 Carnaby Street Band	Classic Rock
August 20	Mclean Ave Band	Irish
August 28	3 Gypsy Moon	Acoustic Guitar

#### **Church Dedication Anniversary Prayer**

by Paul Berchtold, February, 2011

Let us celebrate a grand feast, From the greatest to the least, Let us rejoice, on this happy morn, The special day our church was born.

God bless those who planted the seed, And those who gave to every need, And those who labored, with such care, To build this church, God's House of Prayer.

May we follow their example bright, Generously live, do what's right, Like them, may we, give God our best, So our souls can find his rest.

May all who come find peace and light, May God's presence and his might, Gently guard this holy place, May all find joy, abundant grace.

Thank you, God, for what's been done, Here at this place, through your Son, May your work, keep on growing, Love and peace overflowing. *Amen*.



143rd Anniversary as a Parish on July 9th!!







## FINAL CONCERT IN OUR SPRING SERIES WAS A GREAT SUCCESS!!

Thank you to all who attended, brought food, helped set up, and helped clean up for the concert.

Capital Singers of Trenton did not disappoint, nor did the audience (over 150 people in attendance). It was wonderful to see our church so full! Thank you!

Parish family who sang in the concert included Jean Nelson, Joan Melega, Chloe Dondero, as well as me. We had a blast!

Thanks to Barbara Wheeler for the photos.

~ Ellen Dondero



JULY 2025								
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday		
***		1 9:15-10:15am LEG	7:30 pm BHCAP Concert on the Green Tequilla Rose Band	3 9:15-10:15am LEG 7:30pm AA Mtg. Clam-Diggers 9:00pm Compline (FB)	Parish Office Closed	5		
6 The Fourth Sunday after Pentecost 7:30am Rite I 8:30am Choir 9:30 Rite II	7 Parish Office Closed  9:00am MP (FB)  9:15-10:15am Yoga	8 9:15-10:15am LEG	9 143rd Anniversary 9:30am-11:00am Sandwich Ministry 7:30 pm BHCAP Concert on the Green Jimmy & The Parrots	9:15-10:15am LEG 2:00pm Book//Bible Study 4:30pm BHCAP Mtg. 7:00pm Vestry 7:30pm AA Mtg. Clam-Diggers 9:00pm Compline (FB)	11 Parish Office Closed 10:30am Eileen Fitzpatrick Committal	12		
13 The Fifth Sunday after Pentecost 7:30am Rite I 9:30am Rite II	9:00am MP (FB) 9:15-10:15am Yoga	15 9:15-10:15am LEG	4:00pm Prayer Ministry in the Chapel 7:30 pm BHCAP Concert on the Green Rave Ons	9:15-10:15am LEG 2:00pm Book/Bible Study 7:30pm AA Mtg. Clam-Diggers 9:00pm Compline (FB)	18 Parish Office Closed	19		
20 The Sixth Sunday after Pentecost 7:30am Rite I 9:30am Rite II LEHYC Sunday	21 9:00am MP (FB) 9:15-10:15am Yoga	22 9:15-10:15am LEG	7:30 pm BHCAP Concert on the Green Diablo Sandwich Band	9:15-10:15am LEG 2:00pm Book/Bible Study 7:30pm AA Mtg. Clam-Diggers 9:00pm Compline (FB)	25 Parish Office Closed	26 11:00am Eileen Bosek Committal		
27 The Seventh Sunday after Pentecost 7:30am Rite I 9:30am Rite II Baptism *Healing service in Chapel	28 9:00am MP (FB) 9:15-10:15am Yoga	29 9:15-10:15am LEG	7:30 pm BHCAP Concert on the Green Suyat Band	9:15-10:15am LEG 2:00pm Book//Bible Study 7:30pm AA Mtg. Clam-Diggers 9:00pm Compline (FB)				

The

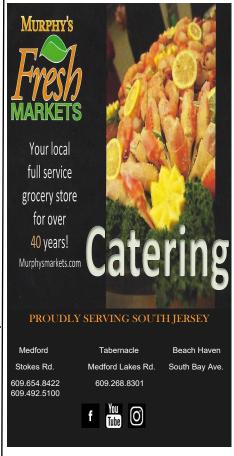
# Engleside Inn

Hotel · Restaurant · Bar Sushi Bar · Sand Bar

Open Year Round

Engleside Avenue on the Ocean Beach Haven





## **Larry Peacock**

for all your Real Estate needs







#### **Father Peter's Contact Information**

Phone: 973-886-5104
Email: <a href="mailto:revpdefranco@gmail.com">revpdefranco@gmail.com</a>
Please reach out for pastoral needs or

other questions.

#### THANK YOU ALL!!!

Please be sure to patronize & thank the businesses that so very generously purchased ads for this Parish Post year!

The Hughes Family

- ~ The Hillman Family
- ~ Larry & Pat Peacock Murphy's Family of Stores
  - ~ The Surflight Theatre

These ads greatly help defray our publishing costs!

## **July Birthdays**

Nicole Baxter	03	David Mitchell	19
Harlow Romanowski	06	Christa Steiner	20
Carmen Mack	08	Cindy Longenbach	21
Andrew Goddard	09	Kris Anderson	27
Kay DeCicco	14	John Johnson	29
Patricia Cotey Peacock	17		





#### WE LOVE OUR VOLUNTEERS!

The following parishioners have graciously volunteered to assist with our worship and/or have donated either candles or flowers for the altar for the month of July.

#### JULY ALTAR DONATIONS

6<sup>th</sup> - Gail & Steve Steiner

13<sup>th</sup> - Ruth McLaughlin, Roger Budd

 $20^{th}$  -

27<sup>th</sup> - Artificial Flowers



#### **JULY FLOWER GUILD**

6<sup>th</sup> - Joyce Hillyer

13<sup>th</sup> - Carol Hammond

 $20^{\text{th}}\,$  - Kim Sparks

27<sup>th</sup> - Artificial Flowers



#### **JULY ALTAR GUILD**

6<sup>th</sup> - Melissa Wall, Chris Burlaga

13<sup>th</sup> - Jackie Sparks, Carol Hammond

20<sup>th</sup> - Jackie Sparks, Melissa Wall

27<sup>th</sup> - Chris Burlaga, Carol Hammond

#### **JULY USHERS & GREETERS**

6<sup>th</sup> - Sue Hughes, Melissa Wall

13<sup>th</sup> - Gail Jacobsen, Bob Weidmann

20<sup>th</sup> - Yacht Club Sunday

27<sup>th</sup> - Rob Meyer, Gail Jacobsen





#### JULY COFFEE HOUR SCHEDULE

6<sup>th</sup> - Leila Sullivan

13<sup>th</sup> - Vestry Coffee Hour

20<sup>th</sup> - Rob Meyer ~ Yacht Club Sunday

27<sup>th</sup> - Christine Hendricks



Thank you to all who have provided refreshments so far this year! We still have slots available for the months of August & September. Our Coffee Hour Schedule is posted on the bulletin board outside Martin Hall. Parishioners are encouraged to sign up for any available Sunday!! ~ Ellen Kehr



Holy Innocents' Episcopal Church
Pearl and Marine Streets
Beach Haven, New Jersey 08008

Sunday Morning ~ 7:30 a.m.
Rite I Worship Service
(May 25th through Labor Day)
Sunday Morning ~ 9:30 a.m.
Rite II Worship Service with music
609-492-7571





