

St. Peter's Bald Head

St. Peter's By The Sea Episcopal Church † 535 Shore Road † Cape Neddick, Maine † Since 1897

www.st-peters-by-the-sea.org • Editor: Michael L. Smyser IV • mikecalifguy@comcast.net



From the President of the Board of Trustees

Dear Friends,

How good it was to be back together in church again, and how good it will be to return!

I always think that our season at St. Peter's has a natural flow to it corresponding of course to the warmer months of summer and fall and thus to the "season" of tourists and "summer people" which brings new life to Ogunquit every year. Our season also corresponds liturgically to what the Church calls "ordinary time," that period after Pentecost and before Advent, which is neither penitential nor celebratory, but ordinary – when we do not focus on the great miracles of the incarnation and the resurrection as we do at Christmas and Easter, but on the teaching of Jesus as he travels with his disciples and performs his miracles of healing, feeding, forgiveness, and inclusion, revealing the purpose nature of God as love.

So, we worship at St. Peter's during a more gentle and less entertaining time in the Church's calendar when many Christians tend to fade away from the discipline of corporate prayer, regular participation in the sacraments, reading and considering scripture. We do this as a regular company of friends who gather every year, with familiar and new faces flowing in and out as the months progress towards winter. And we gather as we should: liturgically in the church and socially in the rectory, to be the body of Christ for each other and for the community we individually and corporately serve.

And this commitment to summer witness and worship and to the historic church which gathers us makes our "ordinary" time "extraordinary," a time for which we prepare faithfully, and to which we look forward every year – a time that connects us to each other deeply and keeps our community alive throughout the seasons. Also, because we meet at this time, we pay, I think, a little more attention to the human Jesus, the man who walked and talked with his friends, and now walks and talks with us – the Son of God who taught us how to be ourselves like him, the children of God, to pray to the Father into the life of the Trinity, to belong to the Holy Spirit, to follow in his saving way of love.

Someone once asked me, "What is it about you St. Peter's people? You seem so fond of each other, and you just love your church."

"Come and see," I told him.

My prayers and best wishes to you all, as always.

Yours faithfully,

The Rev. Dr. D. Stuart Dunnan
President of the Board of Trustees



2022 Season Notes

2022 Marked the observance of the 125th season of the chapel's ministry. The Board of Trustees and so many others worked throughout the months leading up to the June opening and during the season to mark the occasion with special intentions.

In 2021 and 2022, major restoration work was done on the rectory (Marmion House) – the first major update in more than 50 years. This included a number of deferred maintenance items; repair of the fireplace; repair and maintenance of all the windows in the house; a new kitchen; entire interior painted; a shower added to the bathroom on the first floor; remodeling of the second floor bathroom; and the stripping and renewing of the wood floors throughout the house. The cost for the repairs and remodel of the rectory was approximately \$250,000.

Thanks to a very generous gift of \$1.6 million from the estate of Dr. Frank Mathews, and the financial support of the members through a capital campaign, the rectory remodel was able to be paid in full, with the remaining funds going into the endowment, in essence doubling the chapel's endowment.

Since the chapel's budget is small (about \$100,000), the endowment is able to fund the operating costs in full and therefore all of the Sunday offerings are given to local outreach ministries in the form of three \$5,000 grants each season. This year's recipients included The Seeds of Hope (overnight warming center during the winter for the homeless, breakfast and lunch, educational programming, job placement assistance, referrals to other local agencies); The Recovery Center, which assists with overcoming addictions, particularly opioid withdrawal; and The Hope Fund of York, offering shelter, fuel, car repairs, and transportation.

A few of the highlights of the 2022 season in honor of the 125th:

The season opened Sunday, June 5, and concluded Sunday, October 9.

The choir was scheduled each Sunday of the season rather than in just July and August. Our choir members are paid (\$200 each per Sunday), professional singers from the Portland and Boston area under the direction of our Music Director and Organist, Harold Stover. Four choir members sing each week, from a roster of about ten total.



Rev. Shirley Bowen spoke at St Peter's in August about Seeds of Hope. She is pictured here with Bishop Gary Lillibridge.

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Love Becomes Flesh

The moment our business was adjourned, I jumped up from my seat at the board table, offered hasty goodbyes, and raced east along Marylebone Road amidst London's mid-afternoon traffic. I continued my eastward dash on New Cavendish and then made a left onto Great Portland Road until I made it to Euston Station. I was quite out of breath when I asked the station attendant for a two-way ticket to Coventry. My goal was to make it to the cathedral for evensong. The 1.5-hour train ride would get me to the city with thirty minutes to spare.

My longtime dream was to worship at Coventry Cathedral. While it is not one of England's most magnificent edifices, Coventry may be the most storied. On November 14, 1940, 500 aircraft of the Luftwaffe bombed the industrial city of Coventry for fourteen uninterrupted hours. A third of the factories were destroyed in the assault, 568 people were killed, 863 badly injured, and Coventry's magnificent medieval city center was entirely decimated – to include its 14th century cathedral. Surveying the smoldering damages the next morning, the dean of the cathedral noted that two ancient roof beams had fallen to the floor in the unmistakable shape of the cross. He pointed to the timbers and announced to the bereft crowd, "This shall not be a sign of despair but a sign of hope."

True to his vision, the people of Coventry invited Germans to help them clean up their city and make way for a new cathedral. At the same time, the cathedral community raised money and helped build a burn hospital in Dresden, which had been decimated by allied firebombing on February 13, 1945. The new cathedral was designed in 1951 but not completed until 1965. The modern nave is walled in glass so that it looks out on the ruins of the old cathedral where the two ancient beams, still fashioned as a cross, form the center. And as if to tell the story of the resurrected church, outside its front doors is a massive bronze statue of St. Michael the Archangel with his foot on Satan's throat (Revelation 12). Evil does not win. Violence does not win. Death does not win. God's love wins.

This may seem a strange Christmas greeting from your clergy at St. Peter's, and yet, as we have professed time and again, to be in Christ is to be changed, to die to self and be reborn to God. When God became a human being in Jesus Christ, He not only saves us, but he also redeems us and elevates humanity to become like him. Then, as the dean of Coventry Cathedral experienced in WWII, we are given a new, hopeful vision of our destiny, one that rises above the destructive practices of the culture that bombard us. St. Irenaeus (130-202 AD) insisted that in the incarnate Christ, human beings are "recapitulated," that is remade or regenerated. Like the people of Coventry, we no longer return anger for anger, hurt for hurt, but instead can extend love into evil. The child born in Bethlehem never falters in his march of love to Calvary so that love can be born in us, too. Surrender to Christ's embrace this Christmas and you will become the gift for which others have waited.

As for me those many years ago, I was seated in the chancel just before the boys' choir processed, yet when they sang their first lines with their crystalline, soprano voices, I fell into unrepressed sobs over their sonorous "tidings of great joy."

For to us a child is born,

To us a son is given...

And his Name shall be called

Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,

Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ~ Isaiah 9:6

By the Rev. Patrick Gahan for

the Rev. Todd Fitzgerald and the Rt. Rev. Gary Lillibridge



**Bishop Gary
and Catherine**



**Fr. Todd
and Amy**



**Fr. Patrick
and Kay**



*Above and to right:
Victoria Gower and
Matthew Bellomo
were married by
Fr. Patrick Gahan on
June 26, 2022.*

*Below: Whitney
Montesanto and Devon
Miles were married in
a lovely ceremony by
Bishop Gary Lillibridge
on September 16, 2022.*



Weddings of Summer 2022

It was a busy wedding season at St. Peter's by the Sea with six beautiful weddings taking place.

For information on having a wedding at St. Peter's by the Sea Episcopal, please email our Wedding Coordinator Tammy Franz-Mallen at dtmallen@comcast.net.

St. Peter's Guild – Join Us!

Our Guild is made up of volunteers who prepare the altar for Sunday Eucharist, provide altar flowers, host hospitality hours after each Sunday service, and community outreach fundraising events. As our church is growing and the needs as well – new Guild members and ideas are most welcome!

Our annual membership dues, along with the annual Guild Picnic and Guild Brunch fundraising events, form the basis for our community outreach contributions. If you'd like to join or renew your membership, please mail your \$25.00 check, made payable to St. Peter's Guild, to Treasurer Susan Martin at 10 Birch Road, Kennebunk, ME 04043.

By Carol Kane Leonhard, Chair of St. Peter's Guild

Guild Officers:

*Carol Kane Leonhard, Chair
Tammy Franz-Mallen, Vice Chair
Diane Sanford, Secretary
Susan Martin, Treasure*

Below are samples of our fundraising events which support our Community Outreach Mission! Photo captions are color coded:

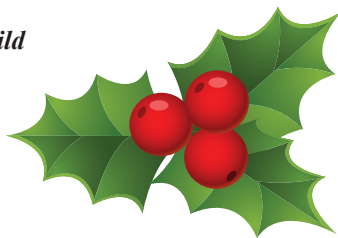
June 12th Welcome Fest

July 10th Guild Benefit Picnic

August 14th Rev. Shirley Brown (Seeds of Hope)

The Rt. Rev. Gary Lillibridge welcomes Seeds of Hope Executive Director Rev. Shirley Bowen, who spoke to our congregation and joined us for fellowship on August 14. Seeds of Hope is one local organization which benefited from the support of the Guild's community outreach. A drop-in center in Biddeford, Seeds of Hope offers an Overnight Warming Center when temperatures drop to life-threatening conditions, and provides nutritious meals, as well as sleeping bags, underwear, heavy-duty gloves, and hats to the homeless.

August 21st Benefit Brunch & Bishop Brown Welcome



Altar Flowers

Each Sunday of the 2022 summer season, Calluna Florists created lovely bouquets of flowers to adorn our altar. They were generously donated each week by our St. Peter's families in a loved ones memory or special occasions.

To sponsor the altar flowers on a Sunday next summer, please email Tammy Mallen at dtmallen@comcast.net.

By Tammy Mallen, Vice Chair of St. Peter's Guild



The Annual Brunch and Church Picnic fundraising events, along with dues memberships, help the guild fulfill its mission of community outreach helping families in our area who face hardships!

Memorial Garden by the Numbers

The Memorial Garden of St. Peter's by the Sea has been blessed with the remains of 19 saints since the first interment in 2007. While not a huge number by itself, our "pre-need" files hold another 13 Certificates of Interment Rights of folks who have decided to have their earthly remains at St. Peter's.

So what motivates a person to choose the Memorial Garden for their resting place? For some it is a personal connection with the church, such as "We always came to St. Peter's when we spent summers in the area" or "We were married at St. Peter's" or "All our children were baptized here."

For others, the Memorial Garden represents a place close to the ocean and coastline that they love or the concept of returning to nature without the 18-20th century trappings of a customary cemetery filled with monuments and mausoleums. For some, direct interment represents a direct return to the earth and to become part of a garden that brings joy to those who visit.

Whatever the connection, we're here for you. An open discussion of advance planning is always a good thing, even if it doesn't immediately result in the purchase of interment rights. Simply exploring the options for final plans can be part of life's journey. If you're ready to have that conversation, please contact one of our summer priests or Karl Sanford, Memorial Garden Manager at karls4la247@gmail.com.

By Karl Sanford, Memorial Garden Manager



Rectory in Winter



Rectory Upkeep

Painter Jack Brackett applied the final coat of paint on the oceanside porch of the rectory as part of ongoing maintenance. The side and back porch floors, stairs, and decks were also painted. Bagala Window Works has removed six windows and the side door to finalize the restoration repairs.

*By Joe Leonhard,
Trustee and Buildings Maintenance*

Baptism

In the Episcopal Church, baptism is the initiation by water and the Holy Spirit into full membership of the Church and into God's family. There is no other requirement than baptism in order to participate in the Holy Eucharist. All people of any age are welcome to be baptized.

Photo to right (top): Fr. Pat Gahan, assisted by Eucharist Minister Michael Smyser, begins the sacrament of Holy Baptism.

Photos to right and bottom: Henri David Yezierski, son of Ericka and Nicholas Yezierski, was baptized on July 10, 2022, by Fr. Todd FitzGerald and Fr. Craig Burlington, who married the couple in 2014. Henri is the grandson of Board Treasurer David Mallen and Guild Vice-Chair Tammy Mallen.



St. Francis Blessing of the Animals

St. Peter's by the Sea Episcopal celebrated the Feast Day of St. Francis of Assisi with a Blessing of the Animals Liturgy on Sunday, October 2, 2022. It is the fourth year this event has been held, and 140 people participated with their pets!

The church invited the public to either the 8 a.m. service or the 10 a.m. service with Holy Communion, where Right Reverend Gary Lillibridge, Ret. Bishop of Diocese of West Texas (San Antonio), blessed the animals with prayer and anointed them with holy water.

"It is always enjoyable to observe the pets, from cats to dogs to chickens, as each one reacts differently when sprinkled with the water!" said Michael L. Smyser, Chairman of the St. Francis Blessing of the Animals.

Anyone questions about next year's event should be directed to Michael at 561-329-4300 for details.



FOURTH ANNUAL
BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS
At St. Peter's by the Sea Episcopal Church
535 Shore Road, Cape Neddick, Maine
OCTOBER 2 – St. Francis Feast Day
In celebration of the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, we invite you to our 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. services for the Blessing of the Animals Liturgy with Holy Communion.

The Right Rev. Gary Lillibridge, Ret. Bishop, Diocese of West Texas, will celebrate in this service outdoors, weather permitting, so please come with your chair since we have only a limited number. Bring your pets to be blessed with holy water and the Spirit of our Loving God and Creator. All are welcome!

EVERYONE IS WELCOME
Masks and sanitizer available.
For more information, call Michael Smyser, Chairperson, at 561.329.4300 or visit www.st-peters-by-the-sea.org.

Please bring a bag of cat or dog food or a pet toy with you to St. Peter's, if you are able, on October 2, to be given to local shelters!

REMEMBER TO BRING A LAWN CHAIR



People with their pets were all over our lawn on the Feast Day of St. Francis this October as another very successful event for our parish and the community – An outreach of evangelism about the love of Jesus Christ for His creation.



Organ Concert Performed by Ray Cornils



Ray Cornils performed an organ concert to honor St Peter's Episcopal's 125th Anniversary on Sunday, September 18.

Ray Cornils was the Municipal Organist for the City of Portland from 1990 to 2017. For thirty years, he served First Parish Church, UCC in Brunswick, as Minister of Music, where he led an extensive music program of five vocal and two handbell choirs.

Known for his highly diverse programming, Ray has concertized throughout the United States, Germany, France, Spain, Russia, New Zealand and Ecuador. He has been a featured recitalist for conventions of the American Guild of Organists and the Organ Historical Society. In addition to his solo work, he performs regularly with the Portland Symphony Orchestra.

Ray has been a member of the music faculties of Bowdoin College, the University of Southern Maine, the Young Organists Collaborative and the Portland Conservatory of Music, where he taught organ, harpsichord and related classes. This semester he teaches organ at Northwestern State University in Natchitoches, Louisiana.

He has held many leadership roles in the American Guild of Organists, including Convention Coordinator for the 2014 National Convention in Boston.

Mr. Cornils studied at the Oberlin College Conservatory of Music and the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston. He has studied organ with Robert Reeves, Fenner Douglas, William Porter, Yuko Hayashi, and has done post-graduate studies with Dame Gillian Weir.

This summer he served as Interim Cathedral Musician at St. Luke's Episcopal Cathedral in Portland, and for the past four summers has been the substitute organist at St. Peter's By the Sea Episcopal in Cape Neddick.

Ray currently divides his time between the Maine coast and Ecuador's Andes mountains. Ray continues to teach and concertize from time to time. His program this upcoming Sunday will feature light-hearted music for the organ, including works by Denis Bedard, Porter Heaps, John Weaver and Hermann Kottzschmar.



Jazz at St. Peter's

Jazz at St. Peter's will return Sunday afternoon **August 27, 2023**, 4-6 p.m. We will be on the lawn at the rectory with wine and cheese. In case of rain, we will move inside the church and make the call by 1 p.m. that day to accommodate the musicians setting up.

This year Linda Seager will assume responsibility for checks and tracking. Postcards for Jazz at St. Peter's will be sent out in the spring. We decided not to use PayPal in 2023. The donation will be \$30.00 again in advance or at the entrance.

We are grateful for all who keep this summer tradition going and especially to our generous sponsors who make it possible. Thanks for all who support this event which supports the St. Peter's Preservation Fund.

By Louesa Gillespie

Choral Enrichment to Continue in 2023

One important part of the 125th anniversary celebration in 2022 was the choir's singing at every Sunday service instead of only those in July and August, and a special concert called "A Festival of Anglican Music" in July. An expanded roster of 11 of Maine's finest professional singers contributed to the makeup of each Sunday's quartet and the octet that sang in the concert.

The choral enrichment of the liturgy will continue in 2023 as the choir will again return at every service. Other concerts as part of the anniversary year were the traditional jazz concert in August and an organ recital by assisting organist Ray Cornils in September.

*By Harold Stover
Organist & Music Director*





Cowland's 50th Anniversary Visit Promises Summer Flowers

The bistro table in front of St. Peter's was beautifully set with flowers, champagne flutes and two bottles of very good champagne. This was not what I was expecting as I arrived to work in the Memorial Garden. As I quickly learned, close friends of Tom and Cyndi Cowland had arranged for a celebration of the Cowland's 50 years of married life by returning to St. Peter's by the Sea for a photo shoot.

Married on June 3, 1972, the Cowlands decided to combine a graduation and a wedding on consecutive weekends. Cyndi, from Cherry Hill, N.J., was graduating from U. of Maine Farmington and Tom, from Rockland, Maine, was finishing his second year of teaching at the Marshwood High School (Eliot and South Berwick). Tom had grown up in the St. Peter's Episcopal church in Rockland and was living in a small house on Gerrish Island. St. Peter's by the Sea was a natural pick for their wedding venue. Our summer church wasn't quite open yet in early June of 1972 and so obtaining clergy was a challenge. The Rev. Earnest O. Kenyon from St. Peter's in Rockland was delighted to officiate and made the journey to Cape Neddick on that warm, sunny Saturday in June.

In 1974, the Cowlands moved to the Somersworth, N.H. area and developed Golden Meadows Garden Designs, specializing in hybrid daylilies. Until just recently they raised and sold over 750 cultivars of daylilies, although they have now downsized to a mere 500 varieties! Cyndi especially enjoys providing design assistance to a wide customer base.

Upon their return to St. Peter's by the Sea and viewing the rectory gardens, Tom and Cyndi graciously offered a significant donation of daylilies and garden design services. A "planting day" occurred on September 7 this year when Cyndi worked with a small crew of dedicated planters to redesign the most prominent gardens with a variety of spectacular hybrid daylilies. July and August gardens at the rectory promise to be a show-stopper!

By Karl Sanford



Communications Report

Our vast supply of church information is made available each year to the hundreds of visitors who attend services at St. Peter's by the Sea Episcopal. This display shows the various materials which include our history pamphlet, newsletters, postcards, music programs, calendar, coffee cups, pens, contribution envelopes, and more!

By Michael L. Smyser, Communications Chair



Continued from front page...

Two Sunday afternoon organ concerts were offered, one in July by Harold Stover, and one in September by guest organist Ray Cornils.

The annual picnic was held on July 10.

At the 10 a.m. service on August 7, the formal liturgical observance of the 125th was held. The very popular annual St. Peter's Jazz was held on this Sunday afternoon, followed by a wine and cheese reception catered by the Beachmere.

The Rev. Shirley Bowen, Episcopal priest and Executive Director of Seeds of Hope (one of the local outreach ministries which received a \$5,000 grant in 2022), was our guest preacher on August 14.

The Rt. Rev. Thomas Brown, Bishop of Maine, preached and celebrated the Eucharist on August 21. New altar hangings and clergy vestments were dedicated, the gift of Michael Smyser and John Varga. This was the Bishop's second visitation to the chapel, and was also the occasion of the Guild's annual Benefit Brunch. All proceeds from the brunch are given to local outreach ministries.

In 2019, when Bishop Lillibridge began extending his stay into October, Board Trustee Michael Smyser felt we should begin the Anglican tradition for the Liturgy of Blessing of the Animals on the Sunday nearest the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi which is October 4. Michael's home

parish has a very large crowd each year for the holy event (receiving television coverage) with animals being blessed from City and County Sheriff police dogs and horses to zoo animals, as well as cats and dogs. It's practiced in a vast majority of our parishes worldwide. This is also a very popular service with the local community (held outdoors at 10 a.m. and in the sanctuary at 8 a.m.), and well-advertised in the local newspapers. It is one of the largest Sunday attendances of the season.

This 125th anniversary season was a delight, and made possible by so many dedicated volunteers. One of the major assets which makes this community fellowship so strong are the weekly coffee hours, hosted by the Guild at the rectory. St. Peter's is well positioned to carry on for years with Sunday morning worship, several weddings each season, baptisms, and the occasional interment in the beautiful Memorial Garden.

The summer line-up of clergy has been the same for well over a decade. In June, services are led by The Rev. Patrick Gahan, rector of Christ Church, San Antonio, Texas. In July, The Rev. Todd FitzGerald, priest in charge at St. John's, West Hartford, Connecticut, is in residence. And from August through October, The Rt. Rev. Gary Lillibridge (Bishop of West Texas, retired) conducts services.

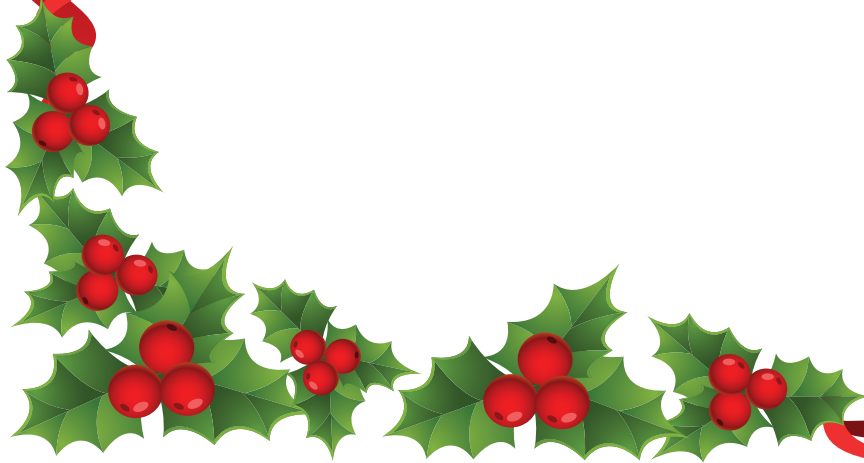
By The Rt. Rev. Gary Lillibridge (ret.)



**St. Peter's By The Sea
Episcopal Church**
535 Shore Road
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*Merry Christmas***

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