

# 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](http://www.st-peters-by-the-sea.org) • Editor: Michael L. Smyser IV • [mikecalifguy@comcast.net](mailto:mikecalifguy@comcast.net)

**St. Peter by the Sea Episcopal will open June 11 with Eucharist services at 8 a.m. & 10 a.m.**

## From the President of the Board of Trustees



Dear Friends,

Serving as the headmaster of a Church school in central Maryland, I am now in the midst of what is for us the most meaningful time of year, when the Church's calendar, the school's calendar, and nature's calendar all point to rebirth, the power of community, and of new journeys to come.

In the Church's calendar, we are still celebrating Easter and looking ahead to Ascension and Pentecost, so the Resurrection of Jesus Christ, his departure from and commissioning of his disciples, and the gift of the Holy Spirit inspiring, gathering, and empowering the Church to be his body in the world. In the school's calendar, we are approaching commencement, so the departure of our seniors and the appointment of new student leaders and officers to assume their roles within the continuing life of our community as a society of learners, which refashions itself every year. And in nature's calendar, we are surrounded by the brightly colored flowers and the rich greens of a Maryland spring again pointing to rebirth and new beginnings, and the power of God to bring life into the world.

So also, St. Peter's will gather soon in June and continue through the summer and fall with many familiar faces and, we pray, some new faces, whom the Spirit will inspire to join us. Let us be sure to welcome them even as we greet each other, so that our community can grow and revive as God intends for us.

For those of you who have recently joined us, perhaps last year or the year before, please consider joining in the work "behind the scenes" that makes all of this happen – in the church, on the grounds, in the rectory – in all the places that we gather every year. And if so moved, please identify yourselves to the clergy or ushers or any of us who have been at St. Peter's a little longer, because we could use your help.

In this way, St. Peter's will be reborn and renewed this year and every year and for generations to come, proclaiming "by word and example" the Good News of Jesus Christ to the world.

My very best wishes to you all and see you soon.

Yours faithfully,

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

## Opening Services

St. Peter's by the Sea will reopen **June 11** with its 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. services. There will be a full choir and music at the 10 a.m. under the direction of Dr. Harold Stover, our organist and choirmaster. Holy Eucharist will be celebrated at both services with Fr. Patrick Gahan as celebrant and preacher. Everyone is invited. Kids' Bible activity bags are available for the children again this season.

A Welcome Fest of food and drinks will be held at the newly restored rectory on the ocean behind St. Peter's. We welcome everyone to meet and greet, and chat and laugh over brunch.



## Community Sharing Tradition Continues

As in the past two years, the Community Sharing Committee has awarded three grants from St. Peter's by the Sea. A total of \$14,200 was given across three agencies that provide specialized services in York County.

Seeds of Hope in Biddeford was awarded \$7,000 to purchase and install a commercial-grade dishwasher and sandwich prep unit, as well as a contribution toward ongoing operations. The dishwasher project will yield immediate and future savings by eliminating the use of disposables which currently cost at least \$6,000 annually. Both in terms of dollars and support of a sustainable environment, the grant was felt to be a "gift that keeps on giving."



As in years past, the Committee also awarded \$5,500 to the HOPE Fund of the York County Community Action Corp. The HOPE Fund provides assistance to York County residents who have demonstrated need but whose needs are not met through existing programs. The help may take the form of a gasoline card to ensure that the recipient can get to their job, tires, or a needed repair for an automobile or home in order to maintain independence.

The Committee also supported the York Hospital's Center for Older Adults with a grant of \$1,700 to expand their lending library of books on topics related to health care. Titles regarding support and management of dementias, insomnia, swallowing disorders, and exercise, are included.

St. Peter's by the Sea is so grateful for the generosity of both regular and occasional, seasonal donors who are the foundation of these outreach projects. As Episcopalians, "it's all about the service" to our fellow life travelers.

**By Karl Sanford, Chair of Outreach Ministry Committee**



**Guild Benefit Picnic**  
July 16 @ 11:30 a.m.

**Guild Benefit Brunch**  
August 20 @ 11:30 a.m.

**Jazz at St. Peter's**  
August 27 @ 4 p.m.

**St. Francis Blessing Pets**  
October 1 @ 8 & 10 a.m.

## **Our Clergy Schedule for Summer 2023**



### **Fr. Patrick Gahan**

*Starting the 2023 season on June 11, The Rev. W. Patrick Gahan will be our celebrant and preacher for the month of June.*

Dear St. Peter's Family, Kay and I greet you from the Camino de Santiago in the Spanish Pyrenees. We are making our Way ten days and then we're off to Scotland to walk the Great Glen Way. We are enjoying ourselves but hitting the bed at night exhausted. We can't wait to be with all our friends at St. Peter's and are excited about making new friends, too. This is our 14th year with you, and

we will arrive right after we attend my 50th reunion at St. Andrew's in Sewanee. Besides, it is also wonderful for us to escape the heat in San Antonio to the cool breezes at Cape Neddick. Your sister and brother in Christ, Kay and Patrick



### **Fr. Todd FitzGerald**

*During the month of July, The Rev. Todd R. FitzGerald will be our celebrant and preacher.*

The FitzGerald family is looking forward to celebrating another summer (14th!) in residence at Marmion House with the good people of St. Peter's! Todd and Amy continue to settle in to life in West Hartford. Todd enjoys his ministry at St. John's Church and Amy is learning new skills as an archivist at Trinity College. Stella finished up her junior

year at BU, and was awarded the Dimmock Prize for excellence in vocal performance. Florie flew from the nest to join new friends as an eighth grade boarding student at Saint James School in Hagerstown, Maryland (her place of birth!) – she was an honor student and participated in the school play, and on the field hockey and lacrosse teams.



### **Bishop Gary Lillibridge**

*Bishop Gary Lillibridge and his wife Catherine will be in residence from August to October.*

Gary and Catherine Lillibridge return to St. Peter's for their 13th season as the clergy-in-residence from August into October. Bishop Lillibridge retired as the Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of West Texas in 2017, after almost 14 years in that role. Prior to his election as bishop, he served congregations in Corpus Christi, Del Rio, Brownsville, and San Antonio. In retirement, in addition to

his service as a member of the St. Peter's Board of Trustees, he is part of the teaching ministry of St. Benedict's Workshop, which focuses on both lay and clergy formation. He serves as a guest lecturer and retreat leader; and has also served as an Interim Rector and long-term supply clergy for congregations in Houston, Rockport (Texas), and Pensacola. Catherine and Gary will celebrate 38 years of marriage in 2023, and they have three adult children who visit St. Peter's each season. They very much look forward to seeing you this summer!



## **Visitation from the Bishop of Maine**

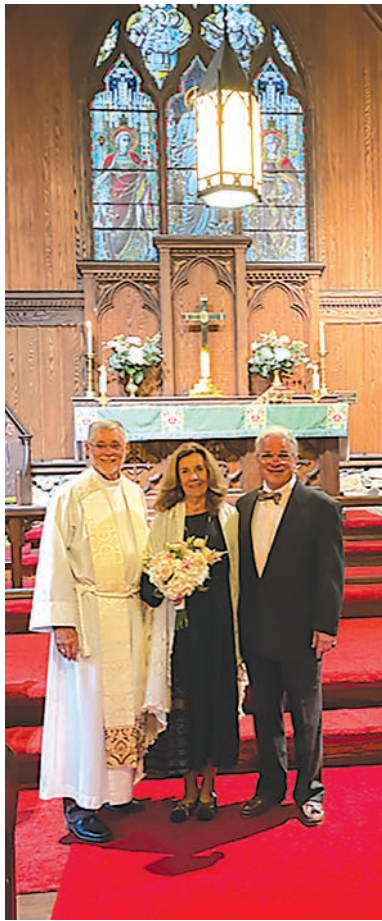
Our Bishop, the Right Rev. Thomas Brown, Diocese of Maine, will visit with us again this summer on **August 20**. He will celebrate Eucharist and preach at the 10 a.m. service. He will also be at the parish rectory for the Annual Brunch following the 10 a.m. mass and hopes to meet everyone there. Bishop Brown was consecrated as the tenth Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Maine on June 22, 2019.

*Everyone is invited to meet our Bishop and attend the fundraiser brunch afterwards!*

### **VOLUNTEERS needed. Pay is HEAVENLY.**

We are back this summer with a full church worship schedule so if you are able to serve as crucifer, usher, lay reader, or Eucharistic minister (you must be active under the auspices of the Episcopal Church), contact Michael Smyser, Worship Volunteer Coordinator at 561.329.4300 or [mikecalifguy@comcast.net](mailto:mikecalifguy@comcast.net). Our worship schedule is June 11 - October 8, 8 a.m. & 10 a.m. with Eucharist.





## **Weddings at St. Peter's**

Weddings at the historic St. Peter's by the Sea Episcopal continue with a high number of inquiries that pour in for a fast-paced summer. Begun in 1898, St. Peter's has become a leader in the coastal community of York County. We value God's presence in weddings held in a beautiful, peaceful, sacred place with distinguished stained-glass windows throughout the sanctuary, along with the Cross on the high altar indicating our faith as Christians. Established within the traditions of the Episcopal Church in America under the auspices of Anglicanism, our clergy are educated, sincere, and dedicated to serving God's people.

*God's love for all – this includes weddings for LGBT couples!*

Bishop Gary Lillibridge presided over these beautiful weddings at St. Peter's by the Sea:

Top right photo: Katie Sprusansky and Ryan Socha were married on August 5, 2022. (Patrick McNamara Photography)

Left: Martha Dischinger and Ian Murray were married on October 6, 2022.

Right: Abigail Heroth and Ryan Carr were married on October 1, 2022.

If you are interested in having your wedding in our beautiful historic church of St. Peter's, contact our wedding coordinator, Tammy Franz-Mallen, at 617.962.0246 or [dtmallen@comcast.net](mailto:dtmallen@comcast.net).



## **St. Francis Blessing of the Animals**

This year, the St. Francis Blessing of the Animals will be held at both the 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. Masses on **October 1**. Bishop Gary Lillibridge will be conducting the service and celebrant. It will be held outdoors at the altar unless weather conditions brings it into the church sanctuary.

This very successful event at St. Peter's brings 100+ pets each year to receive holy water and a prayer over each one. The Anglican Church, the largest Protestant branch and 100 million strong, holds the St. Francis of Assisi Blessing of the Animals in its parishes worldwide. In the U.S., after the American Revolution War, the colonists changed their name to Episcopal Church!

*You need not be Episcopal to attend the beautiful event with your pets – All are welcome.*

"A very joyous occasion during past Eucharist celebrations when pets begin barking and making noises as if to sing to the Lord, a new song of Gratitude," chairperson Michael Smyser commented. Contact Michael at 561.329.4300 or watch our website for details.



**Our Annual Blessing of the Animals is on October 1, 2023, at 8 a.m. and 10 a.m.**



## Our Annual Jazz Concert is on August 27, 2023, at 4 p.m.



### Jazz at St. Peter's

The New Legacy Swing Band returns on **August 27** at 4 p.m. with wine and cheese. The donation is \$30, with proceeds supporting the Preservation Fund of St. Peter's by the Sea.

Our wonderful committee meets in the fall for a wrap-up meeting and in the spring for our mailings. Each year we move more and more into the digital age for invitations and ticket information – but we still answer the phone and use mail. Our sponsors help underwrite the costs.

In July, you will receive ticket information on ordering tickets.

#### **Jazz Committee:**

Charlotte Constantian  
Fotene Cote  
Bishop Gary Lillibridge  
Hannah Leavitt Krill  
Linda Seager  
Louesa Gillespie  
Jeanine Storrs



### Music at St. Peter's for 2023

*O come, let us sing unto the LORD: let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation.  
Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving and make a joyful noise unto him with psalms.  
~ Psalm 95:1-2*

A rich and inspiring feast of music is in store for the services in 2023!

The choir, drawn from a roster of Maine's finest professional singers, will again be in residence for the entire summer. In addition to the chanting of the appointed psalm for each Sunday, the offertory and communion anthems will be drawn from 500 years of the finest Anglican liturgical music, from Williams Byrd and Thomas Tallis in the 16th century to Eleanor Daly, James Davy, and other living composers who continue to enrich Anglican worship. These will be supplemented with masterworks by Johann Sebastian Bach, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Felix Mendelssohn, and other composers from outside the Church of England's tradition. Each service will again include congregational song in the form of the Gloria, the Sanctus, and three hymns chosen to complement each Sunday's lectionary readings, from June 11 to October 8.

Worshippers will see many familiar faces in the choir, including Jennifer Bates, Stella FitzGerald, John Adams, Andrea Graichen, and eight others who will be making up each Sunday's quartet.

**Harold Stover** (photo above right) returns for his fifth season as organist and Director of Music after a busy winter in the Greater Portland music world. Among his activities were concerts with Renaissance Voices, his acclaimed a capella ensemble, and teaching at the Portland Conservatory of Music. He played organ recitals on the conservatory's faculty recital series and on the new pipe organ at St. Alban's Episcopal Church in Cape Elizabeth, and filled requests for new compositions from two publishers. On his schedule for the summer are recitals at Kennebec Valley Community College in Hinckley, and at the Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul in Lewiston, as part of the celebration of the 85th anniversary of the basilica's organ. Ray Cornils will return as substitute organist for two Sundays while Harold plays for the services at St. Luke's Cathedral in Portland.

We look forward to making St. Peter's by-the-Sea glad with our music of thanksgiving and praise!



**Ray Cornils**



**Stella FitzGerald** is the daughter of Fr. Todd FitzGerald. She is an opera and voice performance major at Boston University in her third year. She was awarded the Dimmock Prize for excellence in vocal performance this year at BU.



**Jennifer Bates**, soprano, is a Maine native who enjoys a multifaceted career in the opera, concert, and recital worlds. Her appearances include the NY Philharmonic, NY City Opera, American Symphony Orchestra, New England Symphonic Ensemble at Carnegie Hall, as featured soloist at the Bach Vespers Cantata Series, and many European engagements such as at Windsor Castle. She appears regularly on NY City Opera's Vox series and has sung on the ALEA III series in Boston.



**John David Adams** is a bass soloist with a rich, flexible voice well suited to Baroque literature, notably the cantatas and oratorios of Bach and Handel. He has been sung with the San Francisco Symphony, Marine Chamber Orchestra, San Francisco Bach Choir, Maine Pro Musica, and many others. He is also a founding member of Aureole Chamber Ensemble and Vox Nova Chamber Choir in Maine. He joined St. Mary Schola in 2010.



**Andrea Graichen** is a longtime member of Choral Art Society and the St. Mary Schola. She has appeared as a guest artist with the Portland Symphony Orchestra, and sang the role of Mother Jeanne in the PSO's presentation of Poulenc's opera, Dialogues of the Carmelites. Graichen has sung a wide variety of roles many other operas including Mozart's Parto, Ma Tu Ben Mio, Schubert's Der Hirt Auf Dem Felsen, and Handel's Messiah.



## **St. Peter's Guild – Join Us!**

Our Guild is made up of volunteers who care for the altar, vestments, vessels, and linens, for Sunday Eucharist. Altar Guild members also adorn the sanctuary with flowers; and throughout the summer season, we host hospitality hours, and provide linens for our priests and their families at the rectory.

We also oversee the Annual Benefit Picnic and Benefit Brunch. These fundraising events, along with our membership dues, help the Guild fulfill its mission of community outreach – helping families in our area who face hardships!

Everyone is welcome to join us for these fundraising socials following our 10 a.m. services:

**Welcome Fest & First Service - June 11**

**Guild Benefit Picnic - July 16**

**Guild Benefit Brunch & Bishop Brown Visit - August 20**

As our church is growing, and the needs as well, new members and ideas are most welcome! If you'd like to join or renew your membership, mail your \$25 check, made payable to St. Peter's

Guild, to Treasurer Susan Martin, 10 Birch Road, Kennebunk, ME 04043.



### **2023 Officers of St. Peter's Guild:**

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



*Above photo: Board members Treasurer Susan Martin (left), Secretary Diane Sanford (second from left), and Chair Carol Kane Leonhard (right), are pictured here happily hosting the Guild Brunch last year.*

*Photo to left: Driving to the picnic in 1930s style!*

## **Memorial Garden Rejuvenation**

Over the 15 years of its existence, some things have become crystal clear with the Memorial Garden. While some of the original plants have thrived, others have been locked in a struggle with the elements and the voraciously hungry deer. Who knew that Mountain Laurel was a veritable salad bar for the deer or that a particular shrub would do well in one area but wither in another? These are the perplexing questions that haunt even experienced gardeners.

This spring, the Memorial Garden will undergo a replanting of shrubbery that has been ravaged or destroyed by the elements. Replacements will include inkberry, fothergilla, a white rhododendron, and clethra alnifolia. Selective tree trimming and the in-ground irrigation system is providing a bit more light and consistent moisture into the woodland garden, thus supporting more vigorous growth.

The Memorial Garden has been blessed with the cremains of 19 saints since the first interment in 2007. We also hold 13 Certificates of Interment Rights for folks who've decided to have their earthly remains at St. Peter's Episcopal.

For more information on St. Peter's Memorial Garden or how you might volunteer, contact Karl Sanford at [Kar1S41247@gmail.com](mailto:Kar1S41247@gmail.com).



*The gardeners who help keep our grounds beautiful!*

## **Spring Maintenance Report**

Spring is here and I am happy to report that in spite of several substantial winter Nor'easters we came through in pretty good shape. The church showed no storm damage. A few branches parted company with the large pines surrounding the rectory, but none attacked the buildings and they were quickly removed from the yard. One screen blew out but that's an easy fix.

As we complete the rectory renovations, the final work on the doors and windows is almost done. Last fall the two balcony doors were removed along with the main entrance door, and taken to Portland for repair. Five window sashes accompanied them. The window and door spaces were paneled over with plywood and plastic, and all bore up well under the storms. These items will be re-installed in mid-May.

A new roof was put on the garage late last fall. Roof repairs to the rectory are to be completed this spring. Several other minor repairs and paint touch-ups are in process, and we will be ready by the end of May for the 2023 worship season.

*By Joe Leonhard*



*Those from St. Peter's who stayed during the cold winters of Maine gathered for a Christmas luncheon at the Beachmere in Ogunquit in December!*





**St. Peter's By The Sea  
Episcopal Church**  
535 Shore Road  
PO Box 693  
Cape Neddick, ME 03902  
[www.st-peters-by-the-sea.org](http://www.st-peters-by-the-sea.org)

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### **Altar Flower Dedication**

*Honor or recognize a family member or special occasion with an Altar Flower Sponsorship!*

Sponsoring our Sunday altar flowers is a wonderful way to celebrate a birthday or anniversary, remember a loved one who has passed, or mark a special occasion – and your generous donation offsets the cost of the flowers.

The fee for the two lovely floral bouquets is \$120. At the end of the 10 a.m. service, you will receive one of the floral bouquets. A sponsorship may also be shared by another person or family at a cost of \$60 each.

To sponsor flowers, contact Tammy Mallen at [dtmallen@comcast.net](mailto:dtmallen@comcast.net) or 617.962.0246 for availability and to provide your dedication information.



### ***St. Peter's By The Sea Board of Trustees***

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