

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

St. Peter by the Sea Episcopal will open June 2 with Eucharist services at 8 a.m. & 10 a.m.



From the President of the Board of Trustees

Dear Friends,

I am happy to report that the church will open for our first Sunday on June 2 and continue through October 13, with Fr. Gahan in June, Fr. Fitzgerald in July, and Bishop Lillibridge thereafter. I am also pleased to report that Harold Stover will be returning with his usual band of skilled choristers.

I hope that everyone has enjoyed a good winter, and I look forward to seeing you when I travel "home" in July.

I always tell our students at Saint James that God can give us more than one home, which is a particularly powerful message at a boarding school with students, from 27 countries and 17 states, who on their way to colleges and universities all over America and abroad. Our students' sense of "home" therefore is always expanding: the home(s) where they grew up, now also Saint James, and several more "homes" to come.

Surely, St. Peter's is a gathering, recurring, and anchoring "church home" for all of us, which is a constant in our year for a week or a month, or five months, depending upon where we work and live most of the time. What makes it "home" is that we are welcomed and loved and known at St. Peter's, not just by each other, but by God, or more specifically by God as he is revealed to us in Jesus Christ and as we worship him as trinity: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

In the Eucharist, we see, hear, and taste Christ's presence with us, and we are joined by all who have worshiped at St. Peter's before us and worship with us still in that wonderful intersection of prayer and sacrament that joins heaven to earth and earth to heaven as we gather together at the altar of God.

Thank you, then, to all of you who work so faithfully, skillfully, and generously to keep St. Peter's by the Sea Episcopal open and alive for all of us.

Welcome home!

Yours faithfully,

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

St. Peter's by the Sea Episcopal Does it Again

The summer congregants of St. Peter's by the Sea Episcopal have donated a stunning total of \$15,000 to support the wider York County community. Through the Community Sharing Committee of St. Peter's, the 2023 plate offering has been distributed: \$4,000 to The HOPE Fund administered by the York County Community Action Council; \$6,000 to The Seeds of Hope in Biddeford; and \$5,000 to York Hospital to help underwrite the new cardiac catheterization lab.

The renovation of the cardiac catheterization lab at York Hospital is a multi-year project to install state-of-the-art equipment and renovate the physical surroundings to streamline emergency procedures. In addition to the current \$5,000 donated this year, the Community Sharing Committee deemed the project worthy of a five-year commitment totaling \$25,000.

The Seeds of Hope continues to expand its services to their unhoused neighbors and have made several changes over the past three years to support their mission. Located in a former Episcopal church, the Seeds of Hope provides a warming center, food, and a place to tend to self-care needs. While beds cannot be offered, zero-gravity chairs for sleeping are available as well as soup and sandwiches for nourishment. Two years ago, meals were provided to about 40 people per day. This number has risen dramatically to more than 100 meals per day. This year's donation specifically targets the major kitchen renovation which, when finished, will allow the center to make and serve its own soup and food rather than relying on more expensive commercially available foods.

St. Peter's has long supported The HOPE Fund which seeks to provide funding for individual needs that cannot be met through existing governmental programs. Sometimes a set of new tires or a gas debit card is all that is needed to support someone's independence and further their movement toward financial autonomy.

By Karl Sanford, Chair of Outreach Ministry Committee

Historic Brasses Restored

After 125 years of wear and enumerable polishings with Brasso, many of the historic brass sanctuary furnishings have been restored by C.M. Almy. Several of the items, such as the tall candlesticks, font finial, and altar desk, are original to St. Peter's by the Sea Episcopal and were donated by St. Peter's benefactor, Nannie Conneroe, in 1896. All are beautifully inscribed and remind us of the decades of congregants who have practiced their faith within our church walls.

Plans are in the works for a refurbishment of the brass lectern from which the word of God has been read for 125 years. Headquartered in New York, C.M. Almy has been providing vestments and liturgical products for the Episcopal and Roman Catholic faiths since 1892. Their workshop, however, is conveniently located in Pittsfield, Maine.



Our Clergy Schedule for Summer 2024



Fr. Patrick Gahan

The Rev. Dr. Patrick Gahan and Kay, will be in residence in June.

Miracles never cease. I have been retired for five months, and Kay has neither threatened my life nor exiled me to the carport. Seriously, we are enjoying our new life together. Kay spent 48 years serving as an RN, and I have been paying into Social Security for 57 years. A new chapter in the Gahan saga has begun, and that makes us more eager than ever to spend time with all our friends at St. Peter's. How dear you are to us! Along the way, you have watched our grandchildren grow up.

"Up" is the word! Our oldest, Will, who will celebrate his 14th birthday at the rectory, stands taller than his 6'2" grandfather. Will, Grant, and Annie, do not know summer apart from the rambling Victorian rectory, the rocky shoreline, and the gracious people of St. Peter's. People ask us what Kay and I are doing in our retirement. Kay is practicing the piano for two hours a day, sometimes working on her Spanish and German, completing one jigsaw puzzle after another, cooking up a storm, and exercising with me. I spend three to four hours a day writing my weekly essay on Substack. My focus is on how Christians in America can exercise their faith during this present stressful time in our nation. For the next few months, I am writing a series on "How to Read Isaiah in a Time of Anxiety." If you would like to read my work, go to <http://patrickgahan.substack.com/>. You can also contact me at wpgahan@me.com and I will send you some recent posts and get you connected. For the first time in 15 years, Kay and I are driving up from San Antonio to Cape Neddick. We are gearing up for the adventure on the last week of May. Keep us in your prayers, and we will see you June 2!



Fr. Todd Fitzgerald

The Rev. Todd Fitzgerald and Amy will be in residence in July.

The FitzGeralds are thrilled to be in residence for their 15th summer at St. Peter's! Todd continues to learn new things as priest-in-charge at St. John's Parish, West Hartford, and looks forward to his installation as rector this fall. Amy's work as an archivist at Trinity College teaches her new things as well (which she hopes to put to good use while helping with St. Peter's archival materials). Florie finished up her freshman year at Saint James School in Maryland, enjoying participating in behind-

the-scenes theater work and playing on the field hockey and lacrosse teams. She also served as a tour guide and a chapel reader. She is excited to attend a summer law program at Georgetown U. Stella graduated from BU with a degree in voice performance, rounding out her four years by singing the National Anthem at the BU unified graduation in May. She will continue her voice training in graduate school at Cincinnati College Conservatory of Music this fall, and looks forward to joining the St. Peter's choir for a couple of Sundays in July.



Bishop Gary Lillibridge

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

Bishop Lillibridge served as the 9th Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of West Texas, based in San Antonio, from 2004 until his retirement in 2017. In addition to his work in West Texas, he has served on several boards and commissions of The Episcopal Church and The Anglican Communion. He served as a member of the Board of Regents at the University of the South in Tennessee, and on the Alumni Board of

Virginia Theological Seminary. His undergraduate degree is in education (1978), which has resulted in a life-long devotion to education and formation. He is a popular and thoughtful speaker and teacher, and assists with the teaching ministry of St. Benedict's Workshop as one of his many interests in retirement. He and his wife, Catherine, live in San Antonio and are returning to St. Peter's by the Sea Episcopal for their 14th summer. They will be in residence from August to October.



Visitation from the Bishop of Maine

Our Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Maine, the Right Reverend Thomas Brown, will make his annual visitation to St. Peter's on **August 18**. He will celebrate the Eucharist and preach the sermon at both the 8 a.m. and the 10 a.m. services, and join us at the rectory following for the Guild's Annual Benefit Brunch. It is a delight to welcome the Bishop back to St. Peter's by the Sea Episcopal.

Photo to the left: The Rt. Rev. Thomas Brown, Diocese of Maine, and The Rt. Rev. Gary Lillibridge (retired Bishop of Diocese of West Texas, San Antonio) co-celebrated the Eucharist at the 10 a.m. mass last year at St. Peter's.

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. Our worship schedule is June to October, at 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. with Eucharist.



Altar Flowers

Each Sunday throughout the season, June to mid-October, you may sponsor the Altar Flowers to adorn St. Peter's – to honor or recognize family members, loved ones, or special occasions. The fee for the floral bouquets is \$120. As a sponsor you may bring one bouquet home after the 10 a.m. service. The other bouquet is given to the rectory and the priest in residence. When possible, the sponsorship may be shared by another person or family at a cost of \$60 each, with each sponsor receiving a floral bouquet at the end of the service.

To sponsor flowers, please contact Tammy Franz-Mallen for availability and to provide your dedication message. She can be reached at dtmallen@comcast.net or 617.962.0246.

St. Francis Blessing of the Animals

The St. Francis Blessing of the Animals is celebrated throughout the parishes of our Anglican tradition worldwide. Here at St. Peter's by the Sea Episcopal, the event draws a very large crowd with pets ready to be sprinkled with holy water and given a blessing and prayer by the Rt. Rev. Gary Lillibrige, retired Bishop of the Diocese of West Texas, San Antonio. Local media is in attendance too!

Mark your calendar for **October 6, 2024** – Weather permitting, the Blessing Mass will be held outside with the altar at both the 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. services, followed by the Holy Eucharist. Each year, more than 100 pets arrive with their owners, along with other attendees to watch the cats, dogs, chickens, frogs, and other critters receive their blessing. Attendees should bring a comfortable chair since we have a limited supply.

You need not be an Episcopalian to attend this heart-warming and beautiful event with your pets—all are most welcome!

For more information, please contact Chairman Michael Smyser at 561.329.4300 or mikecalifguy@comcast.net. Also watch our website, www.st-peters-by-the-sea.org, for updates.



Baptism at St. Peter's

Photo above: Proud parents, Rachel Perks and Clyde Stover III, watch as their son, Clyde Stover IV, is baptized on August 20, 2023 by Bishop Gary Lillibrige assisted by with The Rt. Rev. Thomas Brown, Bishop of Maine.



2024 Pickleball Season is Here

The St. Peter's Pickleball group will meet for our fourth season at the Ogunquit and York High School courts. New players and spectators are welcome. We learn how the scoring works, play some games, and enjoy time outdoors together. Check with Ann Brzys or Catherine Lillibrige for days and times. Photo below: Caroline Kane and Carol Kane Leonhard.



Memorial Garden Rejuvenation

Now in the 16th year of existence, the Memorial Garden of St. Peter's by the Sea Episcopal continues to serve coastal Maine. We have remains of 19 saints since the first interment in 2007. We also have 13 Certificates of Internment Rights for people who've decided to have their earthly remains in the lovely hillside gardens we named "Memorial Garden." It is not just for those who attend St. Peter's or who are Episcopalian. Interments are \$2,500 per individual and are direct (no urns or containers, and no individualized markers). Interments may occur May-October, and all areas are currently open for interments.

For more information, email Memorial Garden Coordinator Karl Sanford at Kar1S41247@gmail.com.



Our Annual Blessing of the Animals is on October 6, 2024, at 8 a.m. and 10 a.m.

Our Annual Jazz Concert is on Sunday, August 25, 2024, at 4 p.m.

Jazz at St. Peter's by the Sea

The New Legacy Swing Band returns on **August 25**, 4-6 p.m. on the rectory lawn (in sanctuary if inclement weather), along with a wine and cheese reception. The donation is \$30, and tickets can be purchased at the door. Watch the website for updates as the summer approaches.

The annual Jazz concert has become a cornerstone in the coastal community over the past few years. More than 300 tickets are sold to a packed sanctuary with all proceeds supporting the Preservation Fund of our historic St. Peter's by the Sea Episcopal. Each year the Beachmere Hotel provides the wine and cheese offered on the lawn of the rectory adjoining the church. When weather permits, the concert is moved from sanctuary to the outdoors.



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

Music for the 2024 Season

Another summer of inspiring music is on tap for 2024! Organist and Director of Music Harold Stover will direct the St. Peter's choir in anthem and psalms by great Anglican composers of the past including Thomas Tallis, Henry Purcell, Charles Villiers Stanford, and others. Their works will be complemented by composers of the present day such as James Biery, Eleanor Daley, and June Nixon, and European masters including Johann Sebastian Bach, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Felix Mendelssohn, Johannes Brahms, and Anton Bruckner. Each Sunday's quartet, sung at the 10 a.m. service, will once again be drawn from a roster of eleven of Maine's finest professional singers. Familiar friends returning are: sopranos, Jennifer Bates, Rachel Keller, and Joanne deKay; altos, Andrea Graichen, Stella FitzGerald, and Jenna Guiggey; tenor Martin Lescault; and basses, John D. Adams, Bruce Canterbury, and Ben McVety. New to the roster this year is bass David Saunders. David recently relocated to Maine from Idaho, where he taught Renaissance and Baroque Music History at Boise State University, and sang in the Boise Master Chorale. We look forward to welcoming him into the St. Peter's family! Harold will provide preludes and postludes from four centuries of organ literature and Ray Cornils will return to the organ for two Sundays when Harold will be in residence at St. Luke's Cathedral in Portland.



Ray Cornils



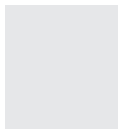
John David Adams is a bass soloist with a voice well suited to Baroque literature, notably the cantatas and oratorios of Bach and Handel. He has been sung with the San Francisco Symphony, Marine Chamber Orchestra, San Francisco Bach Choir, Maine Pro Musica, and many others. He is also a founding member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



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.



Bruce Canterbury graduated from Westminster Choir College in Princeton, New Jersey, as a Music Education major with a principle in voice. He taught elementary school music at St. Patrick's School in Portland, Maine. He joined St. Mary Schola in 2012.



Joanne deKay, soprano. No information or photo available at this time.



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.



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, Shubert's Der Hirt Auf Dem Felsen, and Handel's Messiah.



Jenna Guiggey, mezzo-soprano, is a singer and music educator based in Portland. She studied classical voice at the University of Southern Maine, earning degrees in music education and vocal pedagogy. While at USM, she was a soloist in Handel's Messiah, Mozart's Requiem, and participated with the Opera Workshop. Jenna has also studied Baroque vocal technique and was selected to perform at the Queens College Baroque Opera Workshop in 2014 and 2015. She performs locally with Oratorio Chorale, St. Mary Schola, and in local theater productions. Jenna teaches private voice lessons, and directs choirs at Greely Middle School.



Rachel Keller, soprano, was raised in a musical family in Yorkshire, England. As an undergraduate music major, she sang with the Yorkshire Bach Choir and had supporting roles with York Opera. When in Philadelphia, she explored music therapy while enjoying opportunities such as with Ancient Voices at the University of Pennsylvania. Since moving to Maine in 2002 Rachel has devoted her time to vocal study. She was a member of Renaissance Voices and the Choral Art Society, and is a member of Portland's Rossini Club. Rachel has sung with St. Mary Schola since 2012.



Martin A. Lescault has been featured as a soloist with the Portland Symphony Orchestra, Boston Pops, Maine Music Society, and many others. He has performed with ensembles such as the Schola of St. Mary's Cathedral and Portland Opera Repertory Theater. He is a member of the Cathedral Choir of St. Luke's Episcopal Cathedral in Portland, and has performed for weddings and mass at St. Peter's by the Sea.



Ben McVety, tenor, sings with the Choral Art Society and Renaissance Voices. He has been a high school choral director from 2013-2021, and now lives in the Portland area. He enjoys teaching vocal lessons, playing piano and trombone, audio and video engineering, and is learning how to play the Irish tin whistle. Ben is also a member of St. Mary's Schola.



David Saunders, bass, joined the Department of Music at Boise State University in 1996, teaching horn and music theory. He earned his D.M.A. at the State University of New York at Stony Brook, a master's degree from the Yale University School of Music, and a bachelor's degree from the St. Louis Conservatory of Music. Dr. Saunders is a frequent guest conductor, adjudicator, and clinician, and was the long-time conductor of the Treasure Valley Youth Symphony. He is a member of the College Music Society and the West Coast Conference of Music Theory and Analysis, among others.

St. Peter's Guild – Join Us!

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

We also oversee the 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!

Proceeds from the dues and benefits made it possible to donate \$1,000 to the Hope Fund of York County Community Action Corp. This community organization provides transportation, food, emergency fuel, vehicle repair, and more, to local families in need throughout York County, Maine. The Seeds of Hope Neighborhood Center in Biddeford also received \$1,000 from our guild. This drop-in center serves as a temporary warming shelter, and provides nutritious meals, coats, gloves, and sleeping bags, to those experiencing homelessness.

Everyone is welcome to join us for these Guild Benefits following the 10 a.m. services:

Welcome Fest – June 9
Benefit Picnic – July 14
Benefit Brunch – August 18

As our church is growing, and the needs as well, new members and ideas are most welcome! To join or renew your membership, please mail a \$25 check made payable to St. Peter's Guild, to Treasurer Jean Demetracopoulos at 42 Old Fields Road, South Berwick, ME 03908.

For more information about the Guild, please call or text Guild Chair Carol Kane Leonhard at 978.837.2657 or email kane.carolann@gmail.com.

New Guild Officers Elected

Welcome new guild officers: Treasurer Jean Demetracopoulos and Vice Chair Linda Seager who were elected at the December 2023 guild meeting. They will join Secretary Diane Sanford and Chair Carol Kane Leonhard.

*Carol Kane Leonhard, Chair
Linda Seager, Vice Chair
Diane Sanford, Secretary
Jean Demetracopoulos, Treasurer*

Thank You Susan and Tammy

Our heartfelt thanks to Susan Martin and Tammy Mallen for their service to St. Peter's and the Guild.



Susan has helped so willingly whenever needed. For 10 years she has served as Guild Treasurer – collecting guild membership dues and keeping track of flower sponsorship monies, not to mention, the benefit fundraising events – like the picnic and brunch, where she's usually at the door collecting donations and tallying up the figures. She's also an incredible baker, as you all know – and we pray that she continues to share her baking talents and treats!



Tammy has served not only as the Guild Vice Chair but has also had the responsibility of setting up the altar – often driving an hour north on a Saturday or early Sunday morning to make sure that everything is ready for Sunday services. She's been a great source of guild history and tradition, too. We are so grateful that she will carry on as St. Peter's Wedding Coordinator and with the coordination of the altar flower sponsorships.



Opening the Church on April 29

Thanks to Karl and Diane Sanford, Carol and Joe Leonhard, Louesa Gillespie, and Hannah Leavitt, for their help opening St. Peter's for the summer season.

The historic brass furnishings – cleaned, polished, and lacquered by C.M. Almy of Pittsfield, Maine – were carefully set up; pews were dusted off; prayer books and hymnals were placed on pew shelves; and the sound system was connected. The church will be cleaned and vacuumed – ready for our first service on June 2.



Properties Report

Our unusually warm winter was somewhat kind to our buildings but presented us with what appears to be issues beyond our control. Repeated and prolonged, storm-related, power outages have become more common. While this is of minimal inconvenience to unoccupied buildings, it does pose a problem with our electric-powered, basement, sump pump in the rectory. We will be installing a battery backup system to mitigate this. We continue to keep an eye on the roofs of the buildings, because of the increasing number and intensity of the rainstorms we are experiencing. We are looking forward to mild spring weather and the early, June 2 opening of our 2024 St. Peter's worship season.

By Joe Leonhard



**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

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. For information to have your wedding at our lovely church, contact Wedding Coordinator Tammy Franz-Mallen at dtmallen@comcast.net or 617.962.0246.

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



Both photos: Sarah Ganio and Robert Spencer were married in a beautiful ceremony officiated by Reverend Patrick Gahan on June 10, 2023.



St. Peter's by the Sea Board of Trustees

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