

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,

As I write this letter I am distracted, as I am sure you are, by the escalating war between Israel and Hamas, and its violent consequences for civilians in Israel and Gaza. I am also concerned for the people of Ukraine suffering the horrific consequences of the ongoing Russian invasion, and of the many people in so many places throughout the world who suffer the ravages of war and violence, even in our own United States – and indeed in Maine where one man has just shot many innocent people just an hour's drive to our north in Lewiston.

Into this world – our world – still so troubled by senseless violence and vicious aggression comes this remarkable message of peace, of Emmanuel or “God with us,” of Christ bringing into the world his saving message of self-giving love. And this message starts small in a baby born in Bethlehem, worshiped then by shepherds and wise men, and continues now with us, gathering as we do every summer to hearing still the message of the angels and following still that star, a star that shines in the surrounding darkness of hate and division for all of us who are willing to look, believe, and see.

So, let us pray, this Christmas especially, that this star will shine all the more brightly for all the world to see, and that our faithful witness every summer at St. Peter's and continuing fellowship of mutual support and concern will speak to others as those angels once spoke to those shepherds and speak through the ages to us: there is in Christ a different way for all of us to follow, his way of forgiveness and peace.

And so, as we gather this Advent in our homes and in our different winter churches, let us pray for all people throughout the world – so many so much less fortunate than we are, for those near to us and far from us, our friends and our enemies, that the peace of Christ may come into our hearts that much more deeply and the light of Christ shine in our lives that much more brightly so that others may see the truth which he still so powerfully and urgently reveals to us.

Yours faithfully,



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



Merry Christmas



In appreciation to the Ogunquit Fire Department for their valued time and effort in helping St. Peter's with their bell – We want to recognize their service and concern and give the entire department a big “Thank You!”



Jazz at St. Peter's

The afternoon of August 27, we had our annual Jazz at St. Peter's on the rectory lawn alongside the picturesque Atlantic Ocean. The seventeen-piece New Legacy Swing Band have been entertaining audiences for more than 25 years, with a diverse library of tunes that span the decades.

Continue on page 3...



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 10 a.m. Sunday service, as well as community outreach fundraising benefits. As our Church is growing, and the needs also, new Guild members and ideas are most welcome!

Our annual membership dues, along with the annual July Benefit Picnic and August Benefit Brunch fundraising events, form the basis for our community outreach contributions which help families in our area who face hardships.



If you'd like to join or renew your membership, please mail your \$25 check, made payable to St. Peter's Guild, to Treasurer Susan Martin at 10 Birch Road, Kennebunk, ME 04043.

For more information about the Guild, please contact Carol Kane Leonhard, Guild Chair at (978) 837-2657 or kane.carolaon@gmail.com. ~ *Carol Kane Leonhard, Chair of St. Peter's Guild*



Bishop Thomas Brown's Visit

St. Peter's was delighted to welcome the Bishop of Maine, The Rt. Rev. Thomas Brown, on Sunday, August 20, at both morning services. It was the Bishop's third annual visitation with us to celebrate, preach, and encourage our community in Christ and our life within the Episcopal Diocese of Maine. Following the services, Bishop Brown joined everyone at the Marmion House rectory to enjoy the Guild's Annual Benefit Brunch. Next year, Bishop Brown will be with us on August 18, 2024.

Baptism at St. Peter's

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.

Pictured below: Fr. Todd FitzGerald and crucifer Terry Trimble during the baptism of a little child into the community of Christ.+





Weddings at St. Peter's

Priscilla Moore and John Fillippini were married at St. Peter's by the Sea Episcopal on August 8, 2023. Bishop Gary Lillibridge performed the ceremony. (Photographed by Patrick McNamara)

If you would like information on having your wedding ceremony at our church (including same sex couples), please contact Wedding Coordinator Tammy Franz-Mallen at dtmallen@comcast.net.

Musical Season

From the opening hymn "Come, thou font of every blessing" on June 11 to the traditional singing of the Navy hymn to close the final service on October 8, it was a great summer of music at St. Peter's.



The choir was, again, in session for every Sunday, with the roster of singers making up each Sunday's quartet drawn from Maine's finest choral ensembles: Jennifer Bates and John David Adams from the Blue Hill Bach Festival; Rhee Michelle, Dawn Anderson, Joanne DeKay, and Ben McVety from Renaissance Voices; Rachel Keller, Bruce Canterbury, Jenna Guiggey, and Asa Bradford from St. Mary Schola; and Andrea Graichen from the Portland Bach Virtuosi. Stella FitzGerald from Boston University returned to her long-time summer home for one Sunday. Director of Music Harold Stover presided at the organ and was spelled for two weeks by Ray Cornils when Harold was in residence at St. Luke's Cathedral in Portland.

The choir chanted each Sunday's appointed psalm and provided offertory and communion anthems drawn from six centuries of Anglican repertoire from William Burd and Thomas Tallis to Leo Sowerby and James Davy, augmented by European masters Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Joseph Haydn, George Frideric Handel, and others. ~ **Harold Stover, Music Director**

Continued from front page...

Well over 150 people attended the performance and enjoyed the wine and cheese selection, including visitors from out of state.

Ticket proceeds go to St. Peter's Preservation Fund, and our sponsors help underwrite the costs. We are very grateful for their support!

Next year we plan to have the jazz festival on August 25, 2024. More details to come this spring.

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



Above: SPBTS Board Member Glenn Farrell with his wife Mary and SPBTS Board Member David Mallen with wife Tammy enjoying the Jazz concert on the rectory lawn.





Blessing of the Animals

The fifth annual Blessing of the Animals was held October 1, 2023 for the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi. Retired Bishop Gary Lillibridge officiated and blessed 74 pets!

The Episcopal Church within Anglicanism has long believed that animals are gifts from God and that people are responsible for being good stewards of the earth and all it's inhabitants. Because St. Francis of Assisi was well known for his strong and sincere love for animals and all nature, services are commonly held on or near his feast day on October 4 to remember and emulate Francis' example of love for our pets and deep appreciation of both God's love and creation. Some Lutheran and Roman Catholic Churches also follow the honoring of God's animals at this time.

"It is truly an experience witnessing in the Church our beloved pet friends that we feel strongly that God, their Creator, loves them too. After all, He created them before He made us! With the sprinkling of holy water, the pet's name aloud, and a prayer in Jesus' name prayed over each one indicates the power of God's Love for all," said Michael Smyser, chairperson.

For more information, contact Michael Smyser, chairman, at 561-329-4300 or visit www.st-peters-by-the-sea.org.



Above: Gary Lillibridge, Catherine Lillibridge, Rachel Perks, Clyde Stover III, Mark Andrew, Pam Sawyer.

2023 Pickleball Report

The St. Peter's Pickleball group met in August and September, for our third season, at the Ogunquit and York High School courts. We had players on the courts and spectators chatting on the sidelines. It is a good way to learn the scoring, get some basic game skills, and meet new people. We look forward to having new players and spectators in 2024!

~ Catherine Lillibridge and Ann Bryz

Middle: Catherine Lillibridge and Ann Bryz.



Below – Top row: Clyde Stover III, Rachel Perks, Margie Cossette, Frank Cossette. Bottom row: Clyde Stover IV, Catherine Lillibridge, Ellen Wyly.





Memorial Garden Replanted

After years of occasional deer and weather damage, a major replanting project was completed in what had to be the best summer for planting. Aided by incessant rain, and little winter-kill, the Memorial Garden added fothergilla, hydrangea, river birch, inkberry, and ilex. By mid-June, it was obvious that the irrigation system was superfluous and was turned off lest the plantings became waterlogged. A white rhododendron was the only casualty to root-rot from too much water! There were no interments this season. Springtime in the garden promises to be more colorful with new forget-me-nots and spring bulbs gracing the Baldwin-Dunnan area.

The Memorial Garden has been blessed with the cremains of 19 saints since its first interment in 2007. We also have 13 Certificates of Internment Rights for people who've decided to have their earthly remains at St. Peter's Memorial Garden. ~ *by Karl Sanford*



Property Report

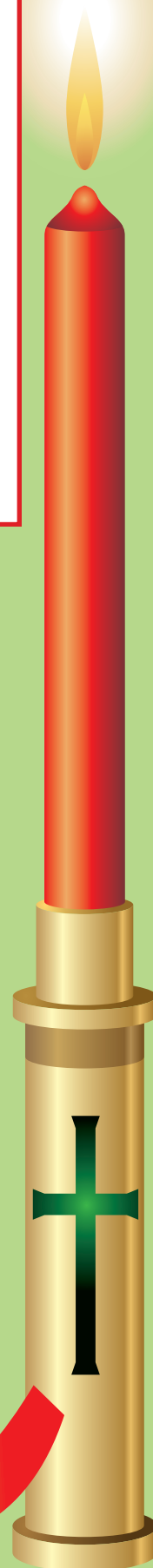
The St Peter's By The Sea 2023 worship season is over and it is time to put things in order for winter. Chris Donnell Plumbing came by this morning to drain the pipes and set things in order to avoid freeze-ups. Also, the wild winds and driving rain that accompany each Nor'easter have a nasty habit of finding little chinks in the armor of our lovely Rectory. Such was the case with the chimney with a leak at the roof interface. The crew arrived today and with fair weather forecasted for the rest of the week we are getting the needed repairs and we should be in good shape for winter storms. ~ *Joe Leonhard*



Worship at St. Peter's

At St. Peter's by the Sea Episcopal, we continue to see our attendance increasing at both the 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. services. Our volunteer force is very instrumental in our liturgical worship as layreaders, Eucharistic ministers (EM), crucifers, acolytes, and ushers. If you are interested in serving next summer, please contact Michael Smyser at mikecalifguy@comcast.net.

Above photo: Rev. Todd FitzGerald.
Right photo: Rev. Patrick Gahan.





**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

Have A Very Holy & *Merry Christmas*

**FIRST CLASS MAIL
PLEASE FORWARD**

Christmas Greetings from Your Clergy Families

Peace to you all from the Gahans, FitzGerald, and Lillibridges. As the holy Christmas season nears, please know that we are thinking of you and send you our love. Let us join together with the heavenly host in their chorus, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward all" (Luke 2:14). As 2023 gives way to 2024, may we live into that Christmas proclamation by giving God glory; by serving as his instruments of peace; and by practicing good will toward others. In so doing, may we, like Joseph and Mary, "marvel at those things which were spoken of him" (Luke 2:33). We look forward to seeing you next summer.

~ Amy, Todd, Kay, Patrick, Catherine, and Gary.



*Fr. Todd
and Amy*



*Fr. Patrick
and Kay*



*Bishop Gary
and Catherine*

St. Peter's by the Sea Board of Trustees

**Rev. Dr. D. Stuart Dunnan,
President**

**Glenn Farrell & Karl Sanford,
Vice-Presidents**

**David Mallen,
Treasurer**

**Hon. M. Hannah Leavitt,
Secretary**

Rt. Rev. Gary Lillibridge

Michael L. Smyser, IV

Richard Morgan

Joe Leonhard

John Seager

Barry Kean

Fotene Cote

Louesa Gillespie