

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

Merry Christmas

From the President of the Board of Trustees

Dear Friends,

The fall in Maryland is warm and dry, so it looks like the set of Bonanza outside, but there is the promise of rain and cooler weather to come. It is hard to imagine that Thanksgiving is upon us with Advent and Christmas soon thereafter, but the year marches on, and we look forward to the summer when we will be back together at St. Peter's.



So, looking ahead, I am happy to announce that we will be expanding our season, opening the church earlier next year. Taking advantage of Fr. Gahan's recent retirement, we will open on Mother's Day, May 11, and the Gahans will stay through June, to be followed by the FitzGerald's in July, and the Lillibridges in August, September, and October. We are very fortunate to have three well-established summer rectors, whose gifts are particularly well placed with us, and we are grateful to all three of them and their gracious and talented wives for staying so loyally and enthusiastically with us.

Also looking ahead, we are continuing to explore an addition to the church on the north side which will provide for handicapped access, an indoor bathroom, and allow us to expand the sacristy. We had hoped to add a small parlor, but we fear that this may prove too expensive as construction costs have increased so significantly over the past several years, so we are still considering our options.

I am happy to report that the Baldwin Foundation has made a pledge of \$250,000 over five years to help us meet the cost, but we will need other donors, especially if we are going to retain the parlor. If you are interested in helping with this project, please feel free to reach out to your favorite trustee and let us know. The good news is that our endowment will allow us to self-finance the construction, so long as we receive enough additional pledges and bequests to repay the endowment sufficiently to fund our operating and maintenance costs going forward.

So, let us pray for rain and snow and more seasonable weather, for our country after a difficult and divided election, for the world in such a perilous time for so many, and for our church and the community it gathers. May we support each other generously in faith, hope, and love, and may we reveal in the depth and breadth of our fellowship God's love for all his people and for all of his creation revealed to us in Jesus Christ, our Lord.

So, in his name, I greet you with hope for the future: Happy Thanksgiving! Merry Christmas! Happy New Year! Blessed Easter! And Happy Mother's Day!

Yours faithfully,

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



Guild Gives Back

This year, St. Peter's Guild has donated a total of \$2,500 to two very deserving organizations – The Hope Fund of York County and Seeds of Hope – as part of our Community Outreach mission.

The Guild donated \$1,250 to York County Community Action Corp. which provides transportation, food, fuel, vehicle repair, and more to local families in need throughout York County. Seeds of Hope Neighborhood Drop-In Center in Biddeford also received \$1,250 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.

Photo above: Guild member Juliane Datzenko presents the \$1,250 check to Seeds of Hope Executive Director Vassie Fowler.

Photo below: Guild members, Juliane Datzenko (left) and Jean Demetracopoulos (right), present the \$1,250 check to York County Community Action Corp. representative Michelle Fleagle.

Thank you to everyone who supported our Guild Benefit events this season, making these donations possible!

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



St. Peter's "Garden Saint" Retires

Since its inception in 2008, the Memorial Garden of St. Peter's By The Sea has been lovingly cared for by our lead gardener, Jean Husby. For 16 seasons, the planting, re-planting, weeding, watering, pruning, plant selection and maintenance, have been largely Jean's responsibility with oversight from members of the Board of Trustees. But it didn't stop at the Memorial Garden boundaries. Jean took care of the shrubbery at the driveway entrances and the north side of the church toward the Cliff House. Anyone who has taken care of a sizable property knows how time-consuming and exhausting the task can be and how it can turn into a pitched battle with the forces of Mother Nature. Jean has shown remarkable fortitude, especially during those years when the budget was short, the demands were heavy, and additional help was limited.

For Jean, St. Peter's wasn't just another gardening client; it was personal. She and her sister donated a bench in honor of their parents in the early days of the Memorial Garden. Then in October, 2021, Jean interred the remains of her parents nearby the bench. Over the past many years, her investment has been spiritual: time, energy, love, and well beyond the call of duty.

Our heartfelt thanks and best wishes go with Jean as she embarks on a new phase in her journey. ~ **Karl Sanford**



Buildings Report

Painting of the outside trim on the Church was completed in the spring. We are looking now at the stained-glass windows on both sides as some of the sash frames are showing signs of deterioration due to age. We will contact the glass-works company in Portland to have them checked out. Otherwise, it has been mostly routine maintenance at both the Church and Rectory.

Also, we are having two cabinets built and installed in the kitchen and pantry which should make these areas more functional. The after-service activities have put added strain here and we look forward to the benefits of the modernization of the storage space.

Photo above: The butler's pantry tear-out where the new cabinets will be installed. In true preservationist style, the carpenter is carefully removing the front of the old cabinets and will re-apply the facade to the new, deeper cabinets with improved under-cabinet lighting.

All is now buttoned up, winterized, and set for weathering our seasonal challenges along the coast of Maine. ~ **Joe Leonhard**



Preservation Efforts Continue

So where, exactly, does "maintenance" end and "preservation" commence? As anyone who has dealt with older home issues can tell you, these concepts are synonymous. And so it is with St. Peter's. Every time we polished the brass, fixed the roof, or straightened the bell tower, we were performing "preservation".

Years of exposure to salt air and repeated cleanings with Brasso have left their mark on many of the brass adornments of the church interior. Last year, C.M. Almy of Pittsfield, Maine, cleaned and restored several of them. Over the coming winter, the 1920's vintage lectern will be transported to Pittsfield for restoration. Given its size and weight, moving the lectern will be quite an undertaking.

~ **Karl Sanford**





Weddings at St. Peter's

Lauren Francis and Renee Lindsay were married at a beautiful wedding ceremony at St. Peter's By The Sea on September 19, 2024, by Bishop Gary Lillibridge.

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



St. Peter's to Begin Services on Mother's Day 2025

Imagine Mother's Day at St. Peter's By The Sea... spring flowers, jelly beans, warm coffee cake at the Rectory, fawns munching on the Memorial Garden hostas... But most importantly, a fine time to honor all those who gave us life!

The Board of Trustees have decided to begin church services earlier next year – on May 11. Fr. Patrick Gahan will be in residence at the Rectory to lead us in this first-ever celebration of Mother's Day! Although our summer season won't officially begin until June 1 with full choir and Guild-sponsored hospitality hour, Richard Morgan and Charles Smith have stepped up to the plate to arrange a post-service fellowship time at the Rectory. **Mark your calendars!**



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: Sacrament of Holy Baptism upon a child of God as the parents, overjoyed, stand with him. Bishop Gary Lillibridge administered the Baptism of water and the Holy Spirit, assisted by Eucharistic Minister Linda Seager.

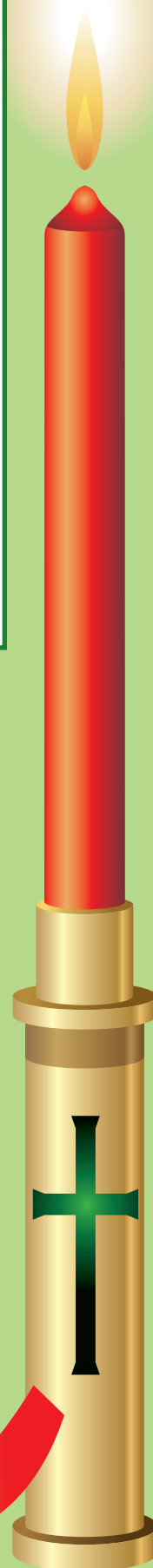


Worship at St. Peter's

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.

Photo above: Mother and children bring up elements for Eucharistic consecration during Offertory.

If you are interested in serving next summer, please contact Michael Smyser at mikecalifguy@comcast.net.





Blessing of the Animals

The sixth annual Blessing of the Animals was held October 6, 2024 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 its 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.



Jazz at St. Peter's

We held our annual Jazz Concert with Wine & Cheese Reception on August 25, on the rectory lawn alongside the picturesque Atlantic Ocean. The seventeen-piece New Legacy Swing Band has been entertaining audiences for more than 25 years.

The St. Peter's Jazz Committee would like to thank each and everyone of you supporting this year's concert. We can always count on our outstanding board members participation, our St. Peter's family, and our community.

Total sponsorships, donations, and tickets sold came to \$23,696.38. Proceeds go to St. Peter's Preservation Fund.

As Richard Morgan states, "We are now at our pre-covid numbers."

We are looking forward to the 2025 Jazz Concert scheduled for August 24.

Thank you from all the St. Peter's By The Sea Jazz Committee members:

Linda Seager, Louesa Gillespie, Bishop Gary Lillibridge, Jeanine Storrs, Hannah Leavitt Krill, and Charlotte Constantian



St. Peter's Guild

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 Jean Demetracopoulos at 42 Old Fields Road, South Berwick, ME 03908.

For more information about the Guild, please contact Carol Kane Leonhard, Guild Chair at 978-837-2657 or kane.carolann@gmail.com.

Guild Officers:

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



June 9, 2024 Welcome Fest



July 14, 2024 Annual Guild Picnic



August 18, 2024 Guild Brunch with Bishop Brown



St. Peter's By The Sea Episcopal Church
is ready for Christmas!

Altar Flowers

Altar Flower sponsorships will be coordinated by Jean Demetracopoulos. Jean may be reached at 207-384-5030 or foxhillf@aol.com to reserve a week. The weekly sponsorship amount is now \$60 (check should be made payable to St. Peter's By The Sea). Sponsor dedications will be posted in that week's church bulletin. Contributors may collect one of the arrangements at the conclusion of the 10 a.m. service. The expansion of the Church calendar into May creates even more opportunities to recognize a loved one or special occasion!





**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*

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Christmas Greetings from Your Clergy Families

Greetings from your clergy families. We are so grateful to share in the ministry of St. Peter's By The Sea, and are writing to extend our love and best wishes to you this Christmas. One of the prayers during the Christmas season states, "Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives" (Prayer Book, page 213). In this simple statement, we express our gratitude for the birth of Christ, and ask that Christ may be enkindled so deeply in our hearts that others may see the brightness of Christ. This is what being a disciple and imitator of Christ is all about. May this season and the coming year be one of knowing and demonstrating the gift of Christ in each of us. Merry Christmas! ~ *Amy and Todd, Kay and Patrick, Catherine and Gary*



***Fr. Todd
and Amy***



***Fr. Patrick
and Kay***



***Bishop Gary
and Catherine***

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