

PARISH NEWSLETTER – SPRING 2025

Greetings from your friends at
St. Peter's on-the-Rock!



St. Peter's on-the-Rock
Stony Lake, Ontario

A message from your Senior Warden, Rachel Corbett:

On behalf of the Wardens, Executive, and Select Vestry, we hope you had a wonderful winter season, and that you are looking forward to returning to our beloved Stony Lake and St. Peter's this coming summer. We also hope that your cottages were not damaged by the late March ice storm, which caused havoc throughout cottage country and eastern Ontario. We had *Kilbourn Tree and Cottage Services* check out St. Peter's as soon as the ice allowed, and the good news is we sustained no building damage. There will be lots of cleaning up though!

Looking forward to the coming summer, this newsletter offers important updates on current initiatives, re-introduces this season's Clergy, and sets out key dates to mark on your calendars. The Wardens look forward to welcoming you to a summer of worship, prayer and reflection. For me, St. Peter's is a place of divine natural beauty and being there reminds me of the lasting importance of the unique multi-generational summer community that is Stony Lake.

We are delighted to welcome back **Rev. Canon Kevin Bothwell** who will be our Priest in July for his third and final summer. In August, we are joined again by **Rev. Paige Souter** who arrives for her second summer. Bios of both our Clergy can be viewed on our web site (www.stpeterontherock.org). As before, they have both provided personal words of welcome (see sidebar inserts in the following pages). Your Wardens are also at work on recruiting future clergy to step in for Kevin and Paige when their three-year terms have ended.

We go into the 2025 season with critical vacancies in our roster of volunteers. Please think about whether you would like to join our team: we are a collegial group and we all work together to get the work done! We urgently need a **Recording Secretary** (to take minutes at Wardens' meetings and to organize the paperwork for the Annual Vestry Meeting). Also, we hope to find someone to continue the work that Tony Whittingham has previously done in the **Altar Flowers** portfolio. We are also looking for someone to watch over **Clergy Cottage** and to take the lead on **Property**, noting that the property work is performed largely by contractors.



St. Peter's on-the-Rock
Music Scholars Program

This summer we will be celebrating the **10th Anniversary of our Music Scholars Program!** Unbelievable! Huge thanks to the **Don and Margaret Walter Family** who have financially supported the program for a decade, and to **Bern Kelly** who administers the program on behalf of the Wardens. The mission of the program is *'To inspire musical youth by providing them with the opportunity to perform for a diverse audience, while enriching worship at St. Peter's and supporting our outreach efforts'*. This program provides bursaries for young musicians and their performances have become a wonderful fixture of our summer worship services.

Congratulations to **Kaitlyn Malby** of Hong Kong, our Music Scholar in 2024. She performed two piano pieces for us on August 11th, 2024 – one classical and one jazz. At Thanksgiving in 2024, we were also entertained by **Hector Singh** of Montreal, our 2023 Music Scholar, who performed for us on vocals and guitar. If you know of any young person who might enjoy this opportunity to earn a bursary and to perform this summer, please let us know. Inquiries can be made to **Bern Kelly**, bernkelly2222@gmail.com.

We are very pleased to have **Jackie Hubbs** continuing her role as Sunday School Leader. Our Sunday School mission is - *“To give children and youth spiritual roots in an environment that emphasizes the connection of God with nature so that they are better equipped to make sense out of life and respond to its circumstances”*. Last summer we installed outdoor furniture (log seating and a low sturdy worktable) at the southern point of the island to create a welcoming space for outdoor Sunday School activities. In this space the children can learn lessons connecting God with nature and continue to do crafts and music in an outdoor setting.

At the suggestion of former Clergy, **Rev. Mary-Cate Garden**, the Wardens submitted some photos of St. Peter’s to a contest sponsored by the **Anglican Church of Canada**. Twelve photos were to be chosen by a jury and would be featured in the ACC’s 2026 Church Calendar. To our delight, one of our photos was selected! Being featured in the calendar will give St. Peter’s some prominent coverage at the national level. Thank you, Mary-Cate, for the suggestion.

Declining attendance at St. Peter’s continues to be a worrisome issue for the Wardens and our new Treasurer. This is not a problem unique to us but is affecting all churches. In former times, our church would hold over 200 people each Sunday and five coffee urns were needed for coffee hour.

The Wardens have worked together over this winter to find ways to boost attendance and attract new families to St. Peter’s. We have discussed ideas including exploring guest lecturers, hosting small music events, merchandising, hosting a social event each summer, placing posters at local marinas and in the local community, connecting with youth through action-oriented activities, boosting Sunday School attendance, and the like. The Islander magazine has been very helpful, giving us space in their annual publication and we thank ASLC for this. We are also exploring alternative ways to donate through the collection plate, using smartphone-enabled digital technology that is being adopted by many other churches. Watch this summer for some of these new initiatives!

As volunteers, my spouse (Martha Hunt) and I are property stewards with the **Kawartha Land Trust**, one of St. Peter’s outreach partners. KLT now owns and operates beautiful, water-access hiking trails adjacent to Stony Lake, yet many cottagers are not aware of these trails and have not visited them. This summer, we

From Rev. Kevin Bothwell

My Dear Friends in Christ,

In his letter to the Galatians (Gal. 3) St. Paul reminds us that those who have been baptised into Christ’s fellowship are all one. There are no longer groupings of people as formerly perceived or described. There is only one group who follow Jesus as their teacher and Lord. Jesus also spoke about this in John’s gospel when He gathered with his disciples at the Last Supper. He prayed that His followers might be one, as He and the Father are one. (John 17:22)

The tensions of the world in which we live may cause many to wonder about this unity. Yet, this summer, people will come to Stony Lake from all over the globe. We will gather to play, rest, and enjoy the stunning natural beauty of Ontario’s Kawartha Lakes. Let us not forget that while we must live in the world and are therefore subject to its concerns, St. Paul (Romans 12:2) urges us not to be conformed to the world. Our grounding comes from Jesus himself. Therefore, there are no longer gender, political, national, or any other distinctions. There is only our oneness in Christ.

I am looking forward to seeing you at the end of June when we gather for our first service together.

Peace be with you.

Kevin+

plan to lead two guided hikes on these trails: one at the **Christie Bentham Wetland** and one at the **Jeffrey-Cowan Forest Preserve**. These outings will involve meeting at St. Peter's at 10:00 AM in order to boat-pool to the shoreline trailheads, doing the hike, then returning to St. Peter's for a picnic lunch. See below for specific dates for these outings.



And don't forget **Meditation Mondays!** We introduced this program last year and will be running it again this year for **five Mondays starting June 30th**. Meditation is a universally acclaimed practice embraced by both spiritual traditions and the secular world. Through cultivating presence and deepening our awareness, we enrich our experience of life. Come join us for meditation in our beautiful church at 5 PM on Monday afternoons. Everyone is welcome, even if you have never meditated before. There is no charge.

Here are some important dates to put in your calendars:

- Clean-up day followed by BBQ and Select Vestry gathering is **Saturday, June 21st** (if rain, then **Sunday June 22nd**): 10 AM – Noon clean-up, 12 noon to 1 pm BBQ, 1 – 2 pm Select Vestry gathering and informal meeting. This event is a week later than the usual because for years we have been in conflict with Fathers' Day and this year we are not! Please come help, and bring friends – all are welcome!
- Every summer Sunday starting **June 29th**, ten in total, we will be running our regular services - 8:00 AM is Holy Eucharist (a spoken service using the Book of Common Prayer) and 10:30 AM is our Family Service (using the Book of Alternative Services).
- Holy Communion is offered once per month at the 10:30 AM service. The dates this year are **July 6th** and **August 10th**.
- Baptism is offered once per month at the 10:30 AM service. The dates this year are **July 13th** and **August 17th**. If interested in a baptism in your family, please reach out soon to our Baptism Coordinator, Katharine Dalton (katharine_dalton@hotmail.com).
- **Saturday, July 12th** – Guided hike at the KLT's **Christie Bentham Wetland** trails. Meet at St. Peter's at 10:00 AM for boat-pooling and bring a picnic lunch for after the hike.
- **Monday July 28th to Friday August 1st** St. Peter's will once again host a Music Theatre Camp for kids, which will culminate in a Friday afternoon performance of **The Lion King**. Thanks to **Morgan Strickland** and **Tania Granata** of SOPAC Ottawa for once again offering this activity for youth on the lake who are interested in the arts and music.
- **Saturday, August 16th** – Guided hike at the KLT's **Jeffrey Cowan Forest Preserve** trails. Meet at St. Peter's at 10:00 AM for boat-pooling and bring a picnic lunch for after the hike.
- Our last summer service is **Sunday August 31st** on Labour Day weekend, which is very early this year.
- Say farewell to the season at our Thanksgiving Service, **Sunday October 12th**.

From Rev. Paige Souter

March has been a busy time in my backyard, which is located at the edge of the Highland Creek Ravine, the traditional territory of the Haudenosaunee, including the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation. We have not fenced the yard that runs along the ravine so we are blessed with many creaturely visits.

This month a doe with her one-year-old fawn have taken us residence with us, enjoying the delights of the garden. As they munch on our trees, we hear the birdsong which has tripled with flocks of birds having returned north. The birds rest in the trees and on the ground which is spongy from melting snow. The squirrels have been frantically looking for their spring harvest that has been hidden under the snow. And the early spring bulbs have bloomed in the garden, soon to serve as a special salad for the deer.

This bursting of creation is a reminder that in the midst of the anxiety and uncertainty in the world today, we live in the reality of God's abundance. I am reminded of the passage in Matthew 6 when Jesus invites us to not worry about our life: "Look at the birds of the air, they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns and yet your heavenly father feeds them. Therefore do not worry, but seek first the kingdom of God." (vv. 26, 31a, 33a)

Jesus is not saying to deny our feeling of worry, rather to trust that there is more to life than the uncertainty of these times. Trust that God is at work. Trust that God is with us.

As you begin spring cleaning at St. Peter's, may you feel God's presence holding you. In the abundance of God's creation, where God has kissed the earth, may you know you are loved.

See you in August!

*Blessings,
Paige+*

Lastly, our hearts go out to the family of **Cindy Zatorski**, who passed away from cancer complications on March 29th, 2025. Cindy was the wife of Rick Zatorski, and many of you will also know her as the mom of Kelly Zatorski - the organized, capable and smiling young woman who manages **Kawartha Park Marina** on behalf of the extended Vine family. Although they do not attend St. Peter's, the Vine/Zatorski family has always been there to provide cheerful assistance and support to our church, our island, and most importantly, to our summer Clergy. Please keep Cindy's family in your prayers.

In closing, thank you to our volunteers, and to you, the people in our St. Peter's community who continue to support St. Peter's with your participation and generous donations. This is our 111th year and we hope to celebrate a bicentennial someday. Your continued involvement is critical to that goal.

Don't forget that we have a website (stpetersontherock.org) containing many useful resources, including our **Governance Guide** launched in 2024, as well as an Instagram account ([@hellostpeters](https://www.instagram.com/hellostpeters)) and a Facebook page ([hellostpeters](https://www.facebook.com/hellostpeters)). We use these social media platforms to promote current events and news pertaining to St. Peter's. We have also enclosed an information sheet showing everyone's contacts, along with a **donation pledge sheet**, and at any time you can reach us through our email account at hellostpeters@gmail.com.

Here's to another great summer! Elbows up!

Yours sincerely,



Rachel Corbett

Senior Warden
St. Peter's on-the-Rock

***St. Peter's on-the-Rock sits on the traditional territory of the Michi Saagiig Anishinabeg.
We strive to worship on this land with grace, respect and peace.***