



PARISH NEWSLETTER SPRING 2021

Greetings from Ward Strickland, your Senior Warden:

A warm “hello” to everyone in our St. Peter’s family! Spring has sprung.

We hope you are staying safe, healthy and are excitedly anticipating being able to return to the time when we are able, once again, to be together physically at our much-loved St. Peter’s on-the-Rock. Sharing stories, laughing, and perhaps shedding a few tears... some of sadness and others out of joyful gratitude, perhaps the odd tentative hug or elbow bump and for certain, **MANY SMILES**. “We are back!” ...back to this spiritual hub sitting so perfectly at the nexus of Stony/Stoney and Clear Lakes, in the heart of the beautiful Kawarthas.

It is incredibly difficult to believe that it has been **over a year** since your Executive Team, with heavy hearts, had to make the most difficult but prudent decision to keep the Church closed for the 2020 season. This included weddings, baptisms, and all in-person activities. Very sad, but ultimately this was the right decision.

Under the steadfast management of last year’s Senior Warden (June Cooper) and her team, we were then and remain today very thankful for being able to continue our production of an Alternative Worship Program. Using digital technology, we created virtual services which were broadcast weekly through YouTube to our lake community. Special thanks to Rachel Corbett for her persistence and dedication over many hours working with **many** wonderful people, enabling us to keep our vision clear and unwavering in the face of our formidable foe, the pandemic.

Calling all singers and musicians!

There is a chance we will be in church this summer, though under strict restrictions, including a prohibition on congregational singing. Music is important at St. Peter’s and we want to maintain that high standard. If you can carry a solo melody line from a familiar hymn, or if you play a musical instrument capably, we want to hear from you! Please contact our Music Director, Helen Batten at hbatten@basterfield.ca, or send us an e-mail at hellstpeters@gmail.com.

Let us look forward to the coming season ...

Allow me to introduce your Executive Team for this new year.

I am both enthusiastic and humbled to serve as Senior Warden together with Past Warden **June Cooper**, Junior Warden **Carol Corner** (yes, Carol is still in charge of weddings too), **Rachel Corbett** Secretary, and **Pat Bunting** our unwavering Treasurer who steadfastly keeps a watchful eye on our finances.

We look forward to serving the people of St. Peter's to our best abilities along the path ahead.

Clergy for 2021

Please welcome back Major The Rev. Canon Don Aitchison for the month of July. We very much look forward to his guidance and collaboration this summer. We expect his residence at St. Peter's will be 'back to normal' and not interrupted by the call to duty with Canada's Armed Forces. He provided spiritual support to our troops and front-line workers in the first months of the pandemic. Thank you, Don!

For the month of August, it is our pleasure to welcome back The Rev. Matthew McMillan. Fr. Matt will be joined by his wife, Pam, and their family. We look forward to more innovative ideas and miracles of technology in support of what we are hoping to be an exciting and somewhat of a hybrid worship scenario.

Weddings and Baptisms

There are many weddings booked for this summer as well as enquiries regarding baptisms. At this point we are very hopeful to be able to have these events at St. Peter's, albeit in somewhat of a modified format. These treasured events and the extent to which they will be permitted will be governed by mandates from health authorities and the Anglican Diocese of Toronto. We invite you to keep in touch with us via e-mail to 'hellostpeters@gmail.com' and through updates to our website 'www.stpeterontherock.org', as well as frequent posts on our social media pages (Facebook and Instagram).

Property Management

This is an extremely difficult portfolio for volunteers to manage. Therefore, we have made the decision to hire a professional contractor, Andrew McDermott, to take care of the major duties of repairs, including the opening and closing of the Church. Andrew's team will take care of the docks and under the direction of your Wardens, any other tasks required for the necessary maintenance of St. Peter's, with an eye to the safety and security of visitors to our island. Andrew is a Stony Laker and is both dedicated and reliable.

Music Scholars

We are hopeful that under the guidance of Bern Kelly, this program will continue. Stay tuned! This program is generously supported through the kindness of the Don Walter family.

Youth Ministry

Youth is the future and lifeblood of our Church. Together with Betsy McGregor and other youth leaders we intend to offer new vision and opportunities for children and youth to become more actively involved with St. Peter's.

Our Treasured Partners

We will continue to partner with and support the following:

The Anglican Church of Canada
The Anglican Diocese of Toronto
The Association of Stony Lake Cottagers
Kawartha Park Cottagers Association
Upper Stoney Lake Association
Camp Kawartha
Lakefield Community Food Bank
Kawartha Land Trust

From time to time, we reach out to support our community in need. This past winter, we lent a financial hand to assist the Apsley community following the devastating fire which completely destroyed family-owned **Sayers Foods**, the only full-service grocery store in the Apsley area.

With everyone's continuing generosity, we will continue to honour our financial commitments. I am pleased to report that our financial position remains solid.

A huge 'thank you' to June Cooper, now our Past Warden, for her wise guidance and decisiveness throughout challenging times. Special note of appreciation to all members of the Executive team for their extraordinary work and their commitment to St. Peter's on-the-Rock.

Those who will be greatly missed

Please remember these wonderful people we have lost over the past year. Keep them and their families in your hearts.

Sonny (Alison) Cook
Keith McKerracher

Jo Ann MacDonnell
Michael Thompson

One year later.... We are stronger, we remain faithful, we are united. We look forward to seeing you on the water.

Yours in Service,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ward', is written in a cursive style.

Message from Bishop Shaw

Dear Friends in Christ ~ grace to you and peace this day in the name of Jesus!

Welcome to the 2021 season at Ston(e)y Lake, St Peter's on-the-Rock. We are so blessed to have this beautiful place which serves as a connector for families and friends across time and space.



In this time when so many of our connections are virtual, we are all being held quite literally in the Spirit of Love. Take time to appreciate that ~ and be bold to assure someone near you of their belovedness in the eyes of God ~ in whose image we are all created.

This year past has been one of much upheaval in our established routines due to the global Coronavirus pandemic, political and social tensions, and grievous discriminations. Immediately we have new opportunities and profound responsibilities to recognize injustice and inequities in so many of our systems, including the church, where we are working hard to face our history and cultures of racism and sexism by introducing anti-bias and antiracism training for all levels of employees and volunteers. We are un-learning some of the colonial perspectives that have been foundational within our traditional church and are courageously leaning into and participating in the new creation being made each moment with the grace of God. Together we can faithfully and intentionally do this!

The physical realities of gathering together to worship, celebrate, share stories and build relationships are still curtailed by the pandemic, as I write this. We are hope-filled that the vaccine rollouts will be efficient and effective in controlling the virus, and I strongly encourage you to continue to be super-cautious to respect and protect the most vulnerable in our midst.

As there are border restrictions and governmental guidelines that limit access to the lakes for many of our summer-time parishioners, know that the faithful prayers we offer for one another keep us connected through all this.

It is with heart-felt gratitude that I thank the leadership of St Peter's on-the-Rock, the Clergy and Wardens and so many volunteers who work diligently and professionally to bring church to us by zoom and internet. What a miracle! Thank You to the many scientists, front-line workers and caring disciples who minister through their gifts to uplift, protect, provide, and accompany one another in our need. We are stronger together.

Be good and kind to one another, and always remember: God loves You.

The Right Reverend Riscylla Shaw
Bishop of Trent-Durham
Diocese of Toronto