

PARISH NEWSLETTER – SPRING 2024

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



A message from your Senior Warden, Andy Bouffard:

On behalf of the Wardens, Executive, and Vestry, we hope you had a wonderful winter season, and that 2024 has started out joyfully for everyone. As the warmer breezes of spring start to gently stir, we are thinking ahead to summer at the lake and welcoming you all back to our beloved St. Peter's!

Looking forward to the coming summer, this newsletter will provide important updates on current initiatives, this season's Clergy, our many wonderful volunteers at St. Peter's, and key dates to mark on your calendars. I am excited to join you in a summer of prayer, community and stillness at St. Peter's, a place of divine natural beauty which serves as a poignant reminder of the boundless love and grace of the One we gather to worship.

Clergy for 2024

We are delighted to welcome back **Rev. Canon Kevin Bothwell** who will be our Priest in July for his second summer. We are sad to announce that **Rev. Dr. Mary-Cate Garden** will not be returning to St. Peter's for a third summer due to new commitments overseeing a rural parish in eastern Ontario comprising three churches. Our community is tremendously grateful to Mary-Cate for bringing her energy and enthusiasm to St. Peter's over the past two summers, and we look forward to crossing paths with her again.

We balance the sad news of Mary-Cate's departure with the joyous announcement of our new incoming August Priest for 2024, **Rev. Paige Souter**. Paige was ordained recently and is currently the Assistant Curate at Church of the Redeemer in Toronto. She is involved in many of Redeemer's community service and outreach programs. Paige, her husband Dan, and their three adult children are no strangers to the outdoors; you are just as likely to see them in the canoe or on the hiking trails as in the church. To learn more about Paige, visit her bio on our web site.

We are blessed to welcome Kevin and Paige as our Clergy for summer 2024. Both Kevin and Paige have kindly provided some words of welcome of their own (see sidebar inserts in the following pages).

Shout-Out to Our Volunteers

Let us also take a moment to recognize our many important volunteers without whom we would not be able to run our beautiful parish. Special thanks to **Carol Corner** (who served as Past Warden in 2023), **Rachel Corbett** (Secretary and now Jr. Warden) for her tireless work keeping us organized, and **Pat Bunting** (for his continued work as our Treasurer). We would also like to acknowledge **Sue MacIntyre** (Vestry Member-at-Large) for the essential organizational knowledge she brings to the Executive.

Taylor Dalton will be returning to her role as 'Senior' Sexton in 2024 and will be joined by two new 'Junior' Sextons, **Vanessa Hubbs** and **Molly Thompson**. Both Vanessa and Molly have extensive experience with St. Peter's, having assisted in the Sunday School program under the direction of **Jackie Hubbs** the past few summers.

We go into the 2024 season with vacancies in our roster of volunteers. Please think about whether you would like to join our team: we are a collegial and supportive bunch and we all work together to get the work done! We need a **Recording Secretary** (to attend Wardens' meetings and take minutes, and also take minutes at the Annual Vestry Meeting). Also, we hope to find someone to continue the work that Tony Whittingham has 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 by a combination of volunteers and contractors. Lastly, we are seeking people to help with **Docking** at the 10:30 AM service.



Join us for "Meditation Mondays" this summer!

In the hustle and bustle of our daily lives, it's rare to find moments of true stillness. That's why we're inviting you to join us for a refreshing pause at St. Peter's every Monday evening this summer.

Meditation is a universally acclaimed practice for nurturing well-being, embraced by both spiritual traditions and the secular world. Meditation is in essence a practice of "doing nothing", however it is one of the greatest investments we can make in ourselves. Through cultivating presence and deepening our awareness, we enrich our experience of life.

What: *30 minutes of silent contemplation in the serene setting of St. Peter's.*

Who: *Whether you're a seasoned meditator or a curious newcomer, all are welcome to participate. No experience necessary, just a willingness to embrace the beauty of "doing nothing".*

When: *5:30pm, every Monday in July and August*

We hope you will join us and explore the profound benefits of stillness in the company of friends and fellow lakers!

Music and the Music Scholars Program

Our Music Scholars Program continues to thrive, thanks to the ongoing generous support of the **Don and Margaret Walter family**, and the work of **Bern Kelly** who administers the program on St. Peter's behalf. This program provides bursaries to promising young musicians and has become a fixture of our services. In 2023, we were entertained in church by **Caitlin Levere** (violin), **Elora Colbert** (voice) and **Hector Singh** (guitar and voice). Congratulations go to the 2023 winning Scholar, Hector Singh, who will return to perform for us in 2024. Please let any young musicians in your family or among your friends know about this amazing program.

Also on the music front, **mark Sunday July 28th on your calendars!** On this day we will be celebrating the 20th anniversary of St. Peter's digital pipe organ. Our organ was designed, built and installed by the **Anderson** brothers Don and Jim, and Don's sons Mark and Phil, of **Phoenix Organs**, located in Peterborough. Our organ continues to be maintained by Don and his sons. Like any true pipe organ, a Phoenix organ is not mass-produced in a factory but rather is custom-built in a small workshop by craftsmen. This organ has served us well for 20 years, a small miracle given the highly variable and sometimes harsh weather conditions that it endures throughout the year. On July 28th, Don will be playing the organ for us, and the service will be preceded by a half-hour singalong for those who appreciate a robust Anglican hymn. All are invited!

Sunday School

We are very pleased to have **Jaclita Hubbs** continuing this year in her role as Sunday School Leader. Building

off of St. Peter's Sunday School's mission - "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." There will be ongoing efforts to host Sunday School outdoors when the weather permits.

When hosted indoors, we are undertaking a refresh of the Sunday School room in the Clergy Cottage. The refresh will ensure the room is suitable for use as a Sunday School room while also being convertible to a third bedroom by furnishing it with a new futon which can be used for seating or sleeping, depending on Clergy needs. We also plan to set up a suitable outdoor space with logs and large stones for seating similar to what has been done behind the store at Juniper Island. In this space the children can learn lessons connecting God with nature and continue to do crafts and music in an outdoor setting.

Attendance and Outreach

Through the summer of 2023 our attendance has demonstrated a reverse in the declining trend observed in recent years. While still not back to pre-pandemic levels, this is very positive news. We hope to continue to build upon this trend in 2024.

The Wardens have worked hard to consider additional outreach and activities to attract new families to St. Peter's. In 2023, a fantastic new activity took place thanks to the work of **Morgan Strickland** and **Tania Granata** of SOPAC OTTAWA in bringing a music theatre camp to the island. The camp culminated in a final show with the children performing *Disney's Aristocats KIDS* (Broadway musical version). The show went well and the audience was enthusiastic and appreciative. What an amazing accomplishment!

We are pleased to announce that Morgan and Tania will be bringing the camp back to St. Peter's in 2024, to perform *Roald Dahl's Willy Wonka*, and we are looking forward to the program bringing joy to our congregation and helping to continue to attract new families to St. Peter's.

Important Dates

Here are some important dates to put in your calendars:

- Clean-up day followed by BBQ and Select Vestry meeting is **Saturday, June 15th** (if rain, then Sunday June 16th): 10 AM – Noon clean-up, 12 noon to 1 pm BBQ, 1 – 2 pm

From Rev. Kevin Bothwell

Dear friends at St. Peter's -

After Jesus entered Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, He went to the temple and threw out those selling sacrificial animals as well as the money changers. What angered Jesus was partly that those activities meant that the outer courts of the Temple were noisy and busy. This prevented foreigners who were only allowed in the outer courts of the Temple, from finding a peaceful and holy place to pray. (Isaiah 56:7, Mark 11:17)

We will be echoing this situation, although not for the same reason. In only a few months there will be a spring clean-up. Much will be tossed out. When St. Peter's opens in July, it will be a quiet house of prayer for people of all nations and faiths who gather on Sunday, as well as for all people of all nations and faiths who come for a visit during the summer months. The challenge will be how to make all nations and people feel welcome and encourage them to spend a few moments in quiet prayer.

Whether you are a lifelong Christian, not sure about Jesus, agnostic, or a member of another faith, following Jesus' example is a good way to learn about Christianity, practice Christianity, and ultimately, become more of the person God is calling you to be. I look forward to joining you on that journey once again this summer.

Kevin +

Select Vestry Meeting. Please come and help and all friends are welcome!

- Every summer Sunday starting **June 30th**, 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 - -
- Holy Communion is offered once per month at the 10:30 AM service. The dates this year are **July 21st** and **August 11th**.
- Baptism is offered once per month at the 10:30 AM service. The dates this year are **July 14th** and **August 18th**. If interested in a baptism in your family, please reach out soon to our Baptism Coordinator, Katharine Dalton (katharine_dalton@hotmail.com)
- On **July 28th** we will be celebrating the 20th Anniversary of our Phoenix digital pipe organ – come for 10 AM and join us singing hymns!
- Say farewell to summer at our Thanksgiving Service, Sunday **October 13th**.

In Memoriam

It is with great sadness that we say farewell to these members of our parish who passed away over the winter:

Noah Hunt
Jack Brownscombe
George Dembroski

While not a member of our parish or our lake community, we also say farewell to **Fred**

Aitchison, Rev. Don Aitchison's father. Please keep the families and friends of these individuals in your prayers.

In closing, thank you again to all our wonderful 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. As we enter our 110th year, let us honour the past while embracing the future to ensure St. Peter's remains one of the centerpieces of the Stony Lake community.

Yours in Service,



Andy Bouffard
Senior Warden, St. Peter's on-the-Rock

From Rev. Paige Souter

One of my favourite blessings begins this way:

"May the deep blessings of earth be with us. May the fathomless soundings of the seas surge in our soul. May the boundless stretches of the universe echo in our depths."

In the busyness of life we may not always be aware of creation's blessings which are available to us in every moment.

When we adopt a slower pace of life, we can more easily sink into God's rhythm. We sink into a way of life, a posture of openness, that reconnects us to the divine and to nature in new and restorative ways. I know this from my own experience, and I am willing to bet that this has been your experience of life on Ston(e)y Lake.

I am delighted to be joining the Ston(e)y Lake community in August. Together we can rest our feet on the earth, let our hands fleet across the water, and gaze at the cosmos, all the while being restored.

As Holy Week approaches, I encourage you adopt a slower pace of life. As you are able, let go of some of your busyness thereby giving space to rest in God's rhythm. Sink into the telling of the Jesus story and let the story of God's unfold in you.

Paige+

***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.***