



SPRING 2020 PARISH NEWSLETTER

Greetings from your Senior Warden, June Cooper

As usual, our thoughts this time of the year turn to our wonderful “Stony - Stoney” Lake. When can we get there? How did our cottage hold up over the winter and when will we see our Stony Lake friends at our blessed St. Peter’s? The answers to these questions are not at all clear this year, as we all deal with issues presented by the COVID-19 pandemic.

First and foremost, how are we all doing, physically, mentally, and spiritually in this time of crisis? My thoughts of compassion and wishes for well-being go out to everyone who has been affected in one way or another.

Our world as we know it has changed dramatically over the past few months and will continue to do so for the foreseeable future. I am sure all of you are aware our life as we have known it on our beautiful Stony Lake will also have to adjust.

The Executive Committee of St. Peter’s, consisting of myself (Senior Warden), Tony Whittingham (Past Warden), Ward Strickland (Junior Warden), Pat Bunting (Treasurer) and Rachel Corbett (Secretary) have held numerous meetings to review our situation at St. Peter’s and adjust to the new reality accordingly.

First and foremost, we recognize that the spiritual and physical welfare of everyone connected to St. Peter’s is our priority.

We know our Church presence on the lake has provided stability, comfort, guidance, and many unforgettable memories for many generations, and we will continue to offer this presence with your help and support this coming summer. The experiences may be a bit different, but together, as a community, we can make this work!

With thoughtful consideration of our priority concern and up-to-date information from medical and government authorities, the Executive Committee (in consultation with our incoming Clergy) will implement the following changes to enable us to continue our community Ministry in a manner that adapts to these unprecedented conditions:

It is with great sadness we have decided the Church building itself will remain closed for the entire summer. We cannot, in good conscience, open the doors to any situation that could spread the virus. Social distancing is a must!

Carol Corner, our Vestry member in charge of weddings, has contacted the families that would have been affected by the closure of the Church and we are pleased to say that two of the weddings planned for 2020 have already rebooked for Summer 2021. Thank you, Carol, for taking on such a difficult task.

There were no baptisms yet booked for this summer, and clearly, there will be no baptisms in 2020.

We know our Church on the Rock is a beacon of hope for our lake community, so we will continue to allow the property to remain a quiet retreat to visit when needed. We will dress her up in all her glory! Docks will be installed, flowers will be in the planters, benches will be available for rest, and our Centenary Gardens will be maintained.

Spring clean-up will be organized by our Property Manager, Nathan Chambers, in a manner that will adhere to social distancing. He will be assigning and leading a small crew that will be able to get the task done for July 1st weekend. The clergy cottage refurbishment, due to be completed this year, will be put on hold until next year. Cleaning of clergy cottage will be done by professionals.

Although our physical Church structure will be closed our Ministry will be available to all! The property will be available for a quiet respite for everyone provided social distancing is observed.

We have contacted our priests, Major the Rev. Canon Don Aitchison and Rev. Matthew McMillan, who served our church so wonderfully last summer. Both have expressed enthusiasm to once again serve the community of St. Peter's. Rev. Don has expressed his desire to return for July, pending a request that he be called to fulfill military obligations during this pandemic. Rev. Matt has agreed to return for the month of August, along with his family.

We are currently exploring options to bring the church Ministry to our members without the worry of spreading the virus. Virtual Sunday service, and sermons from the dock while we remain in our boats are some ideas that have been considered. Rev. Don and Rev. Matt would also be open to providing one-on-one support and Ministry as appropriate. Betsy Mc Gregor, our enthusiastic Sunday School leader, has reached out to me regarding setting up a virtual Sunday School for children.

We will continue to uphold our financial obligations and the outreach programs we have in place in our community. The Lakefield Food Bank donation will be honoured along with our support for Camp Kawartha. Expense commitments associated with keeping the church functioning such as insurance, electricity, property taxes, marina fees, etc. will all be paid. Normal salaries and honoraria to our two Priests, Music Director and Sexton will be honoured.

Our Music Scholars program, under the guidance of Bern Kelly and generously supported by Don Walter, will be put on hold for this season. The winner of last year's scholarship, Arianna Kloosterman, will return to us for a performance in the summer of 2021.

I reach out to all of you to help us fulfill these commitments by continuing to support St. Peter's financially. A donation form is included in this package for your convenience.

Finally, I want to thank our Past Warden, Anthony Whittingham, for his help and guidance given to me over the past year. He will be a hard act to follow! And he continues to give me counsel in these difficult times.

I personally want to thank all the members of the Executive Committee and Vestry for their continuing dedication and volunteer efforts that make St. Peter's a very special place for all of us.

Farewells

I know these times are difficult for everyone and I am especially reaching out to the families of five of our past members who have passed away since we last met. Our thoughts and prayers go out to you:

- BOB CHITTICK, a past Warden of St. Peter's, passed away October 6th
- BRUCE McCUBBIN, also a past Warden, passed away October 29th
- HELEN MCKERRACHER, a regular at 10:30 service for years, passed away December 26th
- RICK BROOKS-HILL, after a lengthy battle with cancer, also passed away December 26th
- PAUL FARRELL, husband of Connie Wahl, passed away April 17th

In closing, I have always used a silent prayer to help me in troubling times and it goes as follows:

*"God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change
The courage to change the things I can
And the wisdom to know the difference"*

We are all in a state of flux during these trying times, but we will adjust and do what is right for the safety of ourselves and others!

Yours in service,

June Cooper

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