

Saint Peter's Parish

Summer Magazine

June 2026



Rhododendron in the Halifax Public Gardens

Summer has arrived and so has our parish summer magazine. Our June issue gives you the latest parish news, some ideas on what you might do to enjoy July in the HRM and something to think about for 2027. Summer worship services continue at both 8 AM and 10 AM. If holiday plans keep you out of town on Sundays during the summer don't forget you can participate in our weekly 10 AM service on You Tube. Our order of service and weekly bulletins are posted to your email account every week. Don't forget to monitor our parish website and Facebook page.

Throughout the summer the parish office is open from 8 AM until 3 PM on Wednesdays and Thursdays (Canada Day excepted). The parish phone number is (902) 443-1969. If unable to attend services offertory envelopes can be dropped in the mail slot on the Narthex Door. Food bank donations can be dropped off at the office on Wednesdays and Thursdays.

Ideas for Fun In HRM in July

July 1 – **Canada Day**: The Citadel and Pier 21 are free to visit. The Royal Nova Scotia Tattoo parade starts at noon weather permitting. The Tattoo runs from July 1 to July 5.

July 3 – **The Tiny Church Concert** – Little Dutch Church 7-8 PM

July 7- 12 – **The Halifax Jazz Festival** nightly with free programmes throughout the peninsula during the day. Check their website for times and venues.

July 10-12 & July 17-19 – **Peggy`s Cove Festival of the Arts**, Check their website for a map of galleries open for visits on the weekend of the 17th to the 19th.

July 18 – **Halifax Pride Parade**

July 24-26 – **NovaMultifest** – at Alderney Landing –a multicultural festival of foods, music and dance

July 29- August 1 – **Halifax Busker Fest**

Throughout July – **The Halifax Public Gardens** offers band concerts Sundays at 2 PM, Country Music on Thursday evenings, classical and jazz music on Wednesday evenings, bird watching tours Wednesday mornings . Check out the Friends of the Public Gardens website for additional free offerings.



Parish Barbecue and Water Balloon `Event` June 14th



Where Do We Go From Here? What Happens In 2027?

As of June, Saint Peter's 75th Anniversary Year is half over. To date we have focused and will continue to focus on the past and the present. However, as we edge closer to the fall, it will be time to ask ourselves "What about the future?" Where do we go from here? Our anniversary year's theme is 'The Pilgrimage Continues'. Just as we have accepted the fact that in 2026, we are continuing the journey started by others 75 years ago, that fact begs the question, what should we do as we go forward, for obviously the pilgrimage will continue to continue!

The standard practice for many who have undergone a pilgrimage is to take one's new and improved vision of the world and their place in it and put it to work. While that can no doubt happen on an individual level, can it happen on a corporate level? Is Saint Peter's developing a new and improved vision of itself that it can put to use next year?

Saint Peter's has shown over and over again that it can. As a parish we set goals for ourselves this year and we are achieving them. So, do we say to ourselves on New Years Eve, the anniversary year was great, now it's time to let nature take its course, no more goal setting, nothing out of the ordinary for us? What will be, will be in 2027 and beyond.

That attitude if allowed to prevail would lead to an enormous lost opportunity. Saint Peter's would be wise to spend some time in the fall looking ahead to the future – the future for Mainland North, the future for families and the future for our church.

There are countless articles on the web about the future of the church. An organization called RTF (Rethinking the Future) has published an article entitled " What will churches of the future look like?". RTF is a global platform for architecture and design active in over 100 countries. The article identifies 5 themes. Think of Saint Peter's as you read RTF's theories:

1. The church has adapted for 2000 years from upper rooms to basilicas to mega churches. Some churches now have more parishioners than the population of the town of Truro! While big is not necessarily the answer, the underlying message is churches must continue to adapt. That is adapt not just structurally but through programmes and services and technology.
2. Churches have to be sustainable. That's not just installing heat pumps and solar panels. It's developing a way to pay the bills with fewer parishioners who have less disposable income.
3. Churches must embrace the digital age. On-line ministries are just as valuable as in-person experiences.

4. Churches of the future must decentralize leadership. Churches will benefit from a leadership team. This isn't parish council under a new name. Just as doctors' offices are now medical clinics with social workers, nurses, technicians and doctors, churches of the future can't leave everything up to the pastor.
5. Most importantly churches need to reinvent the role of 'community hub'. People more than ever crave belonging. Churches can fulfil that role better than most community institutions. Churches don't have to 'do it all' but they could provide space or pathways to services and supports for individuals, families and groups.

While there are benefits to exploring all five ideas in the RTF article remember one thought in theme five in the context of Saint Peter's (people more than ever crave belonging)

Laren Richmond in an article entitled " What will churches of the future look like?" spells out some of the challenges churches face- fewer people who are willing to financially support a church, younger people with less disposable income, couples having fewer children, and families where both parents are working leaving less time for church. Richmond identified various faith community responses to these and other factors. He singled out three responses with a surprising conclusion. He acknowledged the mega church. He spoke about micro churches with less than 15 parishioners. He then raised the idea of the forgotten third option. He described it as the ' deeply faithful, profoundly Biblical and increasingly promising Parish church!' Are you still thinking – Saint Peter's?

Richmond went on to describe that the mega church was a spectacle, with an unbelievable number of opportunities for thousands of parishioners, the micro church depicted intimacy – allowing a small almost family of individuals to thrive and then the parish church – quietly radical in its localness, its staying power and its commitment to neighbourhood. He went on to write parish congregations should see their building and property as a shared space with its community, holy ground and the neighbourhood not as a mission field but as a community to belong to and bless.

Richmond states that parish churches already have a lot of what they need. What many don't have is a roadmap. He concluded don't ask what do we need in this building. Ask what does the neighbourhood need from this space.

Carey Nieuhoff, a Canadian theologian writes " Don't change the message, just the method". How does that idea translate into a future Saint Peter's? There are examples all around us and author David Kinnaman suggests a few.

Kinnaman writes that parish churches need to give young people an opportunity to understand their stories, their giftings and their abilities. He goes on to say give young people the opportunity to share those gifts for its by sharing that one truly understands.

For example, if a young person doesn't realize they can help those fighting food insecurity give them the opportunity to get involved with a food bank or a community garden. Saint Peter's congregation is an aging one. However rather than being a problem, our collective age may be one of our greatest attributes. Kinnaman believes a faith community would do well to create spaces for intergenerational mentoring. We must, he says, prioritize apprenticeships to empower and equip the younger generation to grow as leaders. Kinnaman reflected on visiting Westminster Abbey which left him in awe. He claimed that those who built it created something that is still giving long after those who built it vanished. On his same visit to London, he toured a pop-up exhibition of Gucci designs and fashions. The fashions were exciting to see but they were housed in a museum. He left the reader with this question. Are you maintaining a Westminster Abbey or a museum?

We are learning a lot about ourselves this anniversary year. Saint Peter's has adapted to meet the needs of its community over the past 75 years. We are making a valiant effort at being sustainable. We have adopted the digital age. We are one of the three successful models that Laren Richmond speaks of – a parish church, and we are definitely not a museum. We have so much potential but back to the point at hand, what happens next year? We need a roadmap because 'The Pilgrimage WILL Continue!'. It's time this summer to start thinking about how we might make that happen.

The Diocese is Looking to the Future Too

(reprinted from the Anglican Net News)

[Shape Our Future: Diocesan Strategic Planning](#)

The Diocese is developing a new five-year strategic plan, and we need your voice! As we enter this important season of discernment, we are exploring one central question: *What future do we want to shape together for the Diocese, and what will it take to get there?*

Parishioners, lay leaders, and clergy are invited to an in-person or on-line gatherings to reflect on day-to-day parish life and ensure our new strategic plan reflects local realities. Everyone is welcome. No special preparation or expertise is required—just your care for the future of the Church!

Why Attend? This is a space to imagine the future and name what we want to grow over the next five years. By attending, you will:

- Help shape the priorities and direction of the Diocese.
- Share your hopes and aspirations for parish life in your region.
- Share ideas on how the Diocese can be more connected and supportive.

- Discern together where God may be calling the Church next.

Your perspective is vital. Please join us in this hopeful, collaborative conversation!

To register online [click here](#)

To register by phone, call 902-420-0717.

If you have questions or require additional information, please contact:

thereforewehavehope@gmail.com

Update on the Good Shepherd Window



Good Shepherd Window being removed for restoration (photo A Thorpe)

One of our major 75th anniversary goals is well on the way to being completed. During the second last week of June, a crew from Stattler's Stained Glass Studios, arrived to remove the Good Shepherd Window and take it to their studio in West LaHave for restoration. The frames around the window were repaired and painted. The window will be returned before our Anniversary service in late October. The money required to restore the window has been raised. Thanks to Neil Boutilier, Art MacDonald and Rev. Arran for their help in painting, setting up staging and assisting Stattler's staff when required.