

# Saint Peter's Parish

## Summer Magazine

July 2026



**July Moon Over the Northumberland Strait ( photo: Peggy Taylor )**

The summer continues. Our July Parish Magazine contains the latest Saint Peter's news and gives you some ideas on what you might do for fun in August. This issue contains some food for thought on what seniors can do to make a difference in the world... or at least at Saint Peter's. The latest parish news is that road construction has begun on the Kearney Lake Road between the Bedford Highway and Dunbrack Street. Construction will take place during the night on weekdays but during the days on the weekend. That said, we have been assured that there will be no problem getting to church on Sundays. Finally, reprinted from the weekly bulletin, are a few extracts on active ministries at Saint Peter's.

## Ideas for Fun in August

July 28- August 2 – South Shore Exhibition – Bridgewater

July 29- August 3 – Halifax Buskerfest

July 31- August 3 – Halifax Natal Day Weekend

August 6-9 – Lunenburg Folk Harbour Festival

August 7-9 -Millbrook Mi'kmaq Pow Wow

August 12-15 – Chester Race Week

August 21- 23 – Nova Scotia Gem and Mineral Show – Parrsboro

For something totally different check out the website for the Burke Gaffney Observatory at Saint Mary's University. Every third weekend throughout the summer, the observatory, on top of the Loyola Building at Saint Mary's University, is open for visitors. Why not spend one Saturday or Sunday night this August visiting Saturn!

and

**Thanks to Maureen and Dennis Walsh You Can Join Fellow Parishioners for Lemonade and Snacks After Every 10 AM Summer Service This Summer**



## What Happens in 2027( Part Two )

Our 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary year ends in five months. Then what happens- same old, same old or do we embark on a mission to save the world or at least set about achieving more than we can ask for or imagine at Saint Peter's? Last month the argument was put forward that a parish church, deeply connected to its neighbourhood, could make major impacts that are badly needed. This month we reflect on who might orchestrate such activity. While the average age of Saint Peter's parishioners is slightly on the older side of the scale, we possess more potential than one might think. In her article about a book entitled " Six Ways Elders Can Save the World", Jeanette Leardi writes 'seniors represent the world's largest untapped resource. With their honed skills and trove of experiences they are the ideal people to reset the world away from its current path (of self destruction.)' The book she references was written by Dr. William Thomas. Dr. Thomas, a Harvard educated expert on geriatric medicine, suggests old age should be seen as a developmental stage rather than a period of decline.

Leardi also quotes Maggie Kuhn, founder of the Gray Panthers, an American multigenerational organization established in the 1970s whose mission has been to "work for social and economic justice and peace for all people. Kuhn wrote: As risk-takers who can heal and humanize society, elders have five appropriate roles to play., They are **mentors** who teach the young; **mediators** who resolve civil, racial, and intergenerational conflict; **monitors** of public bodies who serve as watchdogs of city hall and Congress; **mobilizers** of social change; and **motivators** of society who urge people away from self-interest and toward the public good."

How do these philosophical positions become part of a parish church? As risk-takers who can **heal and humanize society**, we could mentor the young by offering the neighborhood a children's music camp or knitting and quilting classes ( give kids an option to their phone addictions ) . Some things we do already like offer a Sunday School. As mediators we could increase support for the After School's sessions for young parents on tackling child rearing challenges. As mobilizers we could actively support organizations like Habitat for Humanity and provide more support for ' The English Speaking Club" . We don't have to start from scratch. We can, in many cases, simply promote what already exists.

Daniel Wilcox in his article " Eight Ways to Save the World " offers these ideas and more : 1. volunteer your time ( think ministries at Saint Peter's, those that exist and new ones ) 2. Sponsor a child ( think creating a PWRDF or Along Side Hope Committee that runs a few fund raising projects throughout the year ), 3. Expand Your Bubble ( Invite others Back to Church, stay for coffee hour ).

We don't have to have all the answers and a finalized plan but we are in a position as a parish to commit at our next AGM to use our RENEWED SENSE OF SELF, GENERATED THROUGH OUR ANNIVERSARY YEAR, to do more than we can ask or imagine. In the publication "The New Rationalist", August 2020 edition, one can read these words about seniors "We see frailty, decline and dependence- on the other hand we see experience, wisdom, and determination to fix the world and find meaning in our own lives and to **LEAVE a LEGACY.**"

What legacy will the current stewards of Saint Peter's leave those who are to follow? Now is the time to mobilize and start to make a plan. Maritime singer songwriter David Myles sings it best – **"I'm getting old but I'm not old yet."**

Well, I'm getting old. But I'm not old yet

I'm already worried that I might forget. How to laugh, how to love

How to live, how to learn. I wanna die with a smile when it comes my turn.

I don't wanna get weary I don't wanna get bored. **I don't wanna get tired of walking down this road. I've seen that happen so many times. I just wanna believe that it's still worth trying.**

## The Pilgrimage Continues



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Reprinted from summer bulletins a few extracts on ministries at Saint Peter's, for those who haven't been able to make it to church or catch up on the news from reading the bulletin sent to your email address.



### **A 75th Anniversary Look at Three Saint Peter's Ministries**

## **Fundscrip**

A night's lodging in a hotel, 2 stalks of celery, a quart of engine oil, 75 litres of gasoline, 3 hamburgers, a chocolate milkshake and a pair of size 14 running shoes are all things you can buy through fundscrip shopping cards. Christmas presents, anniversary gifts, vacations, supplies for the cottage and hostess thankyou's are all things you can buy through fundscrip shopping cards. What's more, while buying items through Fundscrip you're also putting flowers on the altar at Saint Peter's, buying soap for our washrooms, putting salt on the walkway up to Daking Hall in the winter and buying paper for our weekly bulletins. If that isn't good enough, there's a bonus. The money earned by Saint Peter's from buying gift cards through Fundscrip comes from the merchants whose cards you buy. If you buy a gas card for \$50.00, you get \$50.00 worth of gas. The Oil Company by offering us a rebate, pays for our flowers, soap, salt and paper. How good is that? Rebates run anywhere from 1.5% to 7%.

Linda and Wally Caldwell recently took over running this ministry from Linda Jessop and Charlotte Horwich and while we owe all four a big thank you for running the spring and fall Fundscrip campaigns, this is a ministry that we all can participate in by buying shopping cards. The original idea to get involved in Fundscrip came from Jane Murphy eleven years ago. Linda and Charlotte took it on in 2015 and since then, the annual campaigns have raised \$ 11, 556.73!

Parishioners are given several weeks to place an order and submit it along with a cheque to Saint Peter's for whatever they have decided to buy. By the evening of the day that parishioners

must submit their orders, Wally and Linda have submitted the church's order and deposited the accompanying cheques in the church's bank account. By 9:30 the next day the money has been withdrawn by Fundscrip. The cards usually arrive by Thursday that same week. They are distributed the following Sunday. The church receives its cut about two weeks later. There is no charge for postage for delivering the cards if the church orders over \$5000.00 worth. That's no problem. The more recent orders have totalled between \$15,000 and \$ 18,000 dollars. The number of participants per campaign usually runs between 30 and 35. Our next Fundscrip campaign will be run in the fall so start planning now for how many size 14 size shoes you're going to need or that Christmas turkey or that gift for your favourite aunt.

## **Men's Fellowship**

The Men's Fellowship Group is probably best known for its communal breakfasts at Jim's Restaurant on the Bedford Highway. On the third Saturday of each month ( summer months included ) at 8 AM, eight to twelve men from the congregation meet for breakfast and fellowship.

Men's Fellowship at Saint Peter's has a long history but it has changed over the years. On April 11th, 1976 the Rt Rev. H.K. McGuire, the retired Bishop of Montreal, broke bread with the men of the parish at what they then called their Communion Breakfast. The breakfast was held in Daking Hall and was prepared by the Ladies Guild. Over time the men started holding their breakfasts on Saturday and by then, they cooked it themselves. Tom Brown's beans were famous. Norm Duncan always made the eggs. Bob Roberts was in charge of the toast. Mike Horwich, the group's treasurer, collected five dollars from each of the 16-22 men who regularly showed up. By the end of the year Mike had a surplus, sometimes as much as five hundred dollars. At the last breakfast of the year a decision would usually be made to spend their surplus and buy something for the church or a charity.

John Starling has been coordinating the Men's Breakfast for going on twenty years now. The breakfasts follow a regular Canada's Food Guide menu of pancakes, eggs, beans, sausages, toast, tea and coffee. Occasionally the men have invited a guest speaker. Covid put an end to the home-made breakfasts and now the men meet at Jim's Family Restaurant where they don't have to wash up afterwards. There is a standing invitation to all the men of the parish to attend. Just let John know in advance so he can book a table large enough to accommodate everyone.

What many may not know is that the Men's Fellowship is more than just pancakes, beans and eggs. The men are continually called upon to help set up for events like the craft fair, the

Rockingham Heritage Luncheon, the Parish Christmas Party, the Parish barbecue and the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper and sometimes they go above and beyond. In 2011 for example the Men's Fellowship didn't just set up tables, they ran the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper and raised \$1000.00 for the PWRDF's Haiti Earthquake Relief Fund.

## **Coffee and Lemonade Hour**

The breaking of bread, the sharing of a meal or showing hospitality has been an integral part of Christian life since the very beginning of our religion. In some respects, our practice of post 10 AM service coffee hour and our summer lemonade in the parking lot, continues that tradition. The author of Hebrews wrote " Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing " Hebrews 13:2. In the early Christian Church the 'Agape Meal' was an actual part of the worship service. Sharing food among a congregation was a trait of Christians observed by those who were not members of that community. The Agape Meal was a way to demonstrate community, unity and love among members of a congregation.

The origin of Saint Peter's coffee hour began with an initiative by the Guild ( as is so often the case ). Today, Judy Appleton and Vera MacDonald coordinate this ministry. A sign up sheet is posted in Daking Hall and as many as 12 members of the congregation regularly sign up to provide treats, coffee, tea and juice for anyone who wishes to stay after the 10 AM service to enjoy. The practice reflects the same, albeit more elaborate practice of the Agape Meal, in the early church. In the summer months Maureen and Dennis Walsh provide sandwiches and treats plus lemonade . That repast is served in the parking lot after the 10 AM service.

Approximately 20 to 25 worshippers partake in coffee hour. Those responsible for that week's event prepare the coffee and tea, set up tables, provide and set out the treats before the service. Afterwards they remain to clean up. There has been an attempt to reduce the amount of preparation for those volunteering to provide food for their week's coffee hour ( i.e.: store bought cookies ) however, home made cakes, bread, cookies, cheese and crackers are still the favourite. We are very grateful to those who take on this ministry. It unifies the congregation. It shows hospitality to guests. It carries on the traditions of the early church. Saint Peter's needs more parishioners to join this ministry. Give some thought this summer to volunteering for coffee hour in the fall. Not only might you show an angel some hospitality, you'd be considered one yourself.