



St. John's on-the-Lake Chapel Association
12 Loch Eden Shores Road
Meredith, NH 03253

May, 2024

Dear Friends of the Chapel,

Our island church community welcomes you to the 97th season at St. John's. Based on an early ice out, we had anticipated an early spring, but have been surprised by the number of emails announcing library closings in Meredith based on SNOW! Guess we have to be prepared for anything!

This year, our services begin on June 30 and continue through August 25. The schedule is included in this mailing. Last year our attendance ranged from 1, on a Sunday we had to cancel the service due to rain and high winds, *(please check the website before heading out if there is any question about the weather, but know that we make every effort to hold worship)* to a high of 87 and we know many of you receiving this letter joined our group in worship; we thank you for making St. John's part of your Sunday. Please know that there is always room for more and we hope to see you often! If you anticipate trouble finding space at the church dock, please alert us; we have ways to fix that problem. If you are a mainlander and need transportation to the services, email our ferry boat at: [**bear.island.church.ferry@gmail.com**](mailto:bear.island.church.ferry@gmail.com). Please include a good phone number in your communication so we can contact you easily. We depart from Cattle Landing at 9:15. If you and your boat wish to join in this outreach ministry, please email us as well.

Our popular island outreach, Yoga at the Chapel with Linda Hopper, is scheduled for Tuesday mornings at 10:00 am **beginning July 16th**. John and Linda's daughter is expecting a baby in late June and Linda has indicated she wants to be available to put her grandparenting skills to use. We congratulate both Linda and John on this exciting adventure.

This winter, two Bear Island women, who have summered at the lake and served St. John's as Board members for decades, passed into glory. Doffy Falk and Pattie Jean Collins were strong forces who worked diligently and faithfully for our ministry here at the chapel. Our association and greater island community will miss their presence, smiles, and laughter. The Falk and Collins families have each planned celebrations of the lives of these two women and we hope many can attend to honor their memories. The service for Doffy Falk will be held on July 28, 2024. The service for Pattie Jean Collins will be held on August 17, 2024. Please check the website [**www.stjohnsonthelake.org**](http://www.stjohnsonthelake.org) for the time and other details as the dates approach.

We value your continued support; we use these funds to support our ministry and to make both small and large improvements to the property. This past year we added additional new benches along the paths and around the church to allow further enjoyment of the chapel property. We felled trees that were leaning and potentially dangerous to those accessing the chapel grounds. Matched by a grant from the New Hampshire Preservation Alliance we commissioned a thorough assessment of the architectural needs of the chapel building and will be addressing those concerns in the coming years. We thank each of you as these projects were funded through your donations. We are ever grateful for your generosity! We now ask for your continued support as we strive to keep the Chapel ministry strong and have enclosed a donation card for this purpose. Alternatively, you can respond electronically by visiting our website, www.stjohnsonthelake.org and opening the tab "Donations and Bequests".

One of our ongoing goals is to have a **Preservation Fund** sufficient to fund the replacement cost of the chapel in the event of a catastrophic loss. Currently, we pay annual insurance for partial replacement, the maximum our carrier will allow. We welcome support for the **Preservation Fund** through personal legacies, bequests, and planned gifts. This is a wonderful, long-term way to honor our past and keep the Chapel alive for generations to come. Additionally, all proceeds from purchases of St. John's giclées by local artist Peter Ferber add to the Preservation Fund. Contact Ripley Forbes at rforbes@aol.com if you have questions about these prints. Details about each of these initiatives can be also be found on our website.

We continue to expand our Board membership with individuals who share our vision for the Chapel. If you have an interest in joining our Board, please do not hesitate to reach out.

As we prepare to rake the paths, remove the shutters, and open the doors, we thank you again for supporting St. John's. Please be aware that you are always part of our island church community and we hope we will be privileged to welcome you to visit and worship with us there this summer.

For the entire Board,

Paul Nelson

plmnelson@icloud.com

Ellen Nelson

ejan0516@optonline.net

Co-presidents