

May 15, 2019

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



Dear Friends,

In the ongoing milieu of seemingly endless turbulence around us, the arrival of the new season allows us once again to remember all that is good in our world. And there is much that is good, that is inspiring, and that is worthy of fostering and preserving. The unwavering sanctity of St. John's Chapel, steadfast on the highest point on Bear Island, is one of these things. The Chapel has provided inspiration for decades, and it continues to thrive with the continued support of its broad community. Built of solid island stone and hearty timber, beautified by gorgeous stained glass windows, St. John's remains a special place where one can find and feel the everlasting Grace that informs our world.

This past year was another eventful one for the St. John's community. We enjoyed our 91st year with a full slate of interdenominational services chosen to reach the needs of our diverse Winnepesaukee community. Along the way, the St. John's Board of Directors continued the never-ending work of maintaining and protecting this beautiful church. Among the assorted tasks completed: the base of the Deep Cove docks was repaired; more than a dozen trees around the building were cut down to protect against potential harmful blow-downs; and the deteriorating front steps were primed for replacement by the end of this June. Of course, the work is never done on this aging property. Among other immediate things, the dock fingers will soon require replacement.

Along with scheduling services and maintaining the property, the Board is also working to improve and broaden the Chapel experience for all of those who cherish it. This season, we are reinstating a taxi boat service for anyone needing a ride to the Sunday services. In addition, we are reestablishing the St. John's Children's Woodland Village of miniature stick huts on the Chapel property. In another initiative, we will be developing a small Chapel museum on the second floor of the tower for visitors. We will also continue to hold weekly gentle yoga classes each Monday morning for anyone interested in attending. Lastly, we will be keeping the Chapel open after Sunday services until 2:00 p.m. for visitors. Unfortunately, the tower must remain closed to the public due to structural problems. Details about these initiatives can be found on our enhanced website:

www.stjohnsonthelake.org.

All of our efforts are funded entirely through your donations. These are critical to enabling us to maintain and perpetuate this unique and iconic island chapel for future generations to come. We have enclosed a donation card for your consideration. If you would like to respond electronically, please visit our website and open the tab, 'Donations and Bequests'. We have added a PayPal option to facilitate the 'giving' process.

Beyond the costs of annual operations and repairs, we are also continuing with an ambitious program of building a self-insurance fund— called the **Preservation Fund**-- for the Chapel. The goal is to provide full replacement coverage for the building in case of a catastrophic event. Insurance has become increasingly expensive and remains quite inadequate to cover worst-case replacement costs. Numerous small donations over the years gave the Fund a very nice start. A 2017 bequest from Phyllis Patten, formerly of East Bear Island, has provided us with an even stronger foundation. But the fund is presently less than half the estimated level it needs to be to meet our target. For those interested, we would encourage support for the Preservation Fund through a bequest or other planned gift. It is a wonderful, long-term way to help fulfill the mission of keeping the Chapel alive for decades to come.

In closing, we would like to thank all of you who have supported St. John's over the many years. We all draw strength and inspiration from this wonderful place and from the community it creates. For those of you who are regular visitors, we look forward to seeing you again this summer. For those of you who rarely or have never visited, please know that you are always welcome.

Our best wishes,

Linda and John Hopper