



December 19, 2017

Season's Greetings from St. Cuthbert's Chapel on MacMahan.

The spirit of the Advent and the Christmas season – the spirit of hope, of charity, of service, of community, of welcome to the stranger, of light, of beauty, and of peace – be with you all now and in the year – and in the summer – to come.

Our shingled chapel with its rustic architecture, classic pump organ, wood carvings and stone bas relief sculptures, mullioned windows, great conch shell baptismal font, hand-pulled bell, and hand-needle-pointed kneelers illustrating charming stories from the life of patron St. Cuthbert of Linidsfarne, stands at the center of the island as a beautiful place of welcome, quiet and refuge for any islander or visitor regardless of their belief or faith inclination.

We were so happy in the summer of 2016 when many visitors from the mainland, including those whose ancestors are buried here, found their way to the chapel for services as part of MacMahan Heritage Day marking the 300th anniversary of the founding of Georgetown.

St. Cuthbert's is a physical reminder of the universal values of reverence for life, refreshment of spirit, and community that make MacMahan MacMahan.

St. Cuthbert's is one of 18 chapels on the coast of Maine – and the only one situated on an island – maintained by the Episcopal Diocese of Maine. The chapel's 115th birthday on the Feast of the Transfiguration, Aug. 6 last year was marked by a visit from the Bishop of Maine who blessed a kneeler depicting the chapel, which had been embroidered by Laura Getschel. The kneeler went to St. Luke's Cathedral in Portland as part of a collection honoring all the parishes in Maine. This year's chapel anniversary will be marked by a special service of Anglican Evensong. Jay Rogers and Heather Jones will lead the music.

Diocesan support only goes so far to maintain St. Cuthbert's. An island chapel committee sees to the chapel's openings and closings, cleaning and repairing, and occasional major capital improvements, as well as administration of the program including hosting clergy for July and August. It also sees to the upkeep of the rectory cottage.

Your Christmas contribution to the chapel will help defray costs and ensure that the building will be well maintained and improved year to year. A reconstruction of the belfry is on the list of major improvements that will be needed before long.

St. Cuthbert's is truly a part and parcel of our island culture, whether or not we choose to attend services there, and please consider making a contribution accordingly.

The Rev. Kathryn Wajda of Maryland will be serving as the minister this July; the minister for August has yet to be decided.

In closing, the chapel committee mourns the loss of three beloved members of our island community this past year: Peter Wende, David McDougal, and Dan Kunhardt. We also remember in this letter, covering the past two years, the loss of two other pillars of the church: Merrill Wilder and Roger Derby.

Checks may be mailed to Annsi Stephano, Treasurer 2709 River Road New Hope, PA 18938. Gifts to St. Cuthbert's Chapel are tax-deductible as allowed by law.

Wishing you joy and blessings of a New Year.

The St. Cuthbert's Chapel Committee

Ann Taft, Judson Brown, Laura Getschel, Sally Jones, Becky Malone, Bruce Myers, Marjorie Platou, Judy Rice, Janet Stebbins, Annsi Stephano, Alex Taft, and Pam Zavitz

