## **OUR CHURCH TODAY**

Our faith community at St. Peter's is a unique one, in that we have a small, but devoted local parish for part of the year, and then grow significantly in the warmer months, as we are in the Lake Region of Maine. We are, admittedly, an older congregation steeped in tradition; but, we are adaptable and open to change.

We enjoy sharing with friends and family, and view ourselves as open and approachable to others. Our parish holds an appreciation for large and small gatherings, opportunities for fellowship, communal dinners, and service to the greater community. When our summer friends return, they are met with welcome smiles, hugs and acceptance. And we enjoy socializing at coffee hour after services; this is a crucial part of connecting with others and checking in on parishioners who are not present. Our bulletin leads with "All are welcome," and we live by those words.

Our congregation abounds with parishioners who give generously of their time for ushering, lay reading, altar guild, the prayer tree, the vestry, and other church ministries. Like many small, rural Maine churches, though, the pandemic impacted some of our long-standing, active ministries and there's a strong desire to grow them again. In the future we seek to identify and welcome new members; keep an open mind to necessary change; keep traditions, while embracing new ways to worship through technology; and to be good listeners. We recognize that our parish is small, and we need to work together to keep our church vibrant and strong.

Presently we are seeking a new priest who will help us to grow into the future—one who is energetic; a good communicator; a caring listener; and a welcoming and supportive individual. We pray for God's grace and guidance.