



The Beacon

South Central News Episcopal Diocese of Alaska

February 2024

FROM THE BISHOP	2
PHOTO CONTEST	3
ANNUAL DEANERY 2024	5-7
CCD—CHECK IT OUT!	8
ST. AUGUSTINE ON PILGRIMAGE	9
THE BEACON NEWSLETTER	11
CONTACT US INFORMATION	12



SOUTH CENTRAL CONGREGATIONS

14 in all:

Four in Anchorage

One each in

Cordova, Eagle River,
Homer, Kenai,
Kodiak, Palmer,
Seward, Talkeetna,
Valdez and Wasilla

What is the first thing that comes to mind when you hear “Unselfish Love?”



(Christ Church 7 p.m. Group with one renegade Lutheran (Kathy F.)
Our 4 p.m. group not pictured)

- *Is love still alive?
- *What does unselfish love look like?
- *How can we take the challenge of a daily act of unselfish love for the next 30 days?
- *Better yet, how about as a Lenten Discipline?

ON LINE printable RESOURCES are available at:

<https://acaseforlovmovie.com/resources/>

Leader discussion book and youth/student discussion book.

Both booklets are available in pdf and include a 30 day reflection journal.

Watch for future availability of this incredible production.



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FROM THE BISHOP



Rt. Rev. Mark Lattime

With very little fanfare and publicity, “A Case for Love,” a film based on the writings and message of Presiding Bishop Michael Curry, was released for only one day and two showings this past Tuesday. It was also available in only select theaters: in Alaska, those theaters were limited to Fairbanks and Anchorage.

It is pretty certain that very few people saw the film. I was happy to see it at the Regal Cinema in Fairbanks with my son, Jack, and his friend, Charity. I hope that the film will eventually be available in other formats or for streaming. In documentary and autobiographical style, the film tells stories of several people and families who despite extraordinary challenges, hardships, loss, and grief found hope and their lives transformed by some expression of unselfish love either by another person or through their own experience of reaching out in care for someone else.

Throughout the film, the key question is asked of many individuals: “what is love?”

The film is worth watching if for no other reason than Bishop Curry’s charge at the conclusion of the film. **The Presiding Bishops invites us to spend the next 30 days (and I would suggest any 30 days) exploring and practicing unselfish love, the kind of love we see lived out in Jesus, the kind of love that can transform the world.**

At one point in the film, Curry reminds us all that in the face of all the challenges we confront in this world, no one can do it all. But all of us can do something. When it comes to unselfish love, no gesture is too small to be transformative.

So I am inviting the Diocese of Alaska to take on the challenge of unselfish love. And I am going further to invite us to make this not a 30-day project, but a full Lenten discipline. Practice kindness. Make the effort to listen to others. Seek to understand more than to be understood. Help when you can help. Smile when you can smile. Call someone who could use a call. Resist the snakey comment. Think before you respond. Pray before you react. And walk in love as Christ loved us and gave himself for us an offering and sacrifice to God.



FROM THE DEAN



Greetings South Central Deanery!

I hope this newsletter finds you all happy and healthy. We are finally seeing more daylight in the mornings and evenings, but we have been having the chilly days of winter. Hope you are staying warm and safe.

We had a wonderful Celebration at the Lessons and Carols service on December 3, 2023. The Choir and readers did a fantastic job.

Your Deanery Executive Committee is preparing for our Annual Meeting to be held at Holy Spirit Retreat Center in Anchorage. The dates:

Thursday, April 25th – Arrival late afternoon and opening Dinner.

Friday, April 26th – Meeting

Saturday, April 27th - We should be done early afternoon, and you will head home.

We all felt that having our Deanery Meeting over two days was very helpful in bringing us all together as a family and kept our time from being rushed. More information regarding our Deanery Meeting will be sent out.

I want to remind you all that we will be electing the following Officers for our Executive Committee - Vice Dean, Treasurer and Member at Large. Please think and pray about considering serving in one of these positions. We will also be nominating the Lay Standing Committee position and the Clergy Commission on Ministry position to be brought forward to the Diocesan Convention for election.

If the Deanery can do anything for your Church, please let us know.

Yours in Christ,

Peg Fisher
Dean, South Central Deanery

JUST A LITTLE FUN...

It's a "Caption Contest"

What would your caption be for this photo?

Submit your entries by March 15th to:
scdeanery@gmail.com

YES THERE WILL BE A PRIZE!

(Photo Courtesy of The Rev. Jim Brisson)



FROM THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

Our Deanery Executive Committee continues to meet on the second Monday of each month via zoom and is open to everyone in the Deanery. We also gathered in person, in a retreat setting, for visioning, deanery projects and planning for our upcoming Annual Deanery Meeting scheduled for April 25-27, 2024.



PARISH ANNUAL MEETINGS...

We are holding all of our churches in prayer during this busy time of annual meetings, voting on delegates and planning for future ministry opportunities. The Executive Committee needs each church to have their delegates register online for the upcoming Annual Deanery meeting. If you have a delegate that is NOT attending the Deanery Annual Meeting in April, please submit to the deanery e-mail address, SCDeanery@gmail.com the following information:

Name of delegate:

Mailing Address of Delegate:

E-Mail Address:

“Best” Phone Number:



DEANERY MISSION AND MINISTRY GRANTS

Just a reminder, the Deanery has “Mission and Ministry Grants” available should you have new ministries developing that need funding. We funded five grants in 2022 and look forward to hearing about other opportunities. You may request an application at our deanery e-mail address. Please submit applications by the first Monday of the month for consideration at our regular Executive Committee meeting.

South Central Deanery is a family of congregations committed to help each other grow in Christ and share in the spreading of God’s “Good News”

JUST A REMINDER...

Parochial Reports are due online

By March 1, 2024

Need Help?

Contact: Lynnette Winfrey-Frank

admin@episcopalak.org

DEANERY 2024: MARK THE DATES—APRIL 25-27, 2024



Holy Spirit Center

Our Annual South Central Deanery

Gathering for 2024 will be April 25-27, 2024

and meeting at Holy Spirit Retreat Center, 10980 Hillside Dr., Anchorage, AK 99507

Here are some of the comments we heard from delegates as they were leaving last year's event:

"Thank you for such a great event"

"This was a wonderful experience!"

"We should do this again."

"Next year, I want more people from my church to come."

And so...we are planning another rejuvenating experience for this year. The full event will be at the Holy Spirit Retreat Center on the Hillside in Anchorage beginning with breaking bread together on Thursday evening and continuing through lunchtime on Saturday with opportunities to worship together, hear presentations, participate in workshops, share meals and fellowship, and of course, some just plain fun.

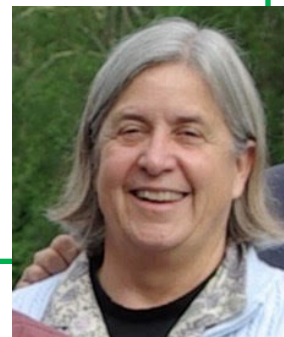
The Rev. Tom Brackett, the Manager for Church Planting and Ministry Redevelopment on the Presiding Bishop's staff will be with us to talk about revitalizing our ministries. The Rev. Elizabeth Riley from the Diocese of Olympia will also join us to talk about digital evangelism.

We encourage you to put the Deanery Gathering on your calendar now and plan to come as a delegate or as a visitor. **You won't want to miss this!**

From the Treasurer...

Deanery Assessment letters were mailed to all congregations on January 8th. If your congregation did not receive a letter, or if you have any questions, please contact The Rev. Gail Loken, South Central Deanery Treasurer. gailloken@hotmail.com or 907-350-4157. The Deanery assessments help fund the activities of the Deanery.

For 2024, the assessment is \$3.00 per member in good standing as reported on your 2022 parochial report. Your assessment may be mailed to South Central Deanery, P.O. Box 231534, Anchorage, AK 99523-1534.



Deanery 2024

COMING ATTRACTION

AT OUR APRIL DEANERY MEETING

Finding our Blessings Revitalizing Our Ministries



With The Rev. Thomas Brackett

JOINING US IN PERSON THIS YEAR!

We were blessed to have The Rev. Tom Brackett join us on Zoom for one session last year at our SCD Annual Meeting.

This year we have the profound opportunity to have him with us in person as one of our key presenters.

Tom serves on the Episcopal Church's Presiding Bishop's staff as the Manager for New Church Starts and Missional Initiatives. Ordained for 41 years, he now consults with Bishops and their teams around the world, putting him in the unique position to host conversations about the future Church as it emerges among us. As both priest and Executive Coach, Tom companions these leaders to celebrate their successes and to prayerfully and strategically explore the new possibilities ahead of them. Colleagues describe him as a compassionate and inspiring presence, making every voice heard and important in both the discovery and discernment process. One of Tom's passions is hosting strategic conversations and creating the safe space needed for people to share their stories of recent encounters with the Spirit. His work has been informed by Otto Scharmer, Roger Schwarz, Christina Baldwin and Herminia Ibarra. His approaches to facilitation are reverent and behavioralist in practice. Curiosity, compassion and appreciation are the underlying values that shape Tom's coaching work.

The Rev. Thomas Brackett

Manager for Church Planting & Mission Development
Presiding Bishop's Staff, Episcopal Church

(suggested reading list on page 7)

Deanery 2024

COMING ATTRACTIONS AT OUR APRIL DEANERY MEETING



Some reading suggestions by The Rev. Tom Brackett,
our Deanery Keynote Speaker:

- *Having Nothing Possessing Everything by Michael Mather
(Provided to delegates at last year's Deanery Meeting)
- *Community: The Structure of Belonging by Peter Block
- *The Three Laws of Performance by Steve Zaffron and Dave Logan
- *Strategy and the Fat Smoker: Doing What's Obvious But Not Easy
by David Maister

Digital Evangelism

With The Rev. Elizabeth Riley...



The Rev. Elizabeth Riley was born and raised in Alaska, where she found the Episcopal Church and her calling to ministry from a young age. Sponsored for ordination out of St. Mary's, she has spent her 11+ years of ordained ministry serving in California and Washington. Currently she serves as the rector of Emmanuel Church on Mercer Island. She is a fellow with the Episcopal Church Foundation focusing on digital evangelism and modern Christian storytelling. Using the emerging resources of social media and digital connection - how do we share the Good News in new and creative ways? How do we weave the ancient practices of storytelling with our modern tools?

Deanery 2024

College for Congregational Development

Here's a great opportunity for discovering ways to help your congregation thrive as a healthy, faithful and effective body of Christ...



In June 2023, Christ Church in Anchorage was able to send the Rev. Katherine Hunt, Nicole Popp, and the Rev. Gail Loken to attend the College of Congregational Development. We gathered with 50 other participants from around the country at Fort Worden on Washington's Olympic Peninsula for an intensive week of learning about church development and practicing facilitation skills for bringing back to our parish. During the year, we'll work on projects we designed with feedback from other participants at the College for Congregational Development. We're looking forward to another week of learning as we complete the second year of the College in June of 2024.

The June week-long intensive will be held June 2nd – June 7th, 2024, at Seabeck Conference Center in Seabeck, WA

Check out their webpage and success stories at
www.cdcollege.org

You DO NOT want to miss this!

If you would like to send a team to the College in June, call Suzanne Krull at the Diocesan office. (Can you find Suzanne in the picture above?) Suzanne helps send teams from Alaska and is also an excellent instructor at the College. You can also find more information on the web at <https://www.cdcollege.org/>

Suzanne is on sabbatical until February 21, 2024. If you have questions, would like to put together a team or need more information, please contact The Rev. Katherine Hunt at revkatherinehunt@gmail.com

Watch for more information at our Annual Deanery Meeting

Around the Deanery...

St. Augustine's...On Pilgrimage



In late September, Judy Mullikin and I flew to Madrid and along with two friends from Nome, walked on the Camino del Norte (along the northern coast of Spain) for six weeks. It was a FABULOUS trip in so many ways; it's hard to know where to start.

There are Caminos all over Spain and other countries in Europe too. The ones in Spain lead pilgrims to the *Catedral de Santiago de Compostela*, a breathtakingly beautiful basilica that is the reputed burial place of Saint James the Great, one of Christ's apostles.

Along the way we walked up and down hills, along country trails, smelling cow manure and hearing roosters crowing. We walked through towns, modern and medieval with oh-so-narrow cobblestone streets, and along beaches. We walked on hot, clear, blue-sky days and in pouring rain (but at least it was warm)! We stopped at museums and cathedrals and castles along the way, to marvel at the architecture and artwork.



We stayed in hostels, *albergues* (pronounced al BEAR gays) and Airbnbs in the larger cities. We even stayed in a convent and in a monastery! Sometimes there were up to 40 people in one big room, other times Judy and I shared a room with our own bathroom. Such luxury!!! How much did it cost? Between 8 and 30 Euros a night, the more expensive might include dinner and/or breakfast.



(For simplicity's sake, figure 1 E equals \$1.) Staying in the big cities is more expensive, but with a bit of savvy shopping, it is still quite reasonable... One picks up a pilgrim passport at the beginning of a pilgrimage, and has it stamped all along the way to Santiago, resulting in great *peregrino* discounts for lodging and eating. (And yes, the food is WONDERFUL.)

What about the language? Our leader spoke fluent Spanish, which made it easier in many ways. Regardless of that advantage, the Spanish people were extremely kind, going out of their way to help us if we were lost or had other questions. We felt



totally safe, and were wished “*Buen Camino!*” countless times by old and young alike.

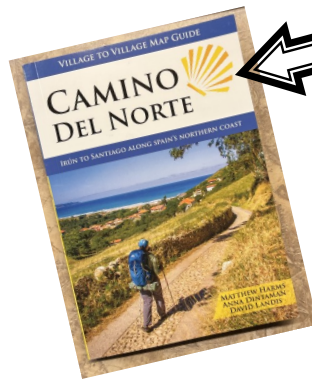
If you don’t speak Spanish, you can download Google Translate to your cell phone, which will allow you to read a menu or ask a simple question, etc.



Worried about carrying a backpack? The Spanish postal system (*Correos*) will expedite it to your next destination for the entire duration of your trip for about 45 Euros...

Yes, the trip was **STELLAR***** in all ways, making it hard to know where to start.

Nell Gustafson



A good current guide book showing maps and places to stay is essential. There are also great phone apps like Buen Camino...

Grant Funding at Work...



Deanery Mission and Ministry Grant Funds 2023/2024:

In January, the Deanery granted \$10,550 for a Youth Mission Trip to Colombia in the summer of 2024. 16 Youth and 5 Chaperones will travel to Colombia for 17 days. Rev. Israel Portilla Gomez writes that the trip “is designed to help the St. Mary’s and South-Central Deanery Youth grow and learn in their spiritual, emotional, social, and physical relationship with Christ, the Church, and youth from other cultures and languages, with whom we share the same faith as beloved children of God.”

During 2023 Deanery grants were awarded to St. Christopher’s, St. Augustine’s, St. Bartholomew’s and Christ Church for internet and technology equipment upgrades. St. David’s received a grant for building a fence around their food production garden. In addition, the Deanery provided grant funds to help with education costs of three of our Deanery seminarians.

Mission and Ministry grants are available up to \$1500 for your next parish project. If you need a grant application, simply send an e-mail to scdeanery@gmail.com.



What did you do for Easter?

Submit your pictures and/or article to “The Beacon” by April 5, 2024.

TheBeaconSCD@gmail.com

Attn: The Rev. Katherine Hunt, Newsletter Editor

Due to our Holy Week and Easter Calendar, our April Newsletter will be published April 15th.



The Beacon

You can help “The Beacon”...

- *Share YOUR Light
- *Submit Articles
- *Join the volunteer staff
- *Be a proof reader
- *Hunt down articles
- *Find and share other resources.

“The Beacon” needs your help...

As our Deanery continues to build bridges among our fourteen churches, we need your input.

What would you like to share with the Deanery about ministries or opportunities to work together? Or, do you need help with a ministry?

Please submit to the newsletter things you would like to share with us.

Around the Deanery...



THE BEACON

South Central News is published every other month. You may submit articles to...
TheBeaconSCD@gmail.com

SCD Committee

Monthly Meetings

Join us on Zoom the second Monday of every month at 4:00 p.m.

Zoom ID: 821 8957 8598
PW: 945288

February 12, 2024
March 11, 2024
April 8, 2024

Dates beyond April will be established by the next Executive Committee.

Find us on

FaceBook:

South Central

Episcopal Deanery -

Alaska



Meet your SCD Executive Members...

Greetings from Eagle River! What a joy and privilege to be called to serve on the Executive Committee. The Church is re-envisioning itself and it's starting to look a lot like the Church in the first century! How exciting is that! I look forward to seeing you all at our spring gathering where we will re-envision together.

I have been Rector of St. Bartholomew's now five plus years. A wonderful adventure in faith, friends, fellowship and lots of food. I also have been teaching yoga now for five years in Eagle River. We are on our second year of "Gentle Yoga for Veterans" reaching out to those who served during our nations longest conflict. All are welcome to attend (Veteran or not). Tuesday's 4:00 pm in Eagle River, All Life Is Yoga.

Jim Brisson

(See the Name that photo on page 3)



Executive Committee

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All Saints - Anchorage

Georgia Knazovich, Vice-Dean (2024)
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Mobile: 505-217-6361
St. David's - Wasilla

Christina Talbott-Clark, Secretary (2025)
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Mobile: 907-830-2187
St. Mary's - Anchorage

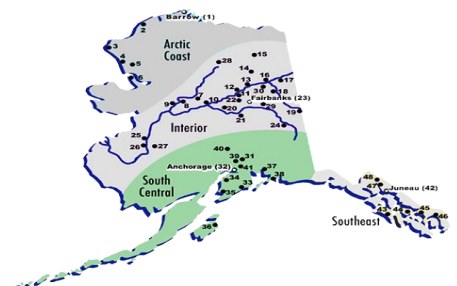
The Rev. Gail Loken, Treasurer (2024)
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St. Francis - Kenai

The Rev. James Brisson
Member-at-large (2024)
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St. Bartholomew - Palmer

MINUTE TAKER (Non-Member)

Michael Knazovich
St. David's, Wasilla



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