



The Beacon

South Central News Episcopal Diocese of Alaska

April 2024 Deanery

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Annual Meeting 2024 Baskets of Blessings



SOUTH CENTRAL CONGREGATIONS

14 in all:

Four in Anchorage

One each in

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

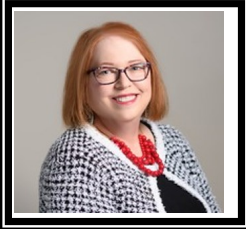
MARK 8:4-8

His disciples replied, 'How can one feed these people with bread here in the desert?' He asked them, 'How many loaves do you have?' They said, seven.' Then he ordered the crowd to sit down on the ground; and he took the seven loaves, and after giving thanks he broke them and gave them to his disciples to distribute; and they distributed them to the crowd. They had also a few small fish; and after blessing them, he ordered that these too should be distributed. They ate and were filled; and they took up the broken pieces left over, seven baskets full.

Join us April 25-27th...DETAILS INSIDE



FROM THE DEAN



Greetings South Central Deanery!

It is already April, which means our Annual Deanery Meeting is upon us. I hope you all have had a good winter so far and hopefully Spring will be here soon. Your Deanery Executive Committee has been working hard for everyone to have a wonderful learning experience at our 2024 Annual Meeting. I think you will enjoy yourself and we encourage you to invite members of your Congregation to come as a visitor. At this time, we cannot offer lodging for visitors, but we will make a list (first come first served) if there are any available rooms at Holy Spirit Retreat Center, there will be a cost associated for Visitors to stay at the Retreat Center.

At Deanery we will be electing the following positions:

Deanery level: Vice-Dean (2-year commitment)
Treasurer (2-year commitment)
Member at Large (2-year commitment)

Diocesan level : Standing Committee – Lay (3-year commitment)



The following are not Deanery specific, and no action is required to nominate, those interested will run and be elected or appointed at Convention:

- Disciplinary Board – Seat C - Clergy
- FIT – Seat A – Lay
- Commission on Ministry – Clergy – will be appointed by the Bishop
- FIT - #1 – will be appointed by the Bishop

The Deanery Executive Committee would like to give heartfelt thanks to the following members of our Executive Committee that will not be putting forth their names for elections this year, either by choice or terming out.

Georgia Knazovich – Georgia has served as our Vice-Dean for 4 years and has also served as the Chaplain for the Executive Committee. We will miss her thoughtful prayers and guidance.

Gail Loken – Gail has served as our Treasurer for 4 years. Gail's knowledge of the Deanery and the Church along with her dedication to the Deanery and her kindness will be missed.

The Rev. Jim Brisson – has served as our Member at Large for 2 years and his thoughts on new ways for the Deanery Executive Committee to serve our Deanery have been helpful to the Executive Committee. We will miss Jim's easygoing attitude and positive thoughts.

Your opportunity is here to join the ranks and serve your Deanery with your great ideas and new outlook on opportunities. Please pray and think about serving your Deanery in one of the positions that is open for election.



Yours in Christ

Peg Fisher, Dean

Left to Right : The Rev. Jim Brisson, Christina Talbott-Clark,
The Rev. Gail Loken, Georgia Knazovich,
Peg Fisher and Loren Hill

ANNUAL DEANERY MEETING: APRIL 25-27, 2024



Our Annual Deanery Gathering

“BASKETS OF BLESSINGS”

April 25-27, 2024 at

Holy Spirit Center

10980 Hillside Dr., Anchorage, AK 99507

Deanery 2024

Deanery Registration opens at 3 p.m. on Thursday

Our Annual Meeting concludes Saturday at 1 p.m. with a catered lunch.

Day visitors are welcome to join us throughout this event.

Visitors: Please see the schedule on pages 4-5. There is a meal fee.

Here are some of the comments we heard from delegates as they were leaving last year’s Deanery Meeting:

“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.”

Like last year’s meeting in Kenai, this three-day event (Thursday evening through Saturday early afternoon) is intended to be as much or more a gathering for spiritual enrichment, education, and fellowship as it is for the business of running the Deanery.

We are delighted to welcome three guest presenters to this year’s Annual Meeting:

- **The Rev. Tom Brackett** from the Presiding Bishop’s staff, who will be presenting workshop sessions on revitalizing our ministries
- **The Rev. Elizabeth Riley**, who was sponsored for ordination out of St. Mary’s Anchorage and now serves in the Diocese of Olympia, and who will be presenting on digital evangelism.
- **Suzanne Krull**, our Diocesan Canon, who will be presenting on the College for Congregational Development.

FROM THE BISHOP



Rt. Rev. Mark Lattime
VIII Bishop of Alaska

The Bishop will be joining our Deanery meeting on Friday, April 26th and Saturday, April 27th. He looks forward to joining us for “Breakfast with the Bishop” at 8 a.m. on Friday and Saturday.

He will also be available during our Small Group sessions on Friday at 5 p.m. and 7 p.m.



Deanery 2024

Annual Meeting Schedule

THURSDAY

(Clergy conference at Christ Church 1-4 pm)

Registration	3-5 pm	Dining Hall
Welcome Dinner - Agape Meal	6 pm	Dining Hall
Campfire: Outreach stories	7 pm	Outdoor firepit
Compline	8:30 pm	Outdoor firepit

FRIDAY

Breakfast with the Bishop	8 am	Dining Hall
Dean’s welcome	8:45 am	Dining Hall
Morning prayer	9 am	As announced
Business session	9:30 am	Loyola Building
Break 9:45		
Morning workshop session	10 am	Loyola Building
• Rev. Tom Brackett: Genesis 2 (See page 7)		
Noonday prayer	11:45 am	TBA
Lunch		Dining Hall

(Schedule continued on Page 5)

Deanery 2024

(Friday Schedule - Continued from Page 4)

Afternoon workshop sessions	1 pm	Loyola Building
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Rev. Tom Brackett: Genesis 2, continued (1-3 pm) ● 15 minute break ● Rev. Elizabeth Riley: Digital Evangelism (3:15-4:15) (See page 8) 		
Diocesan report and voting	4:30 pm	Loyola Building
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Suzanne Krull, Cannon for Finance & Administration 		
Small Groups (choose one)	5 pm	As announced
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Opportunity to meet with the Bishop ● Digital Evangelism workshop with Rev. Elizabeth Riley ● Break 		
Dinner	6 pm	Dining Hall
Small Groups (choose one)	7 pm	As announced
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Opportunity to meet with the Bishop ● Digital Evangelism workshop ● Stations of the Light 		
Campfire - Blessing stories	7:45 pm	Outdoor firepit
Compline	8:30 pm	Outdoor firepit

SATURDAY

Breakfast with the Bishop	8 am	Dining Hall
Morning prayer	8:45 am	As announced
Business session	9 am	Loyola Building
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Budget presentation ● Election results ● Bylaws presentation and review 		
Workshop sessions	9:45 am	Loyola Building
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Rev. Tom Brackett: Genesis 2 wrap-up (9:45-11:15) ● Suzanne Krull: College for Congregational Development (11:30-12:15) (See page 8) 		
Noonday prayer and closing	12:15 pm	As announced
Catered lunch and check-out	1 pm	Dining Hall

Deanery Delegates and registered visitors...

Please bring the following to the 2024 Deanery Meeting:

- A Book of Common Prayer
- A reusable water bottle
- A coffee mug or travel mug
- Mud boots
- Warm clothing for outdoor fireside Compline
- If possible, a folding “camp” chair for Compline
- A copy of Having Nothing, Possessing Everything, (Provided in 2023/available at Deanery)
- Any personal items necessary for those who will be staying at the Holy Spirit Center.

Please bring the following to share with your fellow attendees:

- A written blessing from you and/or your parish to be shared with everyone at the meeting - these will be collected Thursday night to be copied for distribution at our closing service on Saturday
- A side dish to share at Thursday night’s Agape meal (we understand that this may not be practical for those traveling longer distances)
- Please bring a printed or easily accessible digital copy of the meeting documents. **Links for an electronic copies are below:**
 - The proposed 2025 Budget, and notes on the budget
 - Deanery By-Laws with proposed amendments
 - Minutes from the 2023 annual meeting
 - Diocesan reports and presentation materials (4 items) 2023 grantees should come prepared to report on their grants.

Before you come to the meeting, **please review the following: (90+ pages)**

- Minutes from last year’s executive committee meetings
- Last year’s newsletters
- The 2024 grant application

Links to the documents: (press ctrl -click)

[Annual Meeting Packet—Budget, Bylaws, Minutes, Diocesan reports](#)

[Supplementary Reading Material— Committee Minutes, newsletters, etc](#)

Rev. Tom Brackett will present on Friday at 10 a.m. & 1 p.m. and Saturday at 9:45 a.m.

Finding our Blessings

Revitalizing Our Ministries



With The Rev. Thomas Brackett



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



Some reading suggestions from The Rev. Tom Brackett,

- *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



Deanery 2024

Rev. Elizabeth Riley will present on Friday at 3:15 and during small group work, Friday 5 & 7 p.m.

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. She is currently serving at St. Dunstan's Church in Shoreline Washington. 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?

College for Congregational Development

With Suzanne Krull




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

Suzanne Krull, our Diocesan Canon will be presenting on this opportunity for your church community to tap into this amazing resource. In 2023 Christ Church attended their first of two years and in June of 2024, St. David's and St. Bartholomew's will be attending along with Christ Church.

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/>

Join Suzanne at 11:30 on Saturday!

Deanery 2024 



Deanery Mission and Ministry Grant Funds 2023/2024:



In January 2024, the Deanery granted \$10,550 for a Youth Mission Trip to Colombia for the summer of 2024. 16 Youth and 5 Chaperones will travel to Colombia for 17 days.

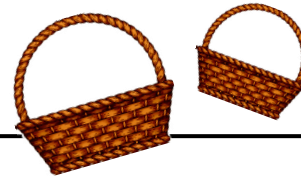
Rev. Israel Portilla Gomez writes that the trip “is designed to help the St. Mary’s and South-Central Deanery Youth grow

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, Christ Church and St. Bartholomew’s for internet and 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 for 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.

With Gratitude...



From St. Bartholomew’s, Palmer...

Please allow me this opportunity to express our sincere thank you for your grant of \$1500. This grant allowed us to enhance our outreach by improving our Zoom platform and improving our video / audio delivery from St Bartholomew’s. We have regular attendees that join our service on Sundays and other special occasions by virtue of our Zoom platform.

I chose a Mevo camera system because of its versatility and compact nature. Each camera has a very quality microphone with lots of software tools for various enhancements for both audio and video. I included camera stands and some additional software for video / audio Multicam production. The expense for this was \$1300. I added an inexpensive PC for the Zoom Platform and thanks to the Diocese we employed an iPad Pro for the Multicam production system.

Once again we appreciate the South Central Deanery for your assistance in improving our outreach.

-Michael Janecek, Sexton

Around the Deanery...

And The Blessings Continue...



With Gratitude...(full report available through the Executive Committee) - Seminarian and Postulant to Holy Orders Grant: South-Central Deanery awarded a grant to Hannah Moderow and myself, Ross McKay, so that we could purchase digital resources to support our education and formation as postulants and seminarians in the Diocese and Deanery. With gratitude to the people of the South-Central Deanery, these resources have greatly benefited me in my formation and will continue to be a blessing as I move forward with my ministry. I also offer my recommendation that the Deanery and the Diocese consider the benefits of making these resources available to all seminarians in the future. Particularly those who are attending seminary remotely so that they can continue to minister in their communities while they get their education. For distance students these resources are often difficult, or in rural communities in Alaska impossible to find in their communities. Thank you again, may the Creator bless you as we move forward into the Kingdom of Heaven together. - Ross McKay



Christ Church - Thank you for the "Eyes in the back of our heads!"

With grant funding in hand, Christ Church purchased a new remote professional and portable camera and stand that provide a full spectrum programmable view of our services and educational opportunities. This has improved our on-line zoom experience and streamlined our technology operations. With Gratitude from Christ Church!
- Rev. Katherine Hunt

South East to South Central Blessings: Thank you from St. Philips Episcopal Church to South Central for helping them relocate three pallets of wheel chairs and walkers to Access Alaska. Thank you to the community of Wrangell, AK Air Cargo, Alice Rooney, Nicole Popp, Arthur Hunt and Rev. Katherine!



Rev. Gail Loken

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.

Around the Deanery...

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”

Thank you to everyone who Turned in their Parochial Reports!

- Lynnette Winfrey-Frank
admin@episcopalak.org

JUST A LITTLE FUN...

It’s a “Caption Contest”

What would your caption be for this photo?

Submit your entries by THE END OF OUR ANNUAL DEANERY MEETING - April 27, 2024
scdeanery@gmail.com

YES THERE WILL BE A PRIZE!
(Photo Courtesy of The Rev. Jim Brisson)



Around the Deanery...



The Beacon

Be “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.

TheBeaconSCD@gmail.com



THE BEACON

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

Executive Committee

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pegsfisher@gmail.com

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Christ Church Episcopal

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



The Trivia Corner:

The Diocese of Alaska is made up of four distinct Deaneries:

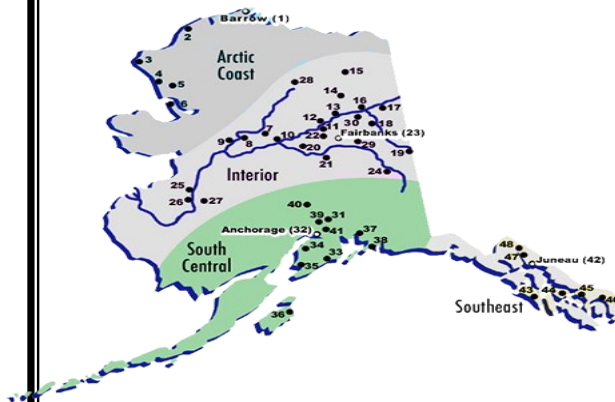
Arctic Coast

Interior

South Central

South East

Each Deanery has their own Executive Committee and is called to oversee the work of the church in their respective locations.



**The South Central Deanery
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