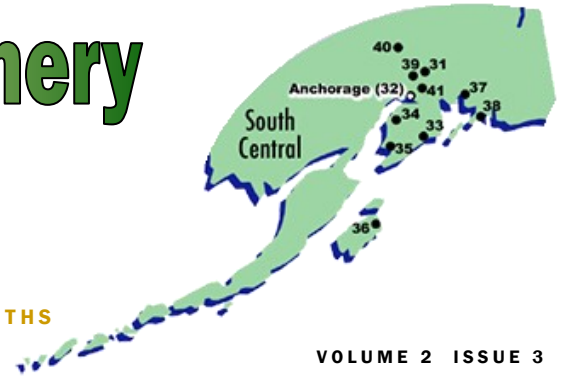


The South Central Deanery of the Episcopal Diocese of Alaska

NEWSLETTER PUBLISHED ONCE EVERY TWO MONTHS

JUNE-JULY 2022

VOLUME 2 ISSUE 3



Talkeetna Alaska



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Greetings
from Denali
Episcopal
in
Talkeetna!

Greetings from Denali Episcopal in Talkeetna! The congregation gathers in a home on the last Sunday of each month for an afternoon worship service.

DEANERY MEMBER-AT-LARGE



Greetings! My name is Jim Brisson and I am the Rector of St. Bartholomew's in Palmer.

My family hails from St Paul, MN where I was born and raised. I enlisted in the United States Air Force and served as a Fire Fighter in Aviano, Italy. Upon completion of my enlistment I attended Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, graduated with a Master of Arts in Religion as well as with a Master of Divinity.

The Reverend Jim Brisson

Continues on page 13 member-at-large

SOUTH CENTRAL CONGREGATIONS

14 in all:

Four in Anchorage

One each in

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

8TH BISHOP OF ALASKA



The Rt. Rev. Mark Lattime

"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

These words from Philippians 4:13 are on the short list of many people's favorite scriptures. It is certainly on my top ten list of favorites. Words of encouragement. Words of hope. Words of strength. When I am anticipating any challenge, I listen for the Spirit speaking these words in my heart. I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

This season I have been thinking a lot about just how it is that Christ strengthens me. I have gotten married, that is a source of strength, I have attended General Convention, an enormous amount of work goes into that event. And in just a few days, I will be traveling to Canterbury to participate in the Lambeth Conference (a gathering of bishops from across the Anglican Communion). One thing is common to all three, all have been, or will be, accomplished through and within the Church.

Which leads me to recognize that when we say Christ, we are also saying the Church, for the Church is the Body of Christ! By extension, therefore, we might say "I can do all things through the Church who strengthens me."

I will always remember a sermon bishop Neff Powell preached at the Diocesan Convention of Southwest Virginia when I was just a newly ordained deacon. "No one is baptized alone. Baptism connects us all." There is incredible strength in that. We can do all things through the Church--through Christ who strengthens us.

I give thanks for the strength of the Church in the South Central Deanery and for the manifold ways you are working together, uniting your ministries, sharing your gifts, building bridges to accomplish all things.

It is often said that the Diocese of Alaska is a diocese of small churches. We also hear often that small churches struggle, and struggle brings exhaustion, and exhaustion brings despair, and despair drains hope. But this diocese is NOT a diocese of small hopeless churches. It is a Diocese of the One Church--a strong, vibrant, loving, and hope filled Church. The South Central Deanery working together is witness to this.

You can do all things through Christ--through the Church, who strengthens you.

Keep being the Church together. Keep strengthening each other in all things



FROM THE DEAN

The Rev. Katherine Hunt

From the Dean...

What do an airplane ride, four days of calf roping, two weeks of hotel living, three substantially different workshops and a Sunday sermon have in common? All of them were reminders of the need for us to put on our own spiritual oxygen masks before we can help the people next to us. It is important that we all find moments of respite and time to sit at the feet of Jesus; To find balance between the Mary and Martha in our lives.

In the spirit of renewal, our Deanery Executive Committee took a month off. However, you may not realize it with all the content in this newsletter. There is a lot happening in this Deanery and a lot of behind the scenes work building fellowship among our churches. Thank you to the many contributors who have submitted articles and information for publication in this edition of the South Central News. Be sure to check out both past and upcoming events. Get your calendars out and commit to joining us in a spirit of renewal. Let's stand united against the struggles of our world.

How can we help each other?

Here's one way...As I have visited with many during this past year, a common request from churches without clergy has been for a list of Priests that may be available to provide coverage for Sunday services. Here are the names of several clergy who are available to provide coverage:

Mother Gayle Nauska (gnauska@gmail.com)

The Rev. Gail Loken (gailloken@hotmail.com)

The Rev. Matt Dufour (halibuthammer@gmail.com)

The Rev. Catherine Amy Kropp (Kroppca@gmail.com)

It is up to each parish to contact these clergy and to negotiate a schedule and agree on compensation. It is highly recommended that you contact them well in advance of the desired date of Sunday coverage. Demand is high and supply is low.

Continues on page 4 From the Dean



From the Dean... *continued from page 3*

If there are additional clergy in South Central who would like to be included in this list, please submit your contact information and any details you feel are pertinent to SCDeanery@gmail.com.

Looking forward to sharing in the ministries of this Deanery...

In the peace and love of God,

The Rev. Katherine Hunt,

Dean, South Central

revkatherinehunt@gmail.com

Our next newsletter publication will be on October 1. If you have an article for the newsletter or an invitation to an event hosted by your church, please submit it to SCDeanery@gmail.com by September 15 for consideration.

New Deanery Exec photo:



Loren Hill, the Rev. Katherine Hunt, Maggie McKay, Georgia Knazovich, the Rev. Gail Loken, the Rev. Jim Brisson



Calling for CHORUS Members

Sing in the Deanery Choir for the 9 Nov 2022 “Homecoming and Healing Worship”

Open Call for Deanery wide Choir

Greetings All! The Dean, Rev Katherine Hunt, is announcing an “Open Call” for all Singers, Chorus members and those with a joyful voice to join the Deanery Wide Choir. Our Choir Director, Albert Alvarez (St. Mary’s, Anchorage) will lead us. Our organist is Marguerite Iverson (All Saints, Anchorage).

We are assembling to sing for the Deanery Wide “Homecoming and Healing Worship” to be held on November 9th at Holy Spirit Episcopal Church in Eagle River, AK. This service of Holy Eucharist Rite II will be in conjunction with Veterans Day celebrations across Alaska.

We seek a choir of no less than 16 voices, 4 each Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass. The more the merrier!

Four Rehearsal sessions will be utilized to prepare for this wonderful event! Dates for rehearsals will be announced soon, but anticipate sometime in September and October for the rehearsals.

Songs: “Eternal Father Strong to Save”, Robert Shaw’s version of the “Battle Hymn of the Republic” and “America the Beautiful”, with other Service Music and Hymns to fill in the worship.

Questions? Please call Al Alvarez @ 831-915-2496. You may also email him at: albertjalvarez08@gmail.com

General Convention

a report from Adam Lees



Adam Lees

From July 8-11, the intense and abridged Eightieth General Convention (GC) of The Episcopal Church (TEC) took place in Baltimore, Maryland with deputies and bishops considering 431 resolutions, passing a two-year (usually three-year) budget, and electing over 50 positions in the Church. Although I'm hoping the Eighty First Convention in 2024 will return General Convention to its full crazy and energetic glory, it was still a joyous, Spirit-filled time. Although a lot of (admittedly church nerd) ink has been spilled about resolution A059, which revamped and clarified how the church handles its liturgies, I'd say the most monumental moments concerned our indigenous siblings.

With the passage of A127, The Episcopal Church will crack open every archive it has to paint the picture of and face its role in native boarding schools. The budget passed included \$225,000 to begin this work as well as fully funded the Episcopal Archives to ensure that work gets done. GC also requested canonical changes (D080) so Navajoland can actively participate in choosing their own bishop [a first for a missionary diocese; right now that process is handled by TEC's bishops instead of by the people of the diocese], directed the Office of Government Relations to advocate for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women (D082), and pushed dioceses to ensure the discernment process was open to and respectful of all cultures (D093). The House of Deputies elected the first indigenous presiding officer in the church's history: the Rev. Rachel Taber-Hamilton of the Diocese of Olympia [Western Washington state], now Vice President of the House of Deputies.

Even though the Official Youth Representation was unable to attend GC, several dioceses, including Alaska, sent several millennial and Gen Z deputies who were exceptionally vocal on a wide array of issues from care of creation to strengthening and expanding lay ministry to church transparency and accessibility. We helped push for strong language supporting Ukraine and affirmed that every letter of LGBTQ+ is fearfully and wonderfully made in the image of God. The House of Deputies also elected the first millennial presiding officer as its president: Julia Ayala Harris of the Diocese of Oklahoma.

There is and will remain lots of work to do. I imagine some of these efforts will succeed, some slip through the cracks, and some even blow up in our faces. Some steps taken at GC were too little, some too much. Our diocese will also have to respond appropriately. But ministry is messy; the world is especially messy; and we never claimed perfection (as every single preacher during our worship noted). But as Anglicans, we tend to dwell in the gray spaces, complexities, and paradoxes with a unique kind of serenity. "If it's not about love, it's not about God." At least that much is very clear!

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to email me at adam.lees.ak@gmail.com or contact any of your other Southcentral Deputies (Rev. Michael Burke, Rev. Dawn Allen-Herron, and Alice Holinger).

Cheers!

Adam Lees



The Alaska Deputation: Back row: Alice Holinger (St. David's, Wasilla), Paul Williams, Jr. (St. Matthew's, Beaver), Rev. Michael Burke (St. Mary's, Anchorage), Rev. Mary Nortion (St. Georges in the Arctic, Kotzebue), Bishop Mark Lattime, Rev. Dawn Allen-Herron (St. Mary's, Anchorage), Dan Hall (St. Brendan's, Juneau); **front kneeling:** Rev. Julie Platson (St. Peter's by the Sea, Sitka), Adam Lees (St. Mary's, Anchorage)



Paul Williams, Jr. (St. Matthew's, Beaver) speaks in favor of A127 on the first legislative day



Rev. Mary Nortion pose with the official welcome logo from the City of Baltimore on a very warm day



Rev. Michael Burke pose next to the Diocese of Alaska's station.

Labyrinth Workshop

by Judy Mulikin

St. Augustine's, Homer

Nineteen people gathered at St. Augustine's Church on July 11 in Homer for a 90 minute program led by Marion Patterson from Iowa, a certified Veriditas presenter. The theme of the program was "Seasons of the Labyrinth, Seasons of Our Lives." Nine people were there in person, including two from Anchorage. The ten who attended by Zoom were located in Alaska, Utah, North Carolina, Massachusetts, Washington, and Hawaii.

All were "seated" in the sanctuary around a table covered

with a hand painted replica of St. Augustine's labyrinth (created by Nell Gustafson) on which people had laid a variety of small items which they had brought to represent the seasons of the year. Ms. Patterson introduced the group to a short history of labyrinths which have been in use around the world for prayer and meditation since before the time of Christ. Then participants were led in a short period of quiet reflection and meditation after which all stood for readings of the blessings of the labyrinth, one for each of the four directions beginning with the West.

"We stand together in the labyrinth in the direction of the West,
the direction of the setting sun in the time of autumn,
when the earth's bounty ripens and is harvested.
As we become still and quiet in the centre of the labyrinth,
we open our hearts to the mysterious and the unknown,
and give gratitude for what we have discovered along the path."

Everyone was able to "walk" the labyrinth. Those attending in person went outdoors and walked the five circuit labyrinth behind the church. Those attending via Zoom used finger labyrinths prepared by Nell Gustafson which were printed on both sides of the paper. Their "walk" was done by tracing the labyrinth with their finger. After the walk both groups were encouraged to write down their thoughts going into the labyrinth on one side of the paper and their thoughts coming out of the labyrinth on the other side of the paper. Zoom participants shared their thoughts in Zoom breakout rooms and the people in the church shared some of their thoughts together.

After sharing, the evening concluded with a reading from Ecclesiastes 3:1-8, "For everything there is a season . . ." The program was well received by all who attended and St. Augustine's hopes to present a similar program in the future. No date has been set as yet.





Labyrinth Workshop

Continued from page 8



Winner of Deanery's "Labyrinth Challenge"

CONGRATULATIONS TO: **Nell Gustafson** for being the first person to submit the correct answers to our June Newsletter, "Labyrinth challenge." She is awarded a wonderful book about Labyrinths and Mazes.



From Georgia Knazovich

On July 3, **St. David's** hosted a holiday dinner and sing along. Parishioners were ask to bring a favorite food and their singing voice.

After dining on lasagna, nettle pesto, bread pudding and apple crisp, plus other goodies, the parish sang their hearts out singing many national favorites from the prayer book and else where.

The joy of it all was sharing the first communal meal at the church in over 2 years and it was a thrill for all involved. Post singing, everyone wanted to plan something else to bring the parish back to a state of normalcy.

Joy, is the most infallible sign of the presence of God. Leon Bloy



St. Christopher's Episcopal congregants from Anchorage spent July 16 and 17 dip netting and sprucing up the landscape at St. Francis by the Sea in Kenai Alaska.



Feeding the hungry AND greening the earth...

Many Southcentral Episcopal Church Gardens are in full production this summer. The gardens pictured here are located at Saint David's, St. Mary's, and Christ Church.

Do you have garden pictures to share?

Send your photos to scdeanery@gmail.com

St. David's, Wasilla



St. Mary's, Anchorage



Christ Church, Anchorage



Christ Church Greenhouse

May there be abundance of grain in the land; may it wave on the tops of the mountains; may its fruit be like Lebanon; and may people blossom in the cities like the grass of the field.

Psalm 72.16:



Dancing with
the
Spirit



*Midway 2022
Youth Trip*



The South Central Deanery Executive Board approved a grant request for \$1000 for Dancing with the Spirit in support of a Gwich'in Youth Trip to the Midway Lake Music Festival in Teetl'it Zheh (Fort McPherson), Canada. The Festival is an annual gathering celebrating Gwich'in traditions, music, language dance, storytelling and traditional foods. The youth will develop leadership and performance skills while building personal and lasting connections within their Gwich'in community.

If you would like to contribute to the trip costs, here's how you can help:

- Online at <https://gofund.me/ea66a472>
- At www.episcopalak.org, click "Donate," "Make a Donation," complete form under "Fund" select "Dancing with the Spirit"
- Check payable to "Dancing With the Spirit" with "Midway 2022" in the memo, sent to Dancing with the Spirit, 1205 Denali Way, Fairbanks, AK 99701

UTO: United Thank Offering

The South Central Deanery welcomes and thanks **Christy Kinter** for her ministry as our South Central Deanery Coordinator for the United Thank Offering Program.



For more information about UTO, or to volunteer you may contact Christy at seegoo@acsalaska.net

 <https://unitedthankoffering.com/coordinator-materials/>

This is where you will find digital resources for all things UTO! From Thank You cards to sample sermons, UTO hope to equip you with everything you'll need to lead your Province, Diocese, or Parish in gratitude. If there is something that you are looking for that you cannot find here, please let Heather know.



November 9, 2022

“Homecoming and Healing Worship Service”

**Celebrating Veterans and their families from across the Deanery.
ALL are welcome to join us for an evening of Worship
in healing prayer and celebrating the Eucharist**

Holy Spirit Episcopal Church, Eagle River

7-8:30pm

**THE FISH HAVE BEEN CAUGHT
AND THE GRILL IS READY
FOR COOKING...**



JOIN US...

**Southcentral Deanery
"Coming Together"
Fish Fry and Beach Clean-Up**

When: Aug 6, 2022
Where: St Francis by the Sea
110 Spruce St. Kenai, AK 99611

Contact: Loren Hill 209-531-6494

1-3 pm - Beach Clean-up
4-6 p.m. - Fish Fry
6pm - Evening prayer

People are welcome to stay the night
and join St. Francis for Sunday Service at 11am
Dry Camping is available at St. Francis
but Parking is going to be limited.

CARPOOL FROM ANCHORAGE?
Contact Christchurchak@gmail.com
Please reference Fish Fry in your e-mail.

Please bring a side dish to share

QUESTIONS???

**Contact Loren Hill
(209)531-6494**

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REALLY! THE FISH HAVE BEEN CAUGHT

Arthur and Loren went fishing...
Just arrived home.

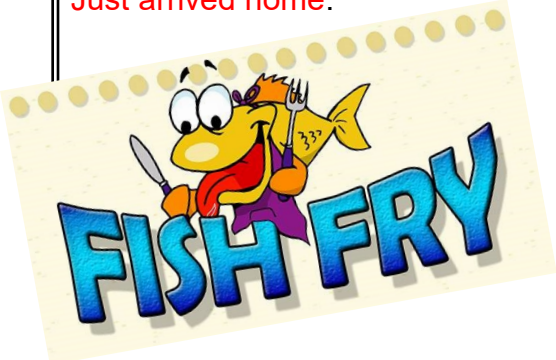
**AND THE GRILL IS READY
FOR COOKING...**

JOIN US...

August 6, 2022 in Kenai

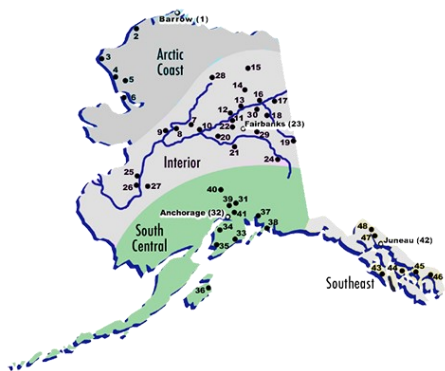
“Coming Together”

Fish Fry and Beach Clean-Up



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**PUBLISHED ONCE EVERY
TWO MONTHS**



The South Central Deanery
P.O. Box 23154,
Anchorage, Alaska 99523

**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"**

Monthly Meetings

Join us on Zoom the second
Wednesday of Every month at
2:00pm

Zoom Meeting ID:
821 8957 8598
Passcode: 945288

August 10, 2022
September 14, 2022
October 12, 2022
November 9, 2022
December 14, 2022

Find us on FaceBook

South Central Episcopal Deanery - Alaska

MEMBER-AT-LARGE

Continued from page 1



Sensing a call to continued service in the military I entered active duty as a Chaplain in the US Army. I retired from the Army after 36 years of military service and moved to Eagle River, Alaska. I was ordained to the Priesthood in Dec of 2009

Wanting and desiring to continue to serve the Church I was graciously offered a position as Rector of St Bart's in Palmer. My wife, Erin, and I live in Eagle River where we enjoy Alaska and serving the Episcopal Church in Palmer as well as serving on the Executive Committee of the South Central Deanery.



Executive Committee

The Rev. Katherine Hunt, Dean (2023)

Revkatherinehunt@gmail.com

Mobile: 907-331-8349

Christ Church - Anchorage

Georgia Knazovich, Vice-Dean (2024)

ghoundsnm@gmail.com

Home: 505-217-6361

St. David's - Wasilla

Maggie McKay, Secretary (2023)

Maggie.mckay.ak@gmail.com

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St. Mary's - Anchorage

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Mobile: 209-531-6494

St. Francis - Kenai

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St. Bartholomew - Palmer

MINUTE TAKER

Deirdre Ford

Christ Church—Anchorage

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