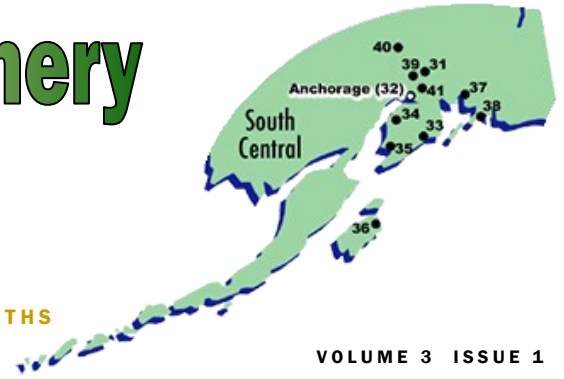


# The South Central Deanery of the Episcopal Diocese of Alaska

NEWSLETTER PUBLISHED ONCE EVERY TWO MONTHS

DECEMBER-JANUARY 2023

VOLUME 3 ISSUE 1



## Las Posadas Worship and Celebration

Las Posadassee page 16



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### SOUTH CENTRAL DEANERY DEAN: REV. KATHERINE HUNT & FAMILY



Greetings from the Hunt Family... (Back row: Rev. Katherine, Front row left-right: Arthur, Aaron and Ariel - Christmas 2022)

I have been a part of this Deanery since 1987 when I joined the Episcopal Church. After years of study for a religious vocation in the Roman Catholic tradition, I found a new welcoming church home as a single twenty something. With almost 23 years of ordained ministry, it's been an incredible journey over the past 36 years of involvement with the Episcopal Diocese of Alaska. The majority of my ministry has been at the parish level with the last 18 years serving at Christ Church in South Anchorage, where I am the Rector of an incredible parish.

*Continues on last page*

### SOUTH CENTRAL CONGREGATIONS

**14 in all:**

Four in Anchorage

One each in

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

# From The Executive Committee



left to right: Loren Hill, Rev. Katherine Hunt, Maggie McKay,  
Georgia Knazovich, Rev. Gail Loken, Rev. Jim Brisson

Our Deanery Executive Committee continues to meet on the second Wednesday of each month via zoom and is open to everyone in the Deanery. We have also gathered every other month in person, in a retreat setting, for visioning, deanery projects and planning for our upcoming Annual Deanery Meeting scheduled for April 2023.

## 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](mailto:SCDeanery@gmail.com) the following information:

Name of delegate:

Mailing Address of Delegate:

E-Mail Address:

“Best” Phone Number:

## 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 Wednesday of the month for consideration at our regular Executive Committee meeting.

## FROM THE DEAN



The Rev. Katherine Hunt

**Make a difference in a new way...Join the adventure!**

It is a strange and changing world that we find ourselves in. Traditional norms and practices are changing. The church as we once knew it, is taking a different shape. We are having to redevelop who we are as a people of faith. How we worship. How we gather in community. The familiar of the past is becoming fluid. How do we as a church remain relevant in our world? These are all thoughts that our churches are struggling with along with the operational questions of budgets, committees, not enough volunteers and a multitude of other thoughts imploding in the minds of our leadership, both lay and ordained. It is a world in which we need to come together.

As I reflect on these last twenty months as Dean of South Central, I am filled with an abundance of awe and gratitude for the missional work of our Executive Committee and the continued growth shining through the ministries growing out of our churches, and the collaborative ministries being developed with neighboring communities. We are being called to a place of response and action being united in new ways. We are stronger when we stand together.

As Dean, it has been a privilege and an honor to help shape the vision and direction for South Central. I will not be standing for re-election because I will be going on a four-month sabbatical in 2023. As Dean, it has been an incredible journey and time of building deep new relationships and sharing dreams. However, the adventure will continue, as it does every year, with a new Executive Committee.

As my time, as Dean, comes to an end in April. I pray for the earnest calling and nominations for our upcoming Deanery Executive Committee. We are looking for a Dean, a Secretary and one At-Large position for the South-Central Deanery Committee. Come and join the adventure and make a difference.

# Deanery Annual Meeting

ALL DELEGATES...Don't miss the opportunity to join us at the Deanery Annual Meeting. Be sure to register!

Thank you for your commitment and ministry to the Southcentral Deanery of Alaska. We look forward to being together and have a wonderful weekend planned, join us for... "**Fresh Wineskins**".

The South Central Deanery Clergy Day and Annual Meeting:  
Thursday, Friday and Saturday April 27 - 29.

Clergy Day will be held at St. Francis by the Sea:  
110 S Spruce St, Kenai, AK 99611

Annual Meeting will be held at The Cannery Lodge:  
2101 Bowpicker Lane, Kenai, AK 99611

**To register on line**, please go to: [Registration Link](#)

The "Clergy Gathering" will meet on **Thursday April 27th, 1:00-5:00 p.m.** at St. Francis by the Sea in Kenai. We welcome, Bishop Mark Lattime to start our journey on "Fresh Wineskins".

**Delegate check-in at The Cannery starts at 3:00 pm Thursday April 27th, starting with a Welcome Dinner at 6:00pm.** Annual Meeting will conclude with Noon Day Prayer on Saturday April 29th.

If you need help with on-line registration, please contact me or Maggie McKay, Deanery Secretary at [SCDeanery@gmail.com](mailto:SCDeanery@gmail.com).

Deadline for Registration & Housing: February 28th  
Agenda and information packet will follow by email the week of April 10  
Delegate Fees: \$250 Meals & Lodging, Visitor Fees: \$75 Meals  
Fees are paid by check to South Central Deanery

We welcome The Rt. Rev. Mark Lattime and Suzanne Krull, our Canon for Finance and Administration to our Annual Meeting.

Seeing Christ in each other,

The Rev. Katherine Hunt  
Dean, Southcentral

# Join us at the Lodge



## Photos from "The Cannery Lodge"

ALL DELEGATES...Don't miss the opportunity to join us at the Deanery Annual Meeting. Be sure to register!



# Upcoming Deanery Executive Committee Elections

Interested in serving on the Deanery Executive Committee? **We are looking for you!**

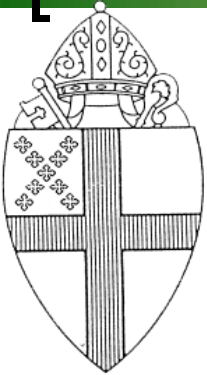
This year our three positions open for election are Dean, Secretary and Member-At-Large.

- Regular Monthly meetings via zoom—second Wednesday of the month from 2:00-3:30pm
- Every other month Executive Board Retreats in person— typically the second week of the month in person on a Thursday or Friday from 9:00—3:00pm (depending on everyone’s schedule)
- Every other month Newsletter Production
- 3-4 Deanery Events each year—Annual Meeting, Deanery Get Together, Special Services

**Dean:** The Dean leads the Executive Committee helping to provide direction and leadership. A cheerleader for all parishes, congregations and Deanery committees and projects.

**Secretary:** The Secretary is the custodian of the Deanery’s records and is responsible for maintaining accurate documentation and management.

**Member-at-Large:** At-large members help bring diversity and perspective from the breadth of the Deanery, and work on various committees and projects.



**Rev. Gayle Nauska**

## Society of Saint Simeon and Saint Anna

Bishop Steven Charleston originally started the Society of St. Simeon and St. Anna as a way to recognize and honor the elders in the Diocese of Alaska. Since St. Simon and Saint Anna in the New Testament spent much of their time in the Temple praying, he envisioned that part of the purpose of the Society of St. Simeon and St. Anna would be to daily pray for the Bishop, Diocese, and the Society. He also envisioned the Society being willing to offer counsel and support.

Some of the requirements are: 1) to be sixty (60) years of age or older. 2) 15 years of service in the Diocese of Alaska.

In 2021, the Diocesan Standing Committee voted to shift this society of elders from the Diocese to the Deaneries. After all, it is the local congregations that are more likely to know which members of the society have moved out of Alaska, or have become members of the Church Triumphant (died).

The Southcentral Deanery affirmed the continuation of the Society of St. Simeon and St. Anna as a means to honor the elders of our various congregations.

The committee for St. Simeon and St. Anna have expressed the hope that the Society will grow into something more than just a point-in-time honor, and that the Society would become a functional group, beneficial to both the members and the Deanery.

It was proposed that the Society be a self-governing body that includes a liaison with the South Central Deanery Executive Committee.

I have been tasked by our Dean, The Very Reverend Katherine Hunt, to work on the initial organizing, and to get input from members on what they see as the mission and purpose of the society, and how we want to carry that out. I am hoping in that process a leader will emerge who has a passion for working with the Society, and who can be a Lia

I have been organizing members by which congregation they are with, who has died, and who has moved away. I have phone numbers and email addresses for some people in every congregation, and figure that members of each congregation are most likely to have contact information, and status for the other members.

One of my aunts described retirement as "being twice as busy, with half the income". I am anticipating that as the Society develops into a Society, that a leader will emerge, who will also be a liaison between the Society and the South Central Deanery Executive Committee.

It would be good to gather together as a Society for lunch, prayer, fellowship, and sharing of ideas in the near future at a handicapped accessible location. We could also have zoom available for those not able to attend. There is money in the Deanery budget to cover travel for those who do not live locally.

Please, let me know what you think. My email is [gnauska@gmail.com](mailto:gnauska@gmail.com). Mobile number is 907-529-5218.

In the joy of Christ,  
Gayle Nauska+



Dear friends,

Attached and below is an announcement for the online spiritual gathering I am leading from Lebanon on January 27. It is through the Episcopal Diocese of Utah and organized by Laura Orcutt of St Augustine's Homer in the Episcopal Diocese of Alaska. Note: the time listed is 6 pm Mountain Time (7 pm Central, 8 pm ET, 5 pm Pacific, 4 pm Alaska, 3 pm Hawaii). All are welcome as we enter the night and the light together across the Earth.

Peace,  
Catherine Amy

The Rev. Catherine Amy Kropp (she/her)  
Priest, Episcopal Diocese of Alaska  
Curriculum Developer, [Dancing With The Spirit](#)  
Currently serving on mission with [Relief and Reconciliation International](#) in north Lebanon (until March 2023)

## **Inclusivity:** **Awakening to the Global Embrace of** **Beloved Community**

Friday, January 27, 2023, 6 pm - 9 pm MST

Explore the feminine of God, awaken to the rising consciousness of humanity, and embrace the collective global heart of beloved community.

- Welcome and closing liturgy of light provided by Bishop Phyllis Spiegel, from the Episcopal Diocese of Utah
- Led by Rev. Catherine Amy Kropp, an Episcopal priest in the Diocese of Alaska, currently serving in north Lebanon with Syrian refugees and Lebanese host communities as a volunteer with Relief & Reconciliation International ([www.reliefandreconciliation.org](http://www.reliefandreconciliation.org)).
- Hosted by the women of St. James Episcopal Church in Midvale, Utah

This event is gender inclusive and open to all willing to explore the feminine of God and the awakening of beloved community.

[Click here for the link](#) to learn more and register by Wednesday, January 25, 2023 to allow sufficient time to receive informational material.

In God's love and light,

Rev. Catherine Amy Kropp  
Episcopal Priest  
Awakening Lead

Laura Orcutt  
St. James Episcopal Church  
Organizer and Technical support



Note: The time listed is 6pm Mountain Time (7pm Central, 8pm ET, 5pm Pacific, 4pm Alaska, and 3pm Hawaii)

## Inclusivity: Awakening to the Global Embrace of Beloved Community



*"I came to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled!" (Luke 12:49)*



*The spark within that unites and connects us*

**6 pm - 9 pm MST, Fri, Jan 27, 2023**

*Schedule [Link](#)*

Welcoming and Closing Liturgy by

**Bishop Phyllis Spiegel**  
**The Episcopal Diocese of Utah**

Led by

**Rev Catherine Amy Kropp**  
**The Episcopal Diocese of Alaska**

*Listen to her welcome: [Link](#)*

Join us online for night and light liturgy, reflections from Lebanon,  
and the unveiling of the collective global heart.

Follow the light to explore the feminine side of God in all of us.

Embrace the inclusive, radical love of God in others.

Awake to the rising consciousness in the spectrum of humanity,  
that is both empowering, yet vulnerably tender.

Welcoming All those willing to be open to the feminine in God.

Rev Catherine Amy will lead us from Lebanon where she is serving  
**Relief & Reconciliation International** in their inter-faith and  
community-building mission with Syrian refugees and Lebanese host communities.

Register by Wed, Jan 25, 2023: [Registration](#)

Questions/Further information: contact Laura Orcutt, 801.368.5437/laura.orcutt.007@gmail.com

Click to join the event: [Zoom link](#)



### From Georgia Knazovich

*"There are still copies of the book available, so continue to contact me. They come directly from the distributor, so I have no control over how fast that will happen after the orders are placed."*

*Georgia Knazovich (ghoundsnm@gmail.com)*



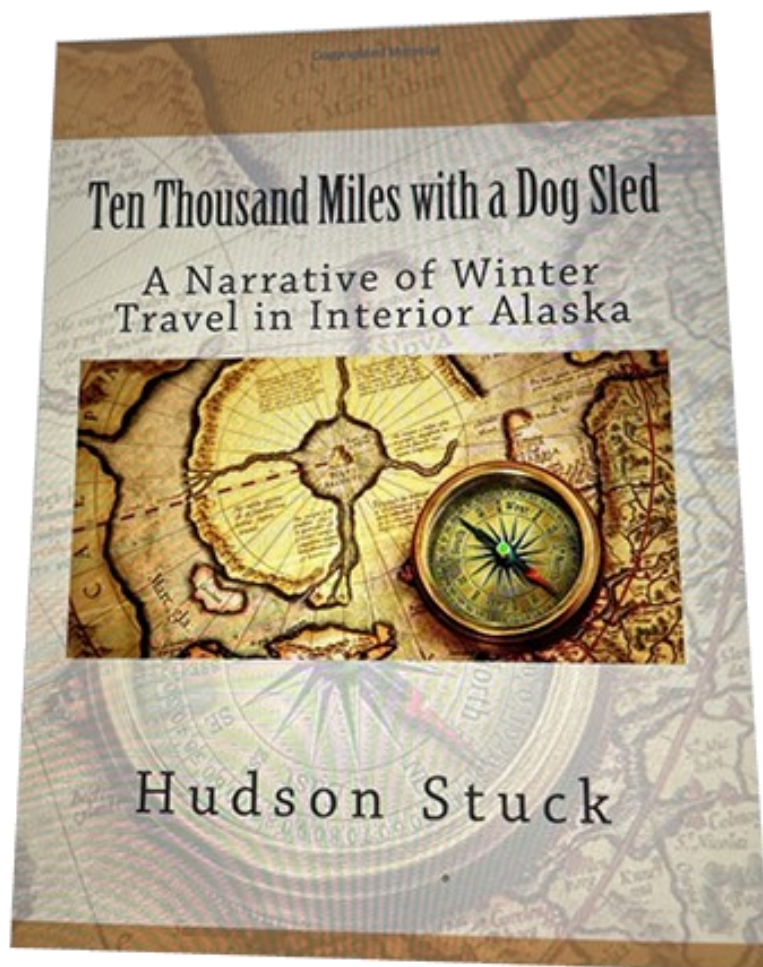
## South Central Book Worm Corner...

### Ten Thousand Miles with a Dog Sled

Ten Thousand Miles on a Dog Sled will be a book for an upcoming deanery discussion book. The Deanery has received a grant to purchase 25 copies of the book for the deanery members to read before the discussion is held. The first 25 SC Deanery folks who send Georgia an

email saying they want one will get one at no charge. Please send your name, mailing address, church you attend in the deanery and you will receive one. Please send request to Georgia Knazovich, email is [ghoundsnm@gmail.com](mailto:ghoundsnm@gmail.com)

**Read the book and join us (before the Musher's reach Nome) for a discussion on Zoom on March 7th or March 11th.** *March 7, 2023 7:00pm - Meeting ID: 882 5963 1249 Passcode: 167790 or March 11, 2023 11:00am Meeting ID: 893 1259 7878 Passcode: 119525*



## MORNING PRAYER ALASKA JUST HIT 487 LISTENERS IN ONE DAY!

That's right, "Morning Prayer Alaska" Podcast just hit 487 listeners in one day. Truth being told, on average we have 50 listeners a day, some days as many as 150 but for some reason, January 11th found 487 people listened to more than half of the podcast.

What? Don't know about "Morning Prayer Alaska" Podcast? The Podcast that brings you the Daily Office and Morning Prayer? Please join us for a listen. You may enjoy it praying with your fellow Sisters and Brothers in Christ!



You may find us on Apple Podcast, Spotify or your favorite way to listen to Podcasts @ "Morning Prayer Alaska",

What's this? You don't know about Podcasts? Easy fix! Find us the website [www.stbartsak.com](http://www.stbartsak.com) and follow the links to Daily Morning Prayer

Jim Brisson

# Announcing Holy Land Pilgrimage To Israel January 2024



Fr Jim Brisson, St. Bartholomew's Palmer, his wife Erin Tulip, and Bishop Jay Magness (retired Armed Forces and Federal Ministries Bishop) are planning a Pilgrimage to the Holy Land of Israel in January 2024.

More information to follow on specific dates, total cost and other issues will be announced soon. Interested? Begin to pray about this great opportunity to travel from Alaska in January to Israel.

What to expect? Three nights in the area known as Galilee, three nights in modern city of Bethlehem, and four nights in the ancient city of Jerusalem. We will not only visit but offer time for worship, prayer and mediation opportunities at the Holy Sites of the Bible. We will also have opportunities to learn and investigate modern day issues of the land. This will not be a "tour". This is a true pilgrimage.

To get us ready for our pilgrimage Fr Jim will offer eight sessions during the weeks leading up to our travel in the areas of Bible, Art History, Roman and Greek culture and history, Geography, and some on the current issues of the day.

Love to attend but for whatever reason not able to join us? Perhaps you might like to make this mental, emotional and spiritual pilgrimage available to someone desiring to go but can't afford the trip financially?

We will have an opportunity to offer a financial offering for a scholarship to someone else. Our dream would be to see a Parent/adolescent or young adult child attend together, or an aspiring seminarian given the opportunity, or a younger member of the Deanery attend to bring a longer life learning ability to others in Alaska. Pray about it.....More information to follow soon.

## Blessing Bags

Reaching beyond our own walls...

Christ Church - Anchorage is making "Blessing Bags" with donated fabric to our Cut-Ups ministry group. Kits for our re-useable bags are cut and assembled by our Tuesday group for them and others to take home and sew.

These bags are then filled with new personal hygiene products and are donated to community agencies for distribution to those in need. Our first batch of 117 bags were donated to Covenant House Alaska and was only about a ten-day supply. We have received a FIT grant to assemble 200 more bags. If you wish to donate cotton fabric or funds for the sustainability of this Ministry, please contact the Christ Church Tuesday group at (907)345-7914, or please feel free to partner with us to help us meet the needs of members of our neighborhood communities.



-Christ Church Tuesday Group





From Christ Church - Anchorage:

### **DO YOU HAVE YARN HIDING IN A CLOSET?**

Christ Church in Anchorage needs your donation(s) of yarn for our needles to noggins ministry. In collaboration with Central Lutheran Church, our outreach ministries makes knit hats, scarfs and muffs that are then donated to Central Lutheran's "Helping Hands Clothing Closet" ministry for those in need.

To donate your yarn, please contact Christ Church at (907)345-7914 or mail to P.O. 111963, Anchor-

Alaska 99511. You may also text (907)331-8349 Ref.: Yarn





## *Sewing Love*

Sewing Love...An outreach opportunity.

St. David's has begun an outreach program to aid the homeless and will work with other organizations providing assistance to the homeless in the community. Sewing kits containing items needed for the repair of clothing will come in a small re-used prescription bottle, that has been cleaned and has had the label totally removed.



St. David's is collaborating with other neighboring organizations to add these kits to their provided services. This is a small and mighty outreach project in its pilot stage that we believe will be helpful to the community. Funding for this project is in the **Deanery Ministry Grant** application process.

Imitation is the best form of flattery, we invite to copy this idea.

-Georgia Knazovich

*Sewing Love*



## Las Posadas

On December 16<sup>th</sup>, Christ Church celebrated the traditional Mexican Las Posadas. The evening began with prayer and learning the traditional Las Posadas song about Pilgrims asking for lodging for Mary and Joseph and Innkeepers who refused to let them in. After knocking on several doors, a kind innkeeper let them in and the fiesta began. Everyone brought a Mexican Dish to share and the Christ Church Tuesday group had made tamales for the feast and created the traditional 7 pointed Pinata. The points on the Pinata represent the 7 deadly sins and the game of hitting the Pinata is about fighting back against sin and evil until the goodness of God spills out when the Pinata is broken.

This event was made possible, in part, by the Deanery Ministry grant that was used for a portion of the cost of attending the Episcopal Latino Ministry Competency course in August of 2022.









Rev, Gail Loken

A reminder from the Deanery Treasurer...

Assessment letters were mailed to all of the Deanery Congregations in the first week of January. If you have questions, didn't receive an assessment letter, or simply need another copy, please email the Rev. Gail Loken, Deanery Treasurer at [scdeanery@gmail.com](mailto:scdeanery@gmail.com) Please send your assessment check made out to South Central Deanery by March 31<sup>st</sup> to the Deanery at P.O. Box 231534, Anchorage, AK 99523

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From Christy Kinter, SCD UTO Coordinator

...



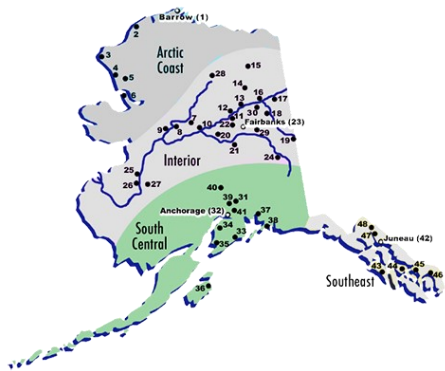
### [UTO Material Kits Now Available!](#)

#### **Register your Parish with UTO!**

Does your parish participate in UTO? Let us know! Registering your parish will give you access to newsletters, materials, and more, and it will help UTO keep up communication with you. [Please register here.](#) If your parish doesn't participate in UTO, but you're interested in learning more, please fill out the form and we will be in touch.

Here is the link to the UTO Website: <https://unitedthankoffering.com/>

**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**

**February 8, 2022**  
**March 8, 2023**  
**April 12, 2023**  
**May 10, 2023**  
**June 14, 2023**  
**July 12, 2023**  
**August 9, 2023**

**Find us on FaceBook**

**South Central Episcopal Deanery - Alaska**

**SOUTH CENTRAL DEAN** Continued from page 1



**Rev. Katherine Hunt**

After almost 30 years, I retired from working for the School of Theology - Education for Ministry (EfM) program. I am serving as the Dean of South Central and I am the Safe Church Officer for the Diocese.

During these past 36 years, I raised three kids that many in our Deanery watched grow to the young adults they are now. While Arthur and Aaron still live in Anchorage, Ariel now lives in Washington state and of course, owns several horses. Three years ago, I had the joy and answer to prayer, of being reunited with my daughter that I relinquished in 1986 and am now exploring the uniting of our families and becoming an instant Grandmother. An ever growing and changing world.

I am at that strange empty nesting stage of life and having a wonderful time finding new hobbies that now fill up my "down" time. (There is an example of my dry and warped sense of humor!) What "down time" LOL. My most recent big new adventure has been taking up long arm quilting. A few years ago, with the startup of our Christ Church Cut Ups sewing group, I took up quilting. The quilting led to the purchase of a long arm machine...which has now grown into a full fledge fabric addiction that according to my son, may need an intervention. I have also acquired a motor home this year and intend to do some road tripping and fly fishing during a much past due sabbatical!

-“Down time Adventures” continue...

Rev. Katherine

## Executive Committee

**The Rev. Katherine Hunt, Dean (2023)**

Revkatherinehunt@gmail.com

Mobile: 907-331-8349

Christ Church - Anchorage

**Georgia Knazovich, Vice-Dean (2022)**

ghoundsnm@gmail.com

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**Maggie McKay, Secretary (2023)**

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St. Mary's - Anchorage

**The Rev. Gail Loken, Treasurer (2022)**

gailloken@hotmail.com

Mobile: 907-350-4157

Christ Church - Anchorage

**Loren Hill, Member-at-large (2023)**

Mobile: 209-531-6494

St. Francis - Kenai

**The Rev. James Brisson Member-at-large (2022)**

Chaplain.james.brisson@gmail.com

St. Bartholomew - Palmer

### MINUTE TAKER

Deirdre Ford

Christ Church—Anchorage

### NEWSLETTER PRODUCTION

Fr. David Blanchett Sr.

scdeanerynews@yahoo.com