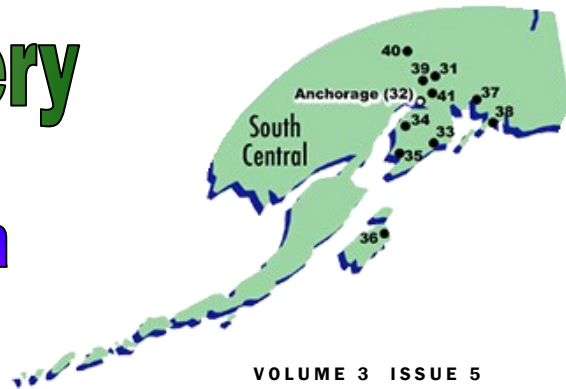


# The South Central Deanery of the Episcopal Diocese of Alaska



AUGUST–SEPTEMBER 2023

NEWSLETTER PUBLISHED ONCE EVERY TWO MONTHS



VOLUME 3 ISSUE 5

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# Advent Lessons and Carols

Dear Friends,

The Southcentral Deanery of the Episcopal Diocese of Alaska is planning to present a Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols program on **Sunday, December 3rd (Advent 1) at 4:00 pm**. The service will be held at St Mary's Episcopal Church on the corner of Lake Otis and Tudor in Anchorage. **I invite you to join us in the choir that we are forming for the occasion.**

This service dates back to mid-Nineteenth Century England, when the Bishop of Truro organized an impromptu service at Truro Cathedral for people stuck in a blizzard. It caught on, and in the early years of the Twentieth Century, it was picked up by the choir at King's College in Cambridge who have created a tradition of performing it annually on Christmas Eve for a world-wide and highly appreciative audience. Much of the music we will be using was composed or arranged specifically for Lessons and carols services.

We are planning four rehearsals, all in the month of November.  
Rehearsal dates are:



November 9  
November 16  
November 26  
November 30



## SOUTH CENTRAL CONGREGATIONS

**14 in all:**

Four in Anchorage

One each in

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

in the evening, time TBD. I know how busy this time of year is for all of us and I appreciate your willingness to join us; I guarantee that you will thoroughly enjoy and be uplifted by the experience. I very much appreciate Peg Fisher, the Rev. Jim Brisson and the other leaders of the Deanery who are sponsoring this event as a gift to the People of South Central Alaska. Please contact me at any time if you have any questions or comments. If you have any friends who would enjoy singing with us, please feel free to send me their contact information so I can invite them to join us, or give them my contact information.

Thank you and I look forward to seeing - and hearing - you soon.

Very best,

Al Alvarez  
albertjalvarez08@gmail.com  
831-915-2496

## FROM THE DEAN



### Greetings South Central Deanery!

Greetings South Central Deanery,

I hope you all are doing well and ready for the winter season. As I watch the leaves fall off my trees, the snow slowly creeping down the mountains, and the days getting shorter I reflect on the upcoming Holiday season and what I can do to help others. Finding a way to help others could be as simple as buying coffee for the car behind you at your favorite coffee shop. I know how it makes me feel when I get to the window to pay, and they tell me the car in front paid for my drink. It is the little things we do in life for others that are a way of paying forward the love we receive from our Lord and Savior.

It is my hope that the Deanery Lessons and Carols Service on December 3<sup>rd</sup> will be a great kick off to the Advent Season; if you haven't already thought about joining our Deanery Choir, please do. The thought of the voices from the different parishes will make for a joyful event for everyone.

Yours in Christ,

Peg Fisher

Dean, South Central Deanery

**Funds** are available from the Deanery for congregational mission and/or ministry projects.

Grants of up to \$1500 can be used for supporting outreach and ministries of your congregation. All it takes is submitting a simple request to the Deanery Executive Committee.

To receive the application form, send an email to [scdeanery@gmail.com](mailto:scdeanery@gmail.com).

Grant requests are reviewed at the monthly meetings of the Deanery Executive Committee.



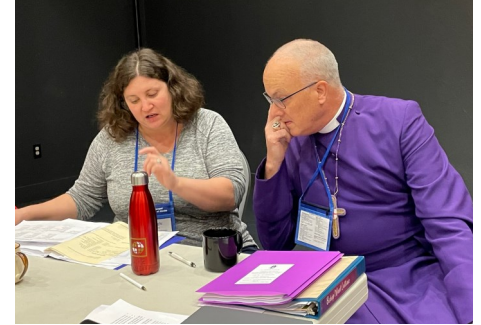
# South Central at Convention



Rev. Lauran Pifke and Fred Hanson from Holy Spirit in Eagle River



Rev. Chip Mills, Sandy Sollenberger and Christy Kinter from St. James the Fisherman in Kodiak



Maggie McKay (St. Mary's) Chair of Dispatch of Business, with the Bishop, Rt. Rev. Mark Lattime



Mary Fox, St. Christopher's, Lorraine Pavlick, Huslia, and Emily Nenon, St. Mary's.



Loren Hill, St. Francis, Kenai and Ross McKay, St. Mary's



Tom Turner, (Christ Church) and the Rev. Betty Glover, (Thomas Center)



Erin Tulip, St. Bartholomew's Convention Secretary



The Rev. David Terwilliger, All Saints, Anchorage



Lisa Terwilliger, (All Saints, Anchorage) and Mary Jane Derendoff, (Fairbanks) present the Bishop's Address Committee Report



Convention Worship Service



Convention Business Meeting



Rev. Nicholas Schoob, Epiphany Lutheran Episcopal, Valdez



Maggie McKay and Adam Lees, St. Mary's, Anchorage



Rev. Jim Brisson, St. Bart's Palmer and Todd Mashlan, St. Peter's Seward



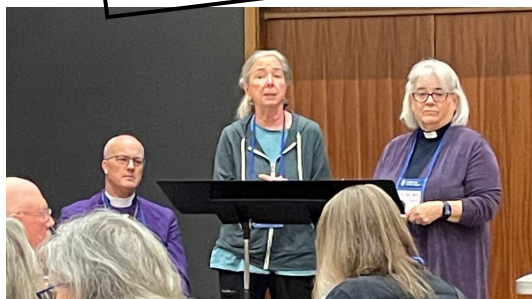
Rev. Belle Mickelson, St. George's, Cordova leads the band



Rev. Israel Portilla Gomez, St. Mary's, Prayer committee chair



Canon Suzanne Krull and Christina Talbott Clark, St. Mary's work on resolutions



Rev. Lauran Pifke and Rev. Betty Glover report from the Standing Committee



Loren Hill, St. Francis by the Sea, Kenai

# Upcoming Events



## Book Worm Corner

### Discussion Group

Tuesday, October 24th at 7 p.m. on Zoom  
Meeting # 868 9465 0379 PW: 795402

Always We Begin Again, the Benedictine Way of Living by John McQuiston and Phyllis Tickle [Ctrl-Click here to purchase the book.](#)

It's a book not just to read, but to absorb and to incorporate into your daily walk and thinking.



## Veteran's Day Band Concert

November 11th at 7 p.m.  
All Saints Episcopal Church

A free public concert  
by the Anchorage Brass Band

South Central Deanery Event

## Advent Lessons and Carols

Sunday, December 3rd at 4 p.m.

St. Mary's Episcopal Church  
2222 E. Tudor Road  
Anchorage

Readers and Singers Needed

(See the front page of this newsletter for more information)

## Introducing...



**Loren Hill**, Member-at-Large

It seems like I just wrote one of these but it has been 2 ½ years since I was first elected to the SCD executive board. I'm now serving my second term as member at large. How much has changed and still stayed the same.

I represent the small but energetic parish of St. Francis by the Sea in Kenai. My wife, Gene, and I moved to the Kenai Peninsula in May of 2020 from Modesto, California. Our daughter is a teacher of special needs children in Lodi, California. We love living in Alaska, even though our friends in the lower 48 don't understand why.

I find it interesting to attend a small church where everything is done by very few people and one must learn to be very flexible. Since joining St. Francis I've become a licensed worship leader and am able to lead "Liturgy of Administration of Holy Communion".

I was asked by our Bishop last year to sit on the FIT committee and am currently its chair. In addition I'm the Warden at St. Francis. I enjoy seeing and meeting with people from our Deanery and the Diocese.

## And...

Hello, I am **Pastor Nick Schoob** (They/Them)! I have taken my first call at Epiphany Episcopal-Lutheran Church in Valdez and am so amazingly overjoyed to be a part of this amazing "both-and" congregation and this gorgeous Alaskan community. It has been an incredible blessing to call this place my home and this people my family for the past six months and I can't wait to see what comes out of this miraculous time! Lastly, it was wonderful to get to meet so many great folks at convention and I absolutely look forward to meeting again and building deeper relationships as the time goes by.

Until Then,  
All the Blessings,

Nick Schoob (They/Them)



# United Thank Offering

United Thank Offering materials and Survey can be found at: [www.unitedthankoffering.com](http://www.unitedthankoffering.com)

Fall is Full of Opportunities for Gratitude. November Gratitude Materials are available now at: [www.unitedthankoffering.com/november](http://www.unitedthankoffering.com/november)

Scroll all the way to the bottom to sign up for a daily gratitude text message each day during the month to help you keep November focused on giving thanks.

Gratitude resources are available which are for Individuals, Families, and Congregations. Thanksgiving resources also includes a Bulletin insert.

**Register your parish!** Have you registered your parish yet? Please do so to help UTO to stay in touch with you. You'll get an exclusive giveaway and free box of UTO materials for registering. Please register your parish here: <https://dfms.formstack.com/forms/register>

**November is a great time to start or deepen a gratitude practice and UTO has materials for all ages and for Thanksgiving!**

Christy Kinter  
St. James the Fisherman  
UTO Coordinator



## An Invitation from St. Mary's

### Youth Mission Trip to Colombia

**Who:** Youth who are currently in grades 7 -12 and are active in their home church

**What:** 17 days-16 nights (4 in Bogota, 6 in the Amazon, 6 in Cartagena)

Supporting a children's soup kitchen in Bogota and a boarding school in the Amazon and helping to build a church in Cartagena

**When:** May 28 to June 13, 2024 Spanish classes have already started and you must register and begin preparing no later than October.

**For more information:** Contact the Rev. Israel Portilla Gomez at St. Mary's  
[Israel@godsview.org](mailto:Israel@godsview.org)

# At St. Bartholomew's in Palmer



## Uplifting the Windows!

The talent of creating stained glass windows has been given in gift form to the Parish in Palmer, St. Bartholomew's. Vestry member and long time Episcopalian Wesley Riviera has created and gifted (her talents) to St. Bart's 19 stained glass windows! A beautiful addition to the Worship space for the St. Bartholomew's community of Christ followers.

## Meanwhile...Outside at St. Bart's...

The last two winters have brought gale force, even hurricane force winds, to the city and surrounding area of Palmer, AK. In direct line of these high force winds rests the worship space of the St. Bartholomew's Community of Christ followers. Cottonwood trees stand all over the 8 city lots donated now some 60 plus years ago. Some of those cottonwoods came down during those windstorms, fortunately and narrowly missing the building. The community decided to bring many of the remaining trees down before they actually do fall on the building! Sexton Michael Janecek oversaw the project.

We got a grant from the Diocese, found a saw miller who is willing to take the logs away for free and utilize them for his desires, a skilled inexpensive logger to bring the standing trees down and benevolent folks in the congregation. It took all of these and more.



Around the Deaenery...



# At. St. George's in Cordova

# Around the Deanery...



Earth Day  
St. Michael and All Angels



Outdoor Church



Midweek Morning Prayer with Yoga



Church out the road at Alaganik



We were so happy to get our new roof on our historic church in the 2022 Summer --just before the monsoon began!

St. George's Church was built in 1919 and our parish hall the Red Dragon was built in 1908 to serve the community. At the Red Dragon dedication ceremony 25 Eyaks danced and sang for the guests. We would like to acknowledge that we live and work on the land of dAXunhyuu, the Eyak People.

# At All Saints' in Anchorage

All Saints hosted a faith and reason seminar series this summer and has hosted Dr. Cheryl White, presenting "Secrets from the Shroud of Turin" as a member of the Society of the Shroud of Turin.



Dr. Cheryl White and Rev. David Terwilliger

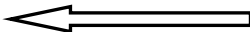


For a year now All Saints has gathered on the third Saturday of the month to strengthen our faith in devotions and prayer; then to enjoy shared treats, served on real china.

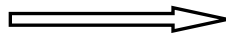
# At St. Mary's in Anchorage



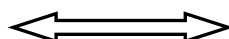
Preparing a meal for Clare House Residents



Helping Hand Bags



Preparing Arepas (a popular Colombian dish) for a Mission Trip fundraising dinner.



Around the Deaenery...

# Animal Blessings



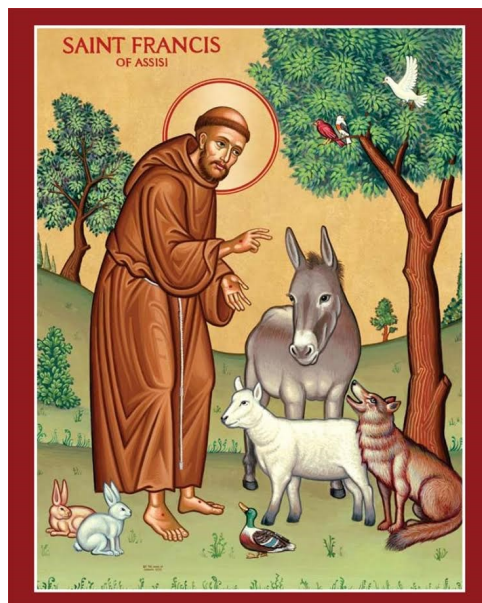
Despite a blustery evening on the 5th of Oct in Palmer, AK the hearty souls (human and otherwise) gathered for the St. Francis Blessing of the Animals! A grand event attended in person, via drive thru and on zoom!



Animal Blessings at St. George's, Cordova



Animal Blessings at Holy Spirit, Eagle River



## ST. FRANCIS PUPPET SHOW

by the Rev. Belle Mickelson, St. George's, Cordova

**Beaver** :St. Francis was born a long time ago in a far off country named Italy.

**Bear**: His family was very rich—so Francis ate fine food and wore nice clothes.

**Kitty**: And he loved music—singing and dancing and having fun!

**EVERYONE**: We all love singing and dancing and having fun!!

**Lamb**: One time when he was selling his father's cloth in the market, a beggar came up and said he was hungry and asked him for money. BAAAA...

**Octopus**: Francis said “No!”

**Owl**: But then Francis started thinking about what he said—and he flew off after him!

**Octopus**: Francis gave the beggar all the money he had...CLINK, CLINK, CLINK

**Lamb**: And the beggar said, “God bless you!”

**EVERYONE**: God bless you! God bless you!

**Kitty**: When Francis got older, he went off to war... BAMB, BAMB, BAMB

**Bear**: And he was captured and put in a dungeon with bad food. But he had lots of time to think and pray to God.

**Beaver**: When he got home, he went back to his wealthy life and started to head off to war again.

**Bear**: But he had a wonderful vision from God reminding him that God is love.

**EVERYONE**: God is love! God is love!

**Kitty**: And he touched and hugged a leper with sores all over his body—and he felt God's love.

**Lamb**: So he began helping those who were sick—bringing them food and water.

**Octopus**: And while he was in church praying, he had another vision from God asking him to go and repair My House.

**Owl**: He thought that meant repair that church building.



**Octopus:** And he only had two arms—not eight like me!!

**Lamb:** So he used his father’s money to rebuild the church.

**Kitty:** And his father got mad at him and threw him out of his house.

**Bear:** But Francis knew God’s love was more important—and that he was supposed to help people, the earth—and God’s wonderful animals—know about God’s love.

**EVERYONE:** God is love! God is love!

**Beaver:** So Francis said “Goodbye to his wealth” and lived as a beggar on the streets collecting money to help the sick and the poor.

**Bear:** Soon a group of men gathered around him—praying together and helping the poor and needy.

**Kitty:** They were called Franciscans.

**Lamb:** And the women who were praying and helping the poor with them were called Poor Clares.

**Octopus:** Francis wanted peace in the world—so he traveled to Egypt to talk to the Sultan to put an end to the conflict of the Crusades—war in the Middle East.

**EVERYONE:** Pray for peace! Pray for Peace!

**Owl:** St. Francis loved the earth and all God’s creation—including all of us animals!!

**Octopus:** St. Francis often stopped along the way to talk to the birds and all of us animals to tell us about God’s love.

**Lamb:** St. Francis reminded all of us to be kind to one another, help the poor, and take care of the earth—and especially us animals!!

**EVERYONE:** Love the earth; love us animals; love each other; help the poor!



# Dancing with the Spirit



St. George's Episcopal in Cordova features a music ministry that supports Dancing with the Spirit, our village school Music and Culture Week Program

<https://www.dancingwiththespirit.org> ;

and having occasional Bluegrass Sundays which are all gospel music except a word from our Sponsor (the Gospel Reading), prayers, a sermon, and Holy Communion.



Dancing with the Spirit in Fort Yukon

## Brighten my Heart

My body is as tense as a cat's  
As it stalks its prey.  
Lord, relax my body.

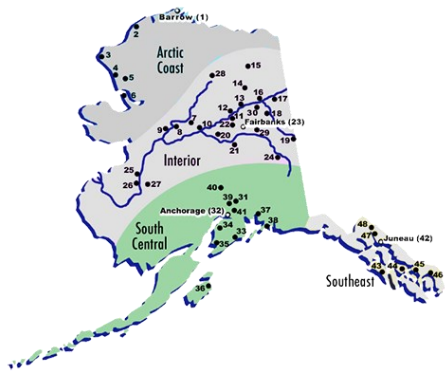
My thoughts swirl like willow branches  
Caught in autumn winds.  
Lord, still my thought.

My soul is as heavy as peat  
Freshly dug from the bog.  
Lord, lighten my soul.

My heart is as dark as the soul  
Sodden with the winter rains.  
Lord, brighten my heart.

From the book, *Celtic Prayers, Daily Prayers and Blessings*

**PUBLISHED ONCE EVERY  
TWO MONTHS**



**The South Central Deanery**  
P.O. Box 231534,  
Anchorage, Alaska 99523  
scdeanery@gmail.com

**South Central Deanery is a family of congregations committed to helping each other grow in Christ and sharing in the spreading of God's "Good News."**

**Find us on FaceBook**

**South Central Episcopal Deanery - Alaska**

**SOUTH CENTRAL DEANERY**

## Monthly Meetings

Join us on Zoom the second Monday of Every month at 4:00pm

**Zoom Meeting ID:**  
**821 8957 8598**  
**Passcode: 945288**

November 13, 2023  
December 11, 2023  
January 8, 2024  
February 12, 2024  
March 11, 2024

## Executive Committee

**Peg Fisher, Dean (2025)**

pegsfisher@gmail.com  
Mobile: 907-301-2120  
All Saints - Anchorage

**Georgia Knazovich, Vice-Dean (2024)**

ghoundsnm@gmail.com  
Mobile: 505-217-6361  
St. David's - Wasilla

**Christina Talbott-Clark, Secretary (2025)**

ctalbotclark@gmail.com  
Mobile: 907-830-2187  
St. Mary's - Anchorage

**The Rev. Gail Loken, Treasurer (2024)**

gailloken@hotmail.com  
Mobile: 907-350-4157  
Christ Church - Anchorage

**Loren Hill, Member-at-large (2025)**

Mobile: 209-531-6494  
St. Francis - Kenai

**The Rev. James Brisson Member-at-large (2024)**

Chaplain.james.brisson@gmail.com  
St. Bartholomew - Palmer

**MINUTE TAKER**

**Michael Knazovich**  
St. David's, Wasilla

## Photos for Facebook

We'd like to showcase each of our 14 congregations on the South Central Deanery Facebook page. Please send photos of your sanctuary to scdeanery@gmail.com

Of course, we'd also love to highlight events and news from your parish on the Facebook page as well. So, please feel free to send the information to scdeanery@gmail.com.