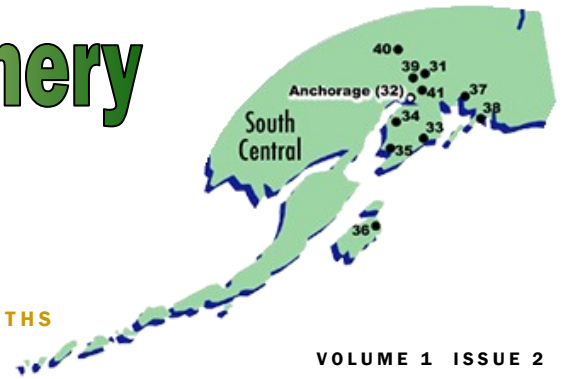


# The South Central Deanery of the Episcopal Diocese of Alaska

NEWSLETTER PUBLISHED ONCE EVERY TWO MONTHS

OCTOBER-NOVEMBER 2021



VOLUME 1 ISSUE 2

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## DEANERY GRANTS FOR MISSION AND MINISTRY

Each year, the Deanery receives Mission and Ministry funds from the Diocese. Our Deanery uses these funds to help churches start or sustain ministry efforts through a granting process. The grant maximum is \$1500 and recipients are asked to report on the use of the funds at the next Deanery meeting.

Grants since our last Deanery meeting include:  
\$1500 to St. Augustine's in Homer for internet and technology for Zoom ser-

vices (August 2021)

\$1500 to St. George's in Cordova for internet and technology for Zoom services (August 2021)

\$327 to St. Christopher's in Anchorage - \$150 for Zoom, \$80 for DVD curriculum materials for Biblical Citizenship, \$97 for Facilitator's license. (October 2021)

\$520 to St. Bartholomew's in Palmer - for equipment for producing a daily Morning Prayer podcast. (November 2021)

\$500 to St. Bartholomew's in Palmer for instructional support for using new electronic accounting software. (November 2021)

**What ministries are you dreaming about?** You can request a grant application by sending an e-mail to [scdeanery@gmail.com](mailto:scdeanery@gmail.com) Grant applications are reviewed each month at our Deanery Executive Committee meeting. Please submit grant requests by the first Wednesday of the month.



## SOUTH CENTRAL CONGREGATIONS

14 in all:

Four in Anchorage

One each in

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



## DEANERY SECRETARY

Hello! To those of you that do not know me personally, I'm **Maggie McKay**. My family includes my wonderful husband Ross and my two energetic boys, Charlie and William and our hound dog Pete. My family has been members of the Saint Mary's family for the past 11 years. At Saint Mary's I have taught Sunday school, I am a member of the Budget Committee and the Planned Giving Committee. I am also a member of the Diocesan Faith Into Tomorrow (FIT) Committee, the Secretary for the South Central Deanery and have at-

*continue page 8 Deanery Secretary*

## 8TH BISHOP OF ALASKA



The Rt. Rev. Mark Lattime

Christ the King

This Sunday, November 21, is the last Sunday of the Church year. Often called “Christ the King Sunday,” the Collect for the day expresses God’s will “to restore all things in [Jesus Christ], the King of kings and Lord of lords.” Christ the King Sunday reminds us that our vision, our hope, and our ministry is the Kingdom of God—God’s will on earth as it is in heaven.

In celebrating Christ the King Sunday we are also called to recognize the tension created by our dual citizenship. We are first and foremost citizens of the Kingdom of God—subjects of Christ the King whose way of love and sacrifice are the marks of His authority. But we are also citizens of this nation and called by the same way of love and sacrifice revealed in Jesus to participate in a civic life that seeks the common good, loving neighbor as self, welcoming the stranger, serving all.

Every Christian is called to act faithfully and to be involved in politics and civic life. This is how we exercise our baptismal vows to seek justice and peace among all people and promote love of neighbor. As Christians, we are called to advance Christian principles in our civic life as we engage peacefully with all citizens of this nation in serving the common good. We are not called to advance Christian power, culture, or privilege. Furthermore, as citizens of the Kingdom of God, we must resist all temptations to national idolatry. The measure of our civic and political actions must always be the person and witness of Jesus Christ: his love, his humility, his sacrificial life and his radical welcome. Jesus Christ is Lord. His way of love is authoritative.

That way of love does not call for nor support Christian nationalism.

Every major Christian denomination has rejected Christian nationalism as a threat to both faithful and holy Christian political engagement and a healthy democratic society. I joined our Presiding Bishop, Michael Curry, my fellow bishops, and faith leaders from every mainline denomination in signing a statement against Christian nationalism. I urge you to read that statement and to spend some time becoming familiar with the distinction between faithful Christian political engagement and Christian nationalism.

As the bishop of this diocese, I am responsible for guarding the faith, unity and discipline of this Church, I am also called to serve as chief pastor, therefore, I must state clearly that while I do encourage all Episcopalians in Alaska to be faithfully involved in civic life and leadership, I do not support, indeed I reject outright, the foundational characteristics and tenets of Christian nationalism. Having said that, I strongly urge all Episcopalians in this Diocese to learn more about the characteristics of Christian nationalism in contrast to faithful Christian political participation

Here are a couple online resources to begin your study:

<https://www.christiansagainstchristiannationalism.org>

<https://nationalcouncilofchurches.us/common-witness-ncc/the-dangers-of-christian-nationalism-in-the-united-states-a-policy-statement-of-the-national-council-of-churches/>

May Christ rule in your hearts and his love guide your way.





**The Rev. Katherine Hunt**

## FROM THE DEAN

### Welcome to the second edition of our South Central Deanery Newsletter.

Our Executive Committee has been busy behind the scenes in prayer, meetings, conversations with parishes, processing grant applications and working diligently on improving our communication throughout South Central.

In that effort, we welcome and give thanks to Fr. David Blanchett who has graciously accepted the task of formatting and producing our SCD Newsletter. We are aware our Newsletter needs a name...Stay Tuned.

We also, give thanks and welcome Deirdre Ford who is taking minutes at our Executive meetings to ensure our Secretary is able to be actively involved in dialogue with topics of discussion. Dee does not carry any voice or vote and is only there as a “minute taker.”

In addition to our regular monthly meetings, our Executive Committee has met for three retreats to do the “deeper” work of building group dynamics, exploring the difference between conversations and dialogue, and sharing our ideas of how to work together among such a diverse group of churches. This committee is committed to listening and being present to all the churches within our Deanery and we encourage your involvement and feedback.

As an Executive committee we recognize that we will make mistakes. And we ask that you hold us in your prayers and grant us grace in our work for the mission and ministries of this Deanery. As the Dean, I apologize for the recent disbursement of material that should not have gone out on Deanery letterhead. Because we are a diverse Deanery, the Executive Committee is aware there will be points of friction. We recently had great dialogue about Christian Nationalism and we encourage people to learn more and will be informed about this topic.



**South Central Deanery Executive Committee**

**Left to Right: Back row – Loren Hill, The Rev. Bob Thwing, Georgia Knazovich**

**Front Row – The Rev. Gail Loken, Maggie, McKay, The Rev. Katherine Hunt**

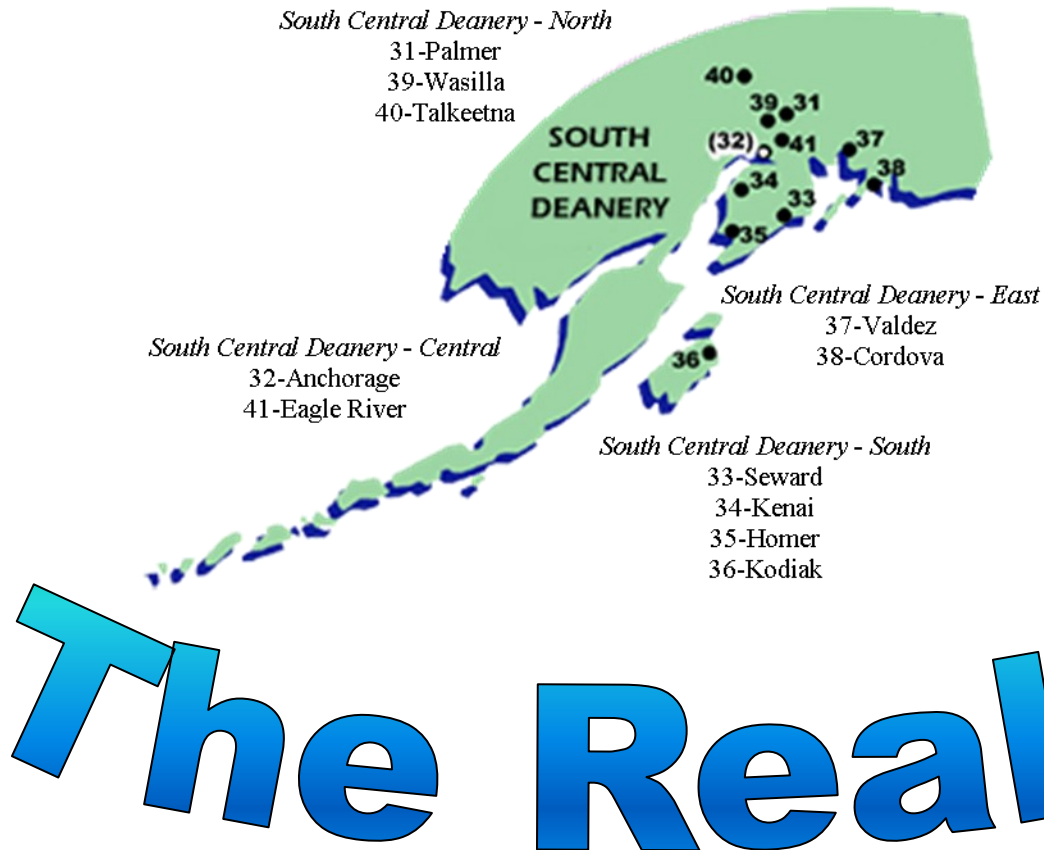
Be sure to check out all that has been going on around the Deanery, in this “Un-named” Newsletter.

In faithful service to our Lord, we look forward to sharing in the ministries of this Deanery.

In the peace and love of God,

The Rev. Katherine Hunt, South Central Dean

# The Realm



# The Realm

## Staying Connected across the Deanery

Behind the scenes, the Deanery Executive Committee is busy preparing to launch an exciting new communications platform called **Realm**. Within Realm, you'll be able to share your church events with the other churches in the Deanery and register for online and in person education opportunities. Realm also includes a directory function so you can have church contact information at your fingertips. It will also give us a home for documents such as newsletters, grant applications and meeting agendas.

We are currently building the database of contact information. If you would like to receive an invitation when South Central Deanery Realm launches, please send your contact information to [scdeanery@gmail.com](mailto:scdeanery@gmail.com).

Please include the following information in your email: Your Name, Home Church, email address, mailing address and phone number. Also, please indicate if you would like to be in the directory where others can find your information, or if you would prefer not to be listed.





# The Biblical Citizenship Program

The first course offering began on November 16th. There will be another program starting in January.

“Being Biblical Citizens requires a knowledge of Biblical principles and how to apply them to the world around us.”

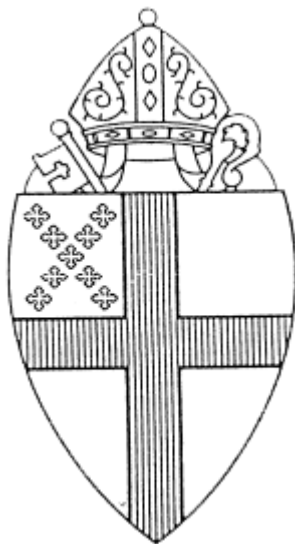
Our Founding Fathers in their wisdom knew that religion (Christianity) was important if we wanted our country and constitution to last. Without the morals that Christianity brings to politics we have chaos

The Biblical Citizenship sessions present information about the Christian wisdom and perspective that the Founding Fathers relied on in drafting the Constitution. The program recognizes that throughout our history, churches have played a vital role in the establishment and preservation of religious and civil liberties. The curriculum urges a return to biblical principles in politics and civic life in our neighborhoods, cities, states, and nation.

There are 8 lively and exciting sessions of about 1 ½ hours and will include viewing videos followed by time for discussion and dialogue.

There is no cost for the program and yes, it’s OK to invite friends.

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## Society of St. Simeon & St. Anna

The Standing Committee Has given the responsibility of the direction of the Society to the Deaneries. The South Central Deanery is forming a committee to consider recommendations on how to setup a structure for St. Simeon & St. Anna in the South Central Deanery. If you would like to be on this committee, please contact Fr. Bob Thwing at [alaskaeagle@alaskalife.net](mailto:alaskaeagle@alaskalife.net)

# Christ Church Bazaar



You are invited to join us on-line or in person at the Christ Church Bazaar!

Lots to look at...

Russian handcrafted painted boxes, Amazing Firestarter pinecones, one of a kind painted trivets and coaster, unique homemade cuddly critters, Advent Countdown to Christmas boxes for family fun, and an assortment of homemade, just for fun creative crafts and Christmas decorations.

Baked goods, canned goods and Christmas gift items will be “revealed” at our “Bazaar by Reservation.”

Two ways to shop the Christ Church Bazaar:

Go to our webpage:

[www.christchurchanchorage.org](http://www.christchurchanchorage.org) to see our “virtual” bazaar. Be sure to visit ALL our bazaar rooms and purchase early be following the instructions on-line. Our online bazaar is updated weekly, so keep coming back to check out new items.



Our open to the public “Bazaar by Reservation” is December 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Time spots are filling up! Request your date/time by texting (907) 331-8349 or e-mail [Christchurchak@gmail.com](mailto:Christchurchak@gmail.com). We will confirm your reservation. (We are located at 5101 O’Malley Road, Anchorage, Alaska)





# Blessing of the Animals



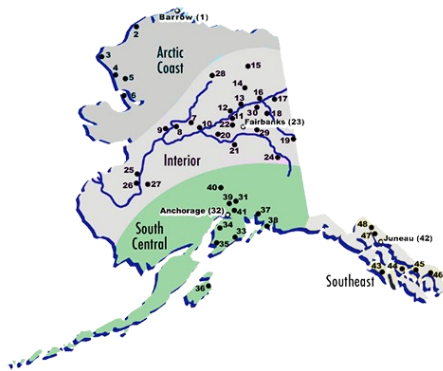
St. Bartholomew's in Palmer had their annual "Blessing of the Animals" Liturgy on Sunday October 4th. A gathering of 1 cat, 15 dogs and 25 human's joined in on the Blessing. The Blessing of the animals Liturgy brings our focus and attention to God's creation, the animals which bless us with their

presence, and the human's need to care for and honor the gifts God has given us in that creation. A beautiful opportunity to celebrate, pray and reflect for all involved.

From Jim Brisson St B.



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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"**

**Find us on FaceBook**

**South Central Episcopal Deanery - Alaska**

## Contact the Board

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St. Christopher - Anchorage

St. Francis - Kenai

## Monthly Meetings

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

**Zoom Meeting ID:**

**821 8957 8598**

**Passcode: 945288**

October 13, 2021

November 10, 2021

December 8, 2021

January 12, 2022

February 9, 2022

March 9, 2022

April 13, 2022

### **DEANERY SECRETARY** Continue from page 1

tended the Diocesan Convention as a delegate. My experience as a delegate was inspiring and reinvigorating. It was an amazing experience to share with the other delegates. Everyone has their calling, and I really enjoyed learning more about the business side of the church. It is intriguing to me to see how all the pieces fit together.

At St. Mary's I value the voice that the congregation has within the church and I love

that the clergy and lay leadership listen and consider the voice of the congregation. The result of this practice and culture within the Saint Mary's has truly made it an amazing institution. Of course, all of this is achieved through the amazing people and the ideals, passions and dreams we all bring to the table. Originally, I fell in love with the tradition and soul of the liturgy, especially the choir and organ.

Professionally, I work for the

rural community of Port Alsworth managing the power plant and administering the local improvement corporation. I have a background in Project Management and have been working with rural communities for the past 12 years. I enjoy volunteering and find myself helping out where I can. I spend my summers in the garden and exploring our amazing state and my winters planning my summers!

*Maggie*