

# ST. DUNSTAN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, ELLSWORTH

## TID BITS FROM THE TABLE ~ FEBRUARY 2, 2024

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Dear ones,

What an amazing Annual Meeting this past Sunday! As ever, I'm blown away by—and grateful for—the vast array of spiritual gifts within our St Dunstan's community, and our collective willingness to dedicate our talents and time for the benefit of the whole parish. We've got truly unparalleled leadership here.

Personally, I rejoice in the support, wisdom and faith of members like Dianne (as Senior Warden through thick and otherwise for five years), Liz (as Deputy and as co-chair of the Nominating Committee), Tom (as Deputy and now Senior Warden), Dave (now as Deputy Senior Warden and co-chair of the Nominating Committee), Fred (as Treasurer and Vestry member), Muffet (as new Treasurer, and former Assistant Treasurer), and Martha (as distinguished, outgoing Vestry member). I rejoice in the leadership of our Sacristan team (with Marian as our leader and Head Sacristan), our Liturgy Team, our Safety Team, and I look forward to the many opportunities we've got before us in the year to come.

My heart is full each time I include our newer members in my personal, daily prayers. That includes Russ and Noreen Eagleston; I know we're all enjoying the process of getting to know one another! So too with the many new members of our church family we've folded into our collective embrace since you called me back in 2021.

Our longtime members are also in my daily, personal devotions. Please know you're a source of tremendous inspiration and comfort to our whole parish family.

One final announcement: our annual Lenten Book Club is nearly upon us! Our book will be—somewhat nepotistically—“What Would Jesus See” by some guy called Aaron Rosen. Honestly, it was such fun to stay up late talking about the Gospels for months whilst A was writing this book. You'll recognize passages that are similar to sermons I gave in the period he was writing this and we were discussing the same parts of the Gospels at midnight together.

**\*\*If you wish to take part in Lenten Book Club AND there are days and times you can't make, PLEASE email me to let me know because my priority is ensuring anyone who wants to participate is able to do so! I'm considering Sundays 5-6pm.\*\***

Everyone is welcome as are their friends to our pancake supper on Shrove Tuesday; this is my first with you! Our Ash Wednesday service is the following day, on 14 February (eat all your Valentine's candy before you come...!).

I wish you a safe, healthy week!

With love,  
Carolyn+

St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church  
Annual Parish Meeting Minutes  
January 28, 2024

DRAFT

Present In Person: Carolyn Rosen (Priest-in-Charge), Dianne Kelley (Senior Warden), Tom Hancock (Deputy Senior Warden), McKim "Kim" Peterson (Junior Warden), Fred Beyer (Treasurer), Muffet Stewart (Assistant Treasurer), Jaci Hancock (Clerk), Liz Graves, Sarah Whalen, Diana Gazis, Sally Rowan, Skip Stevens, Noreen Eagleston, Russ Eagleston, Harvey Kelley, Marian Wells, Cody Chattin, Caiden Chattin, Jan Newett, Jim Newett, Mary Delong, Mary Delong, Judy Stockbridge, Joe Stockbridge, Leslie Beyer, Selene Meeks, Jo Cooper, Carol Mason, Margaret Hanegraef, Greg Jacobs

Present on Zoom: Dave Wells, Martha Thomas, Barbara Clark

Opening Prayer: Following the Land Acknowledgement read by Dianne Kelley, the meeting began at 10:46 AM with a prayer offered by Carolyn Rosen. Dianne then offered a reading by Robert Louis Stevenson. Carolyn and Dianne welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Minutes: Upon motion by Carolyn and second by Kim Peterson the minutes of the January 22, 2023 Annual Parish Meeting were unanimously adopted without change.

2023 Financials and 2024 Budget: Fred Beyer and Muffet Stewart provided a summary on the actual 2023 financials and the 2024 Budget approved by the Vestry at its January 7, 2024 meeting. With respect to 2023, higher than budgeted investment income in part filled the approximately \$20,000 budget shortfall. The 2024 Budget shows an increase estimated revenues and expenses, per the 2023 actual results. Muffet requested that those who regularly contribute to the church but have not pledged consider pledging for 2024; this will enable more accurate budgeting.

Election: Retiring vestry member, Martha Thomas, was thanked for her thoughtful, meaningful contributions to the vestry. Fred was thanked for his several years' service as Treasurer.

The following candidates were presented for approval:

Senior Warden: Tom Hancock

Deputy Senior Warden: Dave Wells

Junior Warden: McKim Peterson

Treasurer: Muffet Stewart

Assistant Treasurer: Mary Delong

Vestry Clerk: Jaci Hancock

Junior Member: Caiden Chattin

Convention Delegates: Tom Hancock and Carol Mason, with an alternate to be named and approved by the Vestry at a future date

Upon motion and second, the 2024 slate of candidates was unanimously approved.

[Note: No vestry members were proposed for the class of 2027 as the vestry agreed that, given the size of the congregation, the vestry be "right sized" to have fewer than the permitted maximum number of members.]

Dianne was thanked for her five years of service as Senior Warden. Carolyn presented her with a gift, the theme of which was "things to do now that you have more time". Liz Graves spoke on the challenges of serving as Senior Warden, likening it to being the ground that diffuses straight currents entering the conduit (both a lightning rod and grounding agent). Dianne again thanked Martha and Fred for their service and welcomed Dave Wells, Mary Delong, Tom, and Muffet to their new roles.

Closing Prayer/Adjournment: Dianne shared a reading and Carolyn offered the closing prayer. There being no other business, upon motion by Harvey Kelley, seconded by Muffet, Tom adjourned the meeting at 11:14 AM. Those present were welcomed to proceed to the undercroft for a pot luck brunch.

Respectfully submitted: Jaci Hancock, Clerk

## THANK YOU!

I would like to say thank you to all of you. Last Sunday was bitter sweet and your generous words, hugs and my wonderful gifts helped with retiring from the Senior Warden position. It has been a pleasure and I have felt honored to be of help to St. Dunstan's for the past 5 years in that position. With deep affection, Dianne

My **Senior Warden Report** in the Annual Meeting Booklet says what is in my heart and would like to republish it here:

### 2023 Senior Warden Report

*"We should certainly count our blessings, but we should also make our blessings count"* Neal A Maxwell  
*"We must find time to stop and thank the people who make a difference in our lives."* John F. Kennedy

## THANK YOU!

Thank you for entrusting me to be your Senior Warden for the past five years. They have been filled with ups and downs. We have had many roadblocks and have shown our endurance with COVID, flu, weather, retirements and other occurrences. We have also had much joy and celebrations, such as births of young ones, installations and ordinations and welcoming our new priest-in-charge. Thank you to the vestry for steering St. Dunstan's, giving me guidance and understanding and representing us all through out these years continuing with God's plan for us.

My first year after the wonderful guidance of our previous senior warden, Dave, is when Mother Johanna announced her coming retirement, she started training our deputy warden, Liz and me. It was a little overwhelming but I felt somewhat ready for the challenge.

The next year was COVID, shut downs, Zoom advent and Mother Johanna's retirement. We were all in flux. It was a very confusing year to say the least but you stood by us and especially supported me.

Year three (3) was consumed by keeping us going with the enormous help of our deputy warden, Liz and all of you as we searched for our new priest-in-charge. The Transition Committee was careful in their discernment and found us our Carolyn. Thank you!

The following year was spent welcoming and orientating our wonderful, caring and loving new priest-in-charge as well as her family, showing her the lay of the land so to speak and introducing her to all of you wonderful people. Although we were also still in the throes COVID, it was a joyous year.

This last year has been bitter sweet, knowing it was to be my last, wanting to leave St. Dunstans' Senior Warden post in good shape. I am thankful that Tom's eagerness to learn and his love for St. Dunstans, along with Carolyn's support as usual was always there. We have initiated a safety and security team and will soon have a fire alarm system installed along with having taken other safety measures.

So in these 5 years together we have gone through retirement, COVID, shut downs, emerging slowly, hiring, expanding, health issues, and being more secure and safety conscience. This was all with a very welcoming, caring and understanding environment created by all of you. All this I could not have done without your patience, support, suggestions, understanding and love. I thank you with my heart full of love for St. Dunstans and you. Thank you for allowing me to be your Senior Warden and being a part of this family.

With deep affection and appreciation,  
Dianne Kelley  
Senior Warden

Diocesan Cycle of Prayer: We pray for St. Augustine, Dover-Foxcroft. We pray especially for St. Elizabeth Jubilee Center and Essentials Pantry in Portland.

We Pray Especially For: Kathy O'Connell, Robbie Johnston, Jesse Pierce, Eve Mitchell, Skip Stevens, Larmie Knuesli, Tony Rowan, Sally Rowan, Jennifer McCall, Dorothy Sweeney for comfort and healing.

We pray for the repose of the soul of Beryl Kirkpatrick, and for strength and comfort for her daughters Roxanne and Robin, family, and friends.

We pray for the repose of the soul of Lucien Camoreyt and strength and comfort for his family and friends.

If you would like to add someone to the prayer list or continue a name on the list, please let us know at [stdunstansellsworth@gmail.com](mailto:stdunstansellsworth@gmail.com) or leave a message at the church (667-5495). Prayer requests will remain for three weeks unless notified that the request needs to remain for more.

It is important to us that the list is up-to-date and accurate.  
To everyone, please stay well and safe. Blessings to you all.

Almighty and merciful God, we ask in our prayers that the conflict in Ukraine and the others around the world can be resolved peacefully. Bless the people that have been affected by the unrest and grant them peace and justice. We also ask for the people in our own country that have been impacted by the hurricanes, violence and loss of loved ones as they grieve, pick up their lives. Grant them strength, comfort, and healing. All this we ask with the power of your love to all through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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## ~ UPCOMING WORSHIP / EVENTS SCHEDULE ~

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*At this time the Sunday services will be both in church following safe practices and via Zoom. Compline is every Thursday at 7:00p.m via Zoom*

*The sanctuary is open for quiet reflection and prayer on Mondays from 1 to 3.*

*Access to the sanctuary is available through the lower level parking lot doors of the church during this time.*

**February 4 ~ Holy Eucharist, 9:30 am**

**February 11 ~ Morning Prayer, 9:30 am. Dianne as Officiant and Homilist**

**February 18 ~ Holy Eucharist, 9:30 am**

**February 25 ~ Holy Eucharist, 9:30 am**

**March 3 ~ Holy Eucharist, 9:30 am**

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## Family News



We would love to hear about **your news** and for **what you are thankful** for during this year. Submit your news to

[stdunstansellsworth@gmail.com](mailto:stdunstansellsworth@gmail.com)

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# FAT TUESDAY, MARDI GRAS PANCAKE TUESDAY,

Shrove Tuesday, Pancake Tuesday or Fat Tuesday is the day before Ash Wednesday, observed in many Christian countries through participating in confession and absolution, finalizing one's Lenten sacrifice, as well as eating pancakes and other sweets.

**JOIN THE ST. DUNSTAN'S FAMILY FOR A GREAT DINNER**  
**PANCAKES, SAUSAGE, MILK AND COFFEE**  
**TUESDAY FEBRUARY 13<sup>TH</sup> at 5:00 to 6:30pm**



**\*\*\* All are welcome to help. Please let Dave know call or text**

**207-610-3709. Set up for dinner starts at 4:00pm \*\*\***

This week we are **Green** according to CDC for our county.



Even with the wind down of **COVID 19**, we know that it will be with us for some time to come. The CDC is now resuming coding the occurrences of COVID. We will keep you informed.

We at St. Dunstan's we will continue to follow CDC data and the practices in our Diocesan parishes. Our vestry has voted to not require masks. If you wish to wear one, masks will be available. Of course, if you are feeling unwell, we ask that you rest and join us on Zoom. Our hope is that you will stay well and will join us for our worship services each Sunday.



## Happy Birthday to Judy Stockbridge and Bailey Fallica! Enjoy!

### Update your Directory Information

Please update or confirm your contact details for our parish directory. Contact our church office--[stdunstansellsworth@gmail.com](mailto:stdunstansellsworth@gmail.com)--with your title(s), postal address, email address(es) and best phone number(s).



**American Red Cross**

### National Blood Shortage

Please schedule your next blood donation at [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org)

### Faith in Maine:

This is a podcast produced by our Episcopal Diocese with various members of the clergy giving their thoughts and prayers. The podcast changes each week. Feel free to call and listen. You can call **207-223-6402** at any time. They last approximately 4-5 minutes.

**FAITH IN MAINE**

GOD AT WORK IN OUR COMMUNITIES

A PODCAST OF THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF MAINE



Priest - Rev. Dr. Carolyn Rosen  
Deacon - Rev. Tracy Shaffer  
Senior Warden – Tom Hancock  
Deputy Warden – Dave Wells  
Junior Warden - McKim Peterson

[www.saintdunstansellsworth.org](http://www.saintdunstansellsworth.org)

You can contact us by leaving a message by telephone or email:

Phone: [667-5495](tel:667-5495) Email: [stdunstansellsworth@gmail.com](mailto:stdunstansellsworth@gmail.com)

Fred Beyer and Muffet Stewart: [stdunstanstreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:stdunstanstreasurer@gmail.com)

Rain is in the church office Tuesday, Thursday & Friday, 8 – 9 am