

ST. DUNSTAN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, ELLSWORTH

TID BITS FROM THE TABLE ~ MARCH 1, 2024

Dear ones,

Well, the RSV has (fingers crossed) departed the premises of the Rosen household! We are thankful that's been the only thing we've caught thus far this winter, given what some of our family and friends have endured. I'm especially thankful that because of Zoom I've--incredibly!--not yet had to take a single sick day or cancel any Holy Eucharist service in the more than two years we've been together. I'm super excited, as you can imagine, for our Holy Eucharist service this Sunday and for our Lenten Book Club later the same day.

I've so enjoyed time spent these last few weeks with those of you who've reached out and met up--I always cherish time spent with church family--during this Lenten season. One of the things I'm always curious to hear about is the Lenten fasts you take on. Many of you have added disciplines, and still others have identified tendencies or patterns they'd like to leave behind. I was reminded I ought to share with you some of our Episcopal Church's resources for Lent. One is a wonderful Lenten meditation series written by Miguel Escobar, the Executive Director of the Episcopal Divinity School at Union Theological Seminary in New York. Here's the link to the meditation series itself: <https://www.episcopalrelief.org/church-in-action/lent/#read>. Below, you'll find his meditation for today, Friday 1 March, along with Biblical readings and a meditation question:

Here comes this dreamer.

Genesis 37:19b

The passage from Genesis describes how Israel favored one of his sons, Joseph, over the others—and how the hurt and resentment this engendered among Joseph's brothers led them to conspire to get rid of him.

The brothers begin plotting when they see him in the distance: “Here comes this dreamer.” While the reading is about Joseph and his brothers, I believe what happens to Joseph gives us insight into our actions toward other “dreamers” around the globe—artists, prophets and truth-tellers whose vision of a more just, equal and peaceful world disturbs those who are beholden to the status quo. “Here comes this dreamer,” they say.

As someone who frequently listens to news out of Latin America, I think about the bravery of journalists whose truth-telling and commitment to exposing corruption has led to their arrest or disappearance. They dream of a more transparent, less corrupt society, and they frequently pay heavily for this vision.

So much of what we hold dear is because of the sacrifice endured by everyday dreamers. Lent is an invitation to dream deeply with Jesus about a more peaceful, just and hopeful world. Yet we do so with a clear-eyed understanding of how the world treats its dreamers. May we be courageous and brave as we continue dreaming.

Today's readings

Psalm 105:16–22 | Genesis 37:3–4,12–28 | Matthew 21:33–43

What steps can we take to support and uplift the voices of modern-day truth-tellers and visionaries who work for positive change, despite the challenges they face?

Take good care, dear ones, and stay warm! I'll look forward to seeing everyone this Sunday.

Love,
Carolyn+

Diocesan Cycle of Prayer: We pray for St. Andrew's, Millinocket. We pray especially for our Assisting Bishops, Bishop Shannon MacVean-Brown (VT) and Bishop Rob Hirschfeld (NH).

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, RB Stewart, Larry Smith, Robert Abshear, and Cyndi Coombs for comfort and healing.

For the repose of the soul of Sylvia Monteux and comfort for her family and friends.
For the repose of the soul of Donald DeGolyer and comfort for his family and friends.
For the repose of the souls of Tadeusz and Joanna Blasiak and comfort for their family and friends.

(Prayer requests will remain for three weeks unless notified that the request needs to remain longer.)

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 or leave a message at the church (667-5495).

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.

~ UPCOMING WORSHIP / EVENTS SCHEDULE ~

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.

March 3 ~ Holy Eucharist, 9:30 am

March 10 ~ Morning Prayer, 9:30 am. Officiant: Dianne, Homilist: Dave

March 17 ~ Holy Eucharist, 9:30 am

March 24 ~ Palm Sunday, 9:30 am

**Happy Birthday to Harper Sheehan,
Cathy Ayers, Carolyn Rosen, and
Andrew Chattin! Enjoy!**





Left to right: Dave Wells, Deputy Warden; the Rev. Dr. Carolyn Rosen, Priest-in-Charge; Tom Hancock, Senior Warden and the Rev. Tracy Shaffer, Deacon.

ST DUNSTAN'S LENTEN SERVICES:

- Palm Sunday 3/24 – Eucharist 9:30 am
- Maundy Thursday 3/28 – Eucharist 5:00 pm
- Good Friday 3/29 – Prayer 5:00 pm
- Easter Sunday 3/31 – Eucharist 9:30 am



2024 Easter Flowers Fund:

If you would like to contribute to the Easter Flowers fund, please place cash or a check in a "flower" envelope with your name and the dedication/celebration name clearly written on the envelope. Place the "flower envelope" in the collection plate or give it to Marian Wells no later than Palm Sunday, March 24, 2024. The donors and the dedications will be recognized in the Easter Sunday program. Thank you very much for helping us decorate St. Dunstan's beautiful church.



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

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.



American Red Cross

National Blood Shortage

Please schedule your next blood donation at redcrossblood.org

St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church
Final Approved Minutes
Meeting of January 7, 2024

Present on Zoom: The Rev Dr. Carolyn Rosen (Priest-in-Charge), Tracy Shaffer (Deacon), Muffet Stewart (Assistant Treasurer), Dianne Kelley (Senior Warden), Tom Hancock (Deputy Senior Warden), Kim Peterson (Junior Warden), Jaci Hancock (Clerk), Valerie Doebler, Martha Thomas, Brianna Chattin and Caiden Chattin (Junior Member), Carol Mason; Sally Rowan joined the meeting during the Priest-in-Charge report

Absent: Fred Byer (Treasurer)

The meeting was called to order at 11:06 am. Dianne Kelley offered the Land Acknowledgement and Carolyn Rosen the opening prayer.

Check-In: An opportunity for check-in provided.

Acceptance of Minutes: Upon motion by Kim Peterson, seconded by Carolyn, the draft minutes of the December 3, 2023 meeting were unanimously approved without change.

Reports -

Treasurer Report: Muffet shared the spreadsheet of the preliminary year-to-date 2023 budget and actual results. It was noted that, as shown on the spreadsheet, there is an increase of approximately \$16,000 in Net Income over the budgeted amount. Muffet also advised that there are approximately 6-7 non-pledgers who regularly donate to the church; if these were pledges, the pledge amount would increase from approximately \$63,000 to \$75,000-\$76,000 and raised the possibility that moving Stewardship season back to the fall would enable the actual pledge amount to be included in the next year's budget. This is an item to be discussed in the future.

Priest-in-charge: Carolyn reported that between her and Tracy Shaffer everyone on the Christmas visitation list had a pre-Christmas pastoral visit. She was also able to spend time with Herbert Beckwith both the day before and the day of his passing and noted that Herbert's family was very appreciative of the service held on Saturday, January 6. Burial plans will be finalized in consultation with Herbert's sister, Dianna Gazis. Carolyn also reminded those present that annual meeting reports are due in by January 15th. With the approach of Ash Wednesday and the Lenten season, she will again offer the Lenten Book Club and requested that those interested in participating let her know of days/times that would work best for them.

Deacon: Tracy reminded everyone that the Liturgy Committee is scheduled to meet on Zoom Thursday, January 11th at 6:00 pm. She will send out an email with the planner and Zoom invite.

Tracy announced that she and Valerie Doebler will be moving forward with the Sacred Ground program this year, which is scheduled to begin on January 10th. They expect about six participants, including participants from Healthy Acadia and other area churches in addition to St. Dunstan's.

Finally she noted that Bishop Thomas Brown will be in the area on January 21st; he will preside at an island-wide service during his visit.

Senior Warden: Dianne deferred to the business items on the agenda.

Deputy Senior Warden: Tom Hancock advised that items he would report on have either already been covered or are scheduled to be addressed later in the meeting.

Junior Warden: Kim reported that a new thermostat was installed in the undercroft, which is the same as the one in the sanctuary. Both thermostats can be programmed remotely. The pre-Christmas power outage revealed that there is another emergency light in the business office. He still needs to reach out to Pablo regarding snow shoveling for this winter.

Committee Reports -

Building Use and Fees: Carolyn is finalizing a draft updated building use policy and will email it to all vestry members for review and comment.

Nominating Committee: Carolyn will follow-up with those whom she asked to serve as Deputy Senior Warden and Assistant Treasurer.

In response to a question raised by Tom, following discussion, it was decided that Tom and Carol Mason (schedule permitting) will be nominated as Convention Delegates and that the entire congregation will be solicited in the summer to find a volunteer to serve as alternate.

Safety and Security Committee: Dianne advised that a Zoom meeting of the committee is scheduled at 3:00 pm on January 17th; she will send out a Zoom invite to committee members. Seacoast Security is scheduled to install the fire alarm system on Wednesday January 11th; Kim confirmed that he will be on the premises for the installation. He plans to install the Knox Box that day.

Old Business -

Budget Review and Approval: Having reviewed and discussed the budget by line item at the December 3rd vestry meeting, Muffet advised of the following revisions to the budget as presented for approval: budgeted pledges increased from \$70,000 to \$73,000, based on 2023 experience; and, per information provided by Church insurance the actual 2024 insurance costs are included (including \$2,339 for building coverage and the actual Cyber liability premium). There being no further questions or discussion, upon motion by Kim and second by Dianne, the 2024 Budget was unanimously approved.

New Business -

Annual Meeting: Dianne reminded everyone that reports are to be submitted to her no later than January 15th. Dianne will craft the agenda and meet with Rain Perez to put the annual report together. She will also need to know the Nominees for Deputy Senior Warden and Assistant Treasurer by that date. The Annual Meeting is scheduled for January 28th. Following discussion of various logistical matters, it was decided that the annual meeting will be held in the sanctuary immediately following the 9:30 am service with a potluck “brunch” held in the undercroft after the meeting (subject to the Covid “traffic light” not being red). Carol will create a sign-up sheet for potluck items, to be available in the sanctuary following the January 14 and 21st services and then downstairs during coffee hour. As a sign of service, it was agreed that Vestry members would serve themselves last at the potluck.

Other Business: Brianna Chattin asked about the status of the proposal to purchase an AED for the church. Kim shared his concern that, until such time as we can be certain that the device’s battery is always charged and functioning, an AED is not a viable option. This item remains one of interest, to be discussed in the future. Carolyn thanked those who were a part of yesterday’s service for Herbert Beckwith for their time and effort. Dianne thanked Martha Thomas for her dedicated service to the vestry and also thanked Fred Byer (in absentia) for his service as Treasurer.

The next Vestry Meeting was scheduled for Sunday, February 25th.

Adjournment: There being no other items of business, Dianne shared a closing reading from “Take Time”, author unknown (to be included in Tidbits, per Tracy’s suggestion). The meeting was adjourned at 11:59am (moved by Valerie, seconded by Muffet).

Respectfully submitted,
Jaci Hancock

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



Directory Information

Please confirm your contact details for our parish directory.

Contact our church office--stdunstansellsworth@gmail.com--with your title(s), postal address, email address(es) and best phone number(s).



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

www.saintdunstansellsworth.org

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

Phone: 667-5495 Email: stdunstansellsworth@gmail.com

Muffet Stewart and Mary Delong: stdunstanstreasurer@gmail.com

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