

# HOPE CAN BE FOUND HERE!

## A CALL TO THE CHURCH:

*To renew and strengthen our call as the church to be an  
"Outpost of Hope" in our community.*

**Glory to God whose power working in us can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to God from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. *Ephesians 3:20, 21***

**Nov 7, 2023**

**From the treasurer/St Peter's by the Sea Episcopal Church: Sara Beaber-Fujioka**

"We are many parts

We are all one body

And the gifts we have

We are given to share

May the spirit of love, make us one indeed"

*(We Are Many Parts, by Marty Haugen)*

The church that is alive in the community of St. Peter's by-the-Sea in Sitka is also part of the larger Episcopal church body, nationally, and throughout the region and state with people who pray and minister alongside us in spirit, even when we are not physically in the same place. We remember our companion congregations in Kivalina and Wrangell each week, and we are also part of the church family of Episcopalians in 48 congregations from Point Hope to Anchorage to Tanana to Ketchikan and everywhere in between. Maintaining community, ministry, and fellowship with our sisters and brothers who are physically distant from us takes effort, which is organized statewide by the Diocese and in Southeast Alaska by the Deanery. We support both of these efforts in our parish budget.

## **What is the Diocesan Assessment?**

In 2023, we budgeted \$12,000 for our contribution to the Diocese of Alaska, representing 8% of our total budget. The Diocese of Alaska is largely funded by support from the national church, but it also depends on contributions from member parishes like St. Peter's. The Diocese is staffed by the Bishop and several staff members. This team supports the 48 congregations spread across the state in multiple ways: providing pastoral care for the clergy, arranging for visiting clergy/pastoral care for rural congregations without local clergy, overseeing the discernment process for applicants for ordination, providing training for clergy and lay leadership, representing Alaska's interests in national and international church meetings, offering technical assistance/guidance on legal and financial matters, responding to disasters, and offering and administering grants and loans to parishes. Our support to the Diocese is one way that we provide outreach ministry to our sisters and brothers throughout the state through the central organizing body of the Diocese. St. Peter's has received several grants from the Diocese, most recently a Faith Into Tomorrow (FIT) grant of \$1,250 for the new Godly Play Sunday School materials.

## **What is the Deanery Assessment?**

In 2023, we budgeted \$1,000 for our contribution to the Southeast Deanery. The Deanery is the group of Southeast Alaska Episcopal churches. They meet online throughout the year and convene for a weekend (usually in-person) once per year. The Deanery is the group where we build connections with the other Episcopal congregations in our region. The meetings are spaces for building connections, sharing successes and challenges, and learning together. The Deanery has also provided grants for projects, including a recent \$5,000 grant to St. Peter's to help with our major maintenance in the See House apartment. Our contribution to the Deanery supports these community-building and ministry opportunities.

*The Rev Julie Platson, Rector, the 2023 Vestry members: Mim McConnell, Mandy Evans, Loyd Platson, Sara Bergendahl, Lisa Moore (Clerk), Chip Camden.  
Treasurer: Sara Beaber-Fujioka; Deacons: The Rev. Kathryn Snelling & The Rev. Glenda Quintana*