

POPHAM CHAPEL TIDINGS

Fall 2024



Popham Chapel – 969 Popham Road, PO Box 145, Phippsburg, ME 04562

Dear Associates and Friends,

Another summer of worship, many fun events and music has come and gone. It is always a whirlwind of activity. Always done in the spirit of community, and always a big sigh once October begins and things slow down. It's time to gather ideas and save up the energy for next summer.

I feel blessed on Sunday mornings when I prepare for our service and coffee hour. It's a soothing task. After all is done, I take a moment to sit quietly and soak in the peace and beauty of Popham Chapel and thank the Lord for this special place. If these walls could talk they would have so many stories to tell. They have witnessed the history in this sanctuary for generations. They would talk of our joyful Sunday services filled with scripture, prayer and beautiful music. They would talk of couples joining together in marriage and welcoming new life into the church with baptisms and celebrating the lives of longtime community members who gave so much to keep this place standing. They would talk of our Tuesday evenings with music floating out the stained-glass windows. And our Chapel House would have a whole different set of stories. They would talk about the coffee hours, celebrations, the bake sales, art shows and potlucks.

The history here is vast and memories run deep in our little community. What would we do without these buildings that provide a place to congregate and share with one another and the dedicated people who happily make it all happen, like the Circle, PBIA and the Board of Trustees.

The Popham Chapel Board of Trustees work diligently to find ways to keep our buildings well maintained so we have a common ground for fellowship. This year was especially challenging with a leak that appeared, which had been a longtime, big-time issue, unbeknownst to us. We also lost shingles this winter which required replacing the west side roofs on both buildings along with the steeple. We had problems with our septic which have been resolved. We now have a new tankless water heater, which will save money on our electric bill. Thankfully, we have been blessed by some angel benefactors which helped us through a very expensive year. But life is full of surprises. You never know what will need attention next. We pray that our little old burner in the Chapel House will hang on for a few more years.

Being located on the water is a mixed blessing. It's stunningly beautiful, but it can be utterly ruthless. These buildings have taken a beating throughout the years. They are 128 years old! We could use your help keeping Popham Chapel and Chapel House in a healthy state. Any amount that you donate will go to the worthy cause of well-kept buildings that serve us all so well.

Please consider sending your tax-deductible contribution in the enclosed envelope.

OR you can donate on line at PophamChapel.org. Go to "Donate or Request Info".

OR send to:

Popham Chapel, PO Box 145, Phippsburg, ME, 04562

We are grateful for your support of our Little Church on the Bay.

May your holidays be filled with love and light.

Peace,

Jean Wyman, Chairwoman, Board of Trustees for the Board of Trustees

Facilities and Maintenance:

The summer of 2024 was one of unexpected and costly repair projects. Each of us reading this letter is well aware of the back-to-back winter storms the Maine coast experienced, as some of us were directly affected. Unfortunately, the Chapel and Chapel House did not escape the wrath of the wind, rain and high tides.

The Chapel House's basement was flooded with several feet of water, which was pumped out under the direction of our "Go to Guy", Matt Blake. Once the water was removed, Sewall responded to our call and restarted the furnace. The hot water heater did dry out and functioned, but ultimately it was replaced with an On Demand unit. It has been installed on the wall at a suitable distance away from any further flooding.

The furnace has been serviced and given a thorough inspection with the conclusion that it will function properly this winter. Considering its age, it would be a Capital expense if we are confronted with replacement.

It seems that every year we have had shingle repairs on our buildings. This year, as a result of the storms, the Chapel and steeple and Chapel House lost shingles. Rather than continue a patching routine, it was voted to re-shingle the west side of the Chapel, the entire steeple and the west side of the Chapel House. It was also agreed upon to use the best material possible with a rating to withstand winds of 120 mph. Horch Roofing Company was contracted to do the work for \$20,000.

Due to benefactors of the Davenport Foundation in Bath and an extremely generous contribution from one member of the congregation, this expense was covered.

On August 4, Sunday morning, the last day of the annual Art Show, there was a very heavy wind driven rain which came in and around the large north facing window in the Chapel House. Upon close inspection on Monday morning by Matt, a long going intrusion of water problems led to extensive rot above and below the window. Most of the vinyl siding was removed along with the wood siding beneath the window. It was necessary to reframe, replace the siding and close it up completely ahead of another rain storm on Friday. The cost of the repair was \$5,500. New sheet rock was installed on the interior wall, trim around the window was repainted. The Chapel entrance steps and front doors were all repainted at a cost of \$2,000.

Looking forward to next year, we have several maintenance areas we are considering. There is still painting required on both the Chapel and Chapel House at an estimated cost of \$5,000. The Chapel sound system is being considered. Our Sunday service, Summer Concert Series and occasional meetings would benefit this upgrade.

Respectfully submitted by Fred Beaman

Popham Chapel Treasurer Report:

The Popham Chapel Fiscal Year (FY) runs from June 1 until May 31 in the following calendar year. The Chapel's finances are in decent shape. We incurred some expenses we were not anticipating during the summer months, the replacement of the roof, the repair to the Chapel House front due to water damage, the replacement of the Chapel House hot water heater, and some other painting because of the winter storm. Fortunately, we received some extraordinary donations which helped to reduce these costs along with a grant from the Davenport Trust.

CHALLENGES

The challenges facing the financial health of the Chapel are identifying the elements that will need replacement in the next few years and then the development of a methodology on how to raise funds to create reserves. Starting in the spring, we will attempt to identify any mechanical equipment that will need replacement, develop an estimated cost for replacement, for both the Chapel and Chapel House. The same methodology will be applied to the structures for any maintenance required (Painting, Septic System, etc.). Anyone wishing to assist in this endeavor please contact us.

TIME, TALENT, & TREASURE

We are always seeking anyone who is willing to offer their services to keep the Chapel and grounds in pristine condition. One does not need to be physically present to provide valuable services. There are numerous possibilities for Grant Writing, Fund Raising Experience, or other areas where your expertise could be utilized.

In addition to the donations we receive, there are methods where funds can be moved from IRAs and 401k programs to our account at Bath Trust which could be a tax advantage for the contributor. The Popham Chapel is a 501 © 3 organization and all donations are tax deductible. Your financial consultant or tax preparer can provide you with advice on how best to accomplish this. If you wish to contribute in this manner, please contact us and we will arrange with Bath Trust on how to transfer your donation.

Anyone interested in TIME, TALENT or TREASURE please contact our Treasurer, Rich Fay as follows:

Email: fayrj@aol.com

Phone: 817-201-3002

Snail Mail: 10101 Sandhurst Drive, Denton TX 76207

Worship Committee, Popham Chapel:

Our Sunday morning Worship service begins at 10:00am each week from Memorial Day until the end of September. Our services are led by visiting pastors who offer a variety of messages in their own unique manner. Our Musical Director, Kat Logan does a wonderful job coordinating the music with the message of the week and often invites other musicians to enhance the overall worship experience. While addressing concerns in people's lives and offering support and prayers, we also try to keep hope ever present.

Following the service, members of our congregation take turns hosting Coffee Hour which is always lively and well attended. Our Sunday mornings at Popham Chapel are a perfect way to start your week.

We will have our Candlelight Christmas Eve Service on Tuesday, December 24 at 5:00. The Rev. Canon Michael Ambler will lead the service. Music by Kat Logan and guests, Castlebay. Refreshments following the service will be hosted by Jackie and Lee Oliver, as they lovingly do each year. Please join us for a very special evening.

Respectfully submitted by Jean Wyman

Pastoral Representative Report:

Our church year began on May 28th. Six pastors from last year returned. All were very enthused about being asked back again. In addition, eleven additional pastors from our nearby area, Connecticut, and Illinois accepted our invitation to serve. With a short biography, the Popham Chapel website alerts parishioners to the upcoming pastors each month. All our visiting pastor's comment on the sincere welcome they receive from parishioners and the warm sense of

community they feel inside our chapel. Ministers share their readings, sermon, and pastoral prayers following our traditional Order of Service. Board members complete evaluations sheets on the visiting pastor and seek feedback from parishioners during Coffee Hour. Evaluations form a basis for the selection of next year's visiting pastors. The visiting pastors offer our community fresh insights into our journey of faith.

Our Christmas Eve service will be held on Dec. 24th, at 5 pm. Rev. Dr. Michael Ambler will preside. The Easter Service opens our 2025, season on April 20th, at 10 am. Rev. Robert Dorr will lead this joyful service.

When our weekly summer worship begins on May 25, 2025, Rev. Dr. Janet Peck will offer her message. Rev. Peck will continue her pastoral services every two weeks throughout our summer season. Visiting pastors will fill weeks in between. Consult our website for specific dates, pastor biographies, and special events. Come sing with Kat Logan, too!

With gratitude, Debbie Coates

Musical Director:

I am pleased to share that we've had another fantastic year of musical events at Popham Chapel. Alongside our regular Sunday services, we enjoyed a vibrant Tuesday night summer concert series featuring talented groups and solo artists. Our Sunday services were enriched by the newly tuned Steinway, a variety of guest musicians and a wonderful chapel full of sharing.

Looking ahead, we plan to expand our musical offerings even further next year. Our concert series has raised \$2800, and we are excited to continue inviting exceptional talent to the Chapel.

In Memoriam:

I am sad to report that one of our performers, Chris Lannon, has passed away. He and his partner Liz performed for us last summer. Our condolences to Liz and his family.

Be sure to check out the "Music at Popham Chapel" Facebook for our 2025 schedule once it's available!

With gratitude,
Kat Logan
Musical Director

Communications Committee:

The Communications Committee was active in the past year. We use a free email contact system called Mail Chimp to maintain and automate our email communications. The emails focus on outreach to the Members, Trustees, Associates and the community at large. We currently have 447 subscribers to the system. In the past 12 months we have sent 24 emails to the subscribers which inform our community regarding church services and community events down in Popham. We believe that these communications serve a vital role in informing and encouraging attendance to our various events and fundraising activities.

We have attached credit card processing to our website to make donations more user friendly. We are now able to edit our PophamChapel.org website to keep the information current.

Sincerely,
Rob Chapdelaine, Communications Committee

Weddings and Events:

It's 2024 and here's what's happened for Popham Chapel Events.

Two celebrations were held here. A birthday party for a current Circle member, using the Chapel House and the lawn between our buildings. A Twentieth Anniversary party went full-on with the big tent rental, port-o-potties and a food truck.

Mid-September hosted a celebration of family ancestry in the Chapel hosted by the Oliver family. A family violin was played during the service and it was led by Matty Mozzor. A reception followed at the Popham Library.

Two weddings occurred last summer. There is now a wedding scheduled for June 7th 2025 and this coordinator recently met with a couple who want May 3, 2025.

Throughout the year, we juggled Pot Luck dinners with PBIA and Circle events to accommodate everyone. It worked well to funnel through one voice. I will continue to reply to inquiries from our website going into 2025.

Respectfully submitted,
Terry Whetstone, Wedding and Events Coordinator

Popham Circle Report:

It has been a busy year for the women of the Popham Circle in spite of many challenges, health and other, that have befallen on our members in 2024. While our human resources have diminished, our spirits are still strong. We still manage to undertake all of our regular fundraisers and even added an event in the early spring.

In May, we joined forces with the Phippsburg quilting group, "The Piecemakers", to put on an exceptional two-day community quilt show. Displays of over 100 new and vintage quilts, including local family heirlooms and pieces from the historical society collection, and a wide variety of other quilted items, filled the Chapel, the Chapel House and the library. Attendance was strong and enthusiastic both days, resulting in generous donations from visitors and brisk raffle sales. A beautiful handmade "Texas Star Quilt" created by Kathy Perkins and refreshed by her friends in the Piecemakers, was donated as a raffle prize and raised substantial funds for Circle benevolences.

Our annual craft and bake sale held in early July, which featured many familiar as well as some exciting new creations from our talented artisan members, also was a financial success. Once again, we took part in PBIA's George Popham Day festivities in August by operating the Circle Flare Night Café. More funds were raised providing good food and drink to the crowds coming to watch the parade, enjoy the bonfire on the beach and view Maine's First Ship, "Virginia" and her sister tender "Jane Stevens" cruise past Fort Popham. We wrapped up the summer season with a Lasagna Dinner in late September, held in honor of our longtime Italian Night chef, Jean Scott.

Support from our wonderful community helped us match record level public dinner sales set in prior years under Jean's formidable leadership.

As always, our year will end with our "Come to the Stable" free event held the first weekend in December. All are welcome to Popham to get into the real spirit of Christmas viewing our extensive display of traditional, unusual and unique nativity scenes in the decorated historic Chapel. Visitors are invited for complimentary light refreshments in the Chapel House where we now also offer homemade holiday foods suitable for gifts or personal pleasure for purchase. This year's sale will be augmented with a small selection of Christmas crafts for purchase and a raffle of a Christmas themed quilted lobster pillow and table runner set created by one of our master quilter members.

Proceeds from the holiday sale, like our other fundraiser income, help with the upkeep of Popham Chapel facilities, a founding purpose of our organization. Equally important are the annual donations we make at our December business meeting to: local charities that help Phippsburg residents with basic necessities; supplement resources for students and staff at the elementary school; scholarships for Phippsburg high school graduates; and depending on availability of funds, to other community charities and service organizations such as the town historical society.

Each November, Circle funds also are used for one of our favorite activities, providing Thanksgiving baskets for Phippsburg residents in need of some extra help during the holidays. This year eight families identified by staff at the elementary school, twice as many as in recent years, will receive holiday baskets filled with all the fixings for a traditional Thanksgiving dinner and many other nonperishable food items to stock a pantry that are purchased by the Circle as well as donated by members.

Respectfully submitted,
Jill Jensen, Popham Circle President

Upcoming Events Calendar – Save the Date!

Special Events

Popham Circle's "Come to the Stable" event will be held this year on Saturday, December 7th and Sunday, December 8th from 10:00-3:00. Please come to enjoy the lovely nativity displays in the Chapel and stay to share some light refreshments in the Chapel House. The Circle ladies will be offering an assortment of homemade holiday foods and a small collection of Christmas crafts suitable for hostess gifts or Christmas presents. Raffle tickets are available for purchase to win a Christmas themed lobster pillow and table runner, (\$1 Each or 6 for \$5) FMI call Jill @ 860-301-3690.

2024 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service – Tuesday, December 24 at 5:00 at Popham Chapel. Lead by Rev. Canon Michael Ambler. Music by Kat Logan and guests Castlebay. Refreshments following worship in the Chapel House. A special evening at a special place.

2025 Easter Sunday Service – April 20 at 10:00. Lead by Rev. Robert Dorr. Music by Kat Logan.

Ongoing Events

2025 Sunday Worship Services:

Non-denominational, every Sunday starting May 25th – September 29th, 10:00am at Popham Chapel. Coffee Hour following worship at the Chapel House.

PBIA Potluck Dinner the 2nd Saturday of each month (January and February excluded) 6:00pm

Kripalu Yoga – Gentle, all levels – Wednesday at 9:00 at the Chapel House. Call Susan 443-7481 for information.

Popham Beach Library – Open the last week of May to the end of September. **June hours** – Tuesday and Thursday 11-1, Saturday 10-1. **July and August** - Monday-Friday 10-2, Saturday 10-1. **September** - Tuesday and Thursday 11-1, Saturday 10-1.

Popham Game Night – Wednesday nights year-round 6:30 to 8:30. For more information call Connie Shiebler (389-2416)

Listing of Popham Chapel Board of Trustees, Officers, Pastor and Musical Director :

- Jean Wyman – Chairwoman and Secretary
- Fred Beaman – Trustee, Facilities and Maintenance Committee
- Sue Beaman – Trustee, Grounds Committee
- Rob Chapdelaine – Trustee, Communications Committee
- Debbie Coates – Trustee, Pastoral Representative
- Jane Morse – Trustee
- Matty Mozzor – Trustee
- Terry Whetstone – Trustee, Weddings and Events, Circle Representative
- Ken Wright – Trustee
- Pastor - will be visiting Pastors for the summer of 2025
- Kat Logan – Musical Director

