

POPHAM CHAPEL TIDINGS

Fall 2023



Popham Chapel – 969 Popham Road, Phippsburg, Me 04562

Dear Associates and Friends,

After a summer blessed with family, friends, community and many wonderful events, we now find ourselves savoring a moment of peace before the bustle of Christmas. Although it's hard to see the summer end, a lull in the activity is welcomed by those who keep the summer months full of worship, music, arts, crafts, parades and good food for the village. Popham is gifted with many giving people. The members of Popham Chapel, the Circle, PBIA, artists and the people of the village and Phippsburg all work together to make some incredible things happen for everyone to enjoy. The support by attendees for all events has been overwhelming and we thank you.

Our Sunday worship continues to offer spiritual nourishment with words of positivity, hope and beautiful music in a lovely setting. We were blessed to have Pastor Ed McCarten and our Musical Director, Kat Logan, on our team this past summer. It was also a joy to meet visiting pastors who brought their insights to us on alternating weeks.

After 9 years of faithfully serving Popham Chapel, Rev. Ed McCarten has decided to step into retirement. We want to congratulate Ed on his incredible spiritual journey. He has blessed us with his vision, kindness and humor. He will be deeply missed and we wish him all the best.

Our Tuesday Concert Series was hugely successful this summer. With its weekly variation of genres, we drew people in from many surrounding areas. It was great to have new people come through our doors.

There has been increased interest in our Sunday Worship and all of our other events. The new faces and new energy are certainly welcome with open arms. Our goal is to create more opportunities for people to join in and get to know one another. Some ideas are Spring Cleanup Day, Painting Day and Pancake Breakfasts. We'd like everyone to feel a part of this church community.

I am pleased to report that we have a new generator that now serves both buildings, thanks to a very generous benefactor. If there is an extended power outage, we can help to keep locals safe and warm in both buildings. As a plus, the generator that served the Chapel House has been donated to the Albert F. Totman Public Library in Phippsburg, which is open year round.

Our buildings have served this community well in many ways, for many years. They provide a place for Sunday Worship, weddings, baptisms, Celebrations of Life and events, as well as providing emergency shelter when needed. They are crucial for our people and we need your help keeping them in good repair. 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,

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

Pastor's Message

I hope everyone is enjoying this wonderful late fall weather. It's my favorite time of year. I would like to thank, again, those of our congregation who made my final service at our chapel so memorable. That time was reflective of the warmth and kindness I have been shown in my years as your pastor. Enjoy your lives. You are very special as God's beloved family. Ed

Worship Committee, Popham Chapel

With warmth and humor, Pastor Ed McCarten lead our Sunday morning services for two weeks of each month with visiting pastors serving the alternate two weeks. This afforded Ed some well deserved time off this summer and provided the congregation with different insights. Kat Logan continues bless us with her music. The concert series this summer provided Kat with a Music Fund which allowed her invite guest musicians to accompany her. Our attendance was up this season. We are pleased to welcome new friends to Popham Chapel. Our Coffee Hour continues to offer fellowship and wonderful food provided by volunteers.

Our dear Pastor Ed has decided it was the right time for him to retire. He has faithfully served the Popham Chapel congregation for 9 years. We had a special celebration for him during and following his last service. He will be missed. May his retirement bring him the rest and relaxation he deserves. We wish Ed all the best.

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

Respectfully submitted by Jean Wyman

Pastoral Support Representative

A warm and festive gathering of parishioners in the Chapel House offered gratitude and well-wishes to Rev. Ed McCarten on his retirement after nine years of loyal service to the Popham Chapel community. We all send our warmest thanks and appreciation to Ed.

The summer of 2023, offered new opportunities. Rev. Ed McCarten and five visiting pastors spoke to our Sunday parishioners. Two baptismal ceremonies and the children's sermons highlighted many worship days. With Ed's retirement this past September, the planning for Chapel services in 2024, began at the final Board meeting. Members agreed that visiting pastors for the nineteen-week summer season would be selected and approved by the Board.

All five of the visiting pastors from this past season readily agreed to return to offer worship services to our congregation. The remaining dates will be offered to pastors from summer supply lists from

churches in our neighboring area and by recommendations from Board members. Interviews and guidelines established this year will again be utilized.

Monthly lists of the upcoming pastors and short biographical information again will be shared on the Popham Chapel website. Exit thoughts from the visiting pastors from last summer all commented on the warm welcome they felt from our parishioners, the supportive musical selections, the fellowship of the coffee hour, and the presence of the Chapel's strong history. Come and worship with us in our community chapel.

With gratitude,
Debbie Coates



Musical Director

It was a very Music filled year for us at Popham Chapel! I enjoyed working with Pastor Ed and the other guest ministers to find music to compliment the wonderful messages from the pulpit. We had some guest musicians as well, including Native American flute music, Singer Songwriters and a variety of others.

We also started a concert series and a Facebook page (Music at the Popham Chapel) to support it and had a summer full of performances with part of the proceeds supporting our Music Fund to invite more musicians to our services. I will be returning to play for our Christmas Eve Service and look forward to another year of music at Popham Chapel in 2024!

Happy Holiday!!
Kat Logan



Facilities and Maintenance Committee

A major project took place during 2023 in that the electrical service into the Chapel House was upgraded from 100amp to 200amp. The circuit board was replaced with a more moisture resistant unit due to the excessive water in the basement. This upgrade allowed the electric going to the Chapel to be directed through the Chapel House with only one meter.

Our 8KW generator was upgraded to a 26KW unit which will allow emergency service to both facilities.

When the old linoleum was replaced on the Chapel entrance floor, it was discovered the threshold was rotten along with a portion of the sub flooring. All have been replaced and a new flooring installed. At this point we are not certain we have conquered the problem of the driving NE rain from making its way inside. Our storm door is now in place and hopefully help with this problem.

A new handrail was installed on the ramp walkway going into the Chapel House.

A new combination screen/storm door was installed going into the Chapel House from the Chapel.

A corner post on the handrail leading up the steps to the Chapel was rotten and posed a danger to those relying on it. It has been replaced.

We did have some shingles torn off the roof on both the Chapel House and an area on the steeple. The CH was repaired immediately over concern of water intrusion. The steeple will require a lift in order to replace those. It was determined to wait until spring for that repair.

Future maintenance needed involves a fair amount of exterior painting which we hope to accomplish with volunteer help.

Considering the age of our facilities, we believe our buildings are in good condition.

Respectfully submitted by Scott Whetstone and Fred Beaman

Treasurer's Report

Our Fiscal Year runs from June 1, 2022 to May 31, 2023 and this finds our finances in decent shape. With the beginning of the fiscal year in June, the Board of Trustees (BOT) successfully negotiated a reduced Insurance Premium with State Farm and a monthly payment plan was set up to offset a lump sum payment. This saved approximately \$3000. The BOT also negotiated a fuel oil price beneficial to the Chapel, and again a payment plan was set up to keep cash flow on an even keel during the winter months. We have encountered some unexpected expenses with the replacement of the flooring in the Chapel entrance and the installation of a new sill plate for the front door. Thanks to a donation, a new generator capable of powering both the Chapel House and the Chapel was installed. This will reduce the electrical consumption and only one bill form CMP for both facilities.

In order to increase our funding, we are reaching out to all of our subscribers with an appeal of **TIME, TALENT & TREASURES**. Below are the ways community can help us maintain the **"Little Church on the Bay"**.

TIME

We can use volunteers to assist in the maintenance of the Chapel and Chapel House. Areas needing assistance are spring cleanup of the grounds, mulching and planting. We plan on having two Pancake Breakfasts, one in July and another in August held on Saturday mornings. We will need help to set up, cooking, serving, selling tickets and cleanup.

TALENT

We can use almost any skill and it does not require the individual to be here in the Popham Community. If an individual has experience in writing grants or researching for grants, they would be a extremely valuable resource. We could use talent in the area of applying for a Historical Society recognition. This could lead to funding for maintaining our structures. We could also use the assistance of anyone with fundraising experience who could assist in finding methods to increase our coffers.

TREASURE

In addition to the donations we receive, there are methods where funds could 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 © organization and all donations are tax deductible. Your financial consultant or tax preparer can provide you with advice on how to best accomplish this. If you can contribute in this manner, please contact us and we will arrange with Bath Trust on how to transfer the proceeds.

Anyone interested in TIME, TALENT & TREASURE please contact Rich Fay as follows:

EMAIL: fayrj@aol.com

PHONE: 817-201-3002

Snail Mail: 10101 Sandhurst Drive, Denton, TX 76207

Respectfully submitted by Rich Fay, Treasurer of Popham Chapel

Communications Committee

The Communications Committee was active in the past year. We use a free e-mail system called Mail Chimp to maintain and automate our e-mail communications. The e-mails focus on outreach to the members, Trustees, Associates and the community at large. We currently have approximately 450 subscribers in the system. In the past year we have sent approximately 20 e-mails to the subscribers Which inform our community regarding church services and community events 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 added credit card processing on our website to make donations more user friendly.

We are now addressing our PophamChapel.org website to modernize the tools we use to edit the site so that we can improve the user experience and keep the information current. This is our most important initiative for 2024 and we need improved tools (\$) and capable volunteers who can keep the website updated and interesting on a timely basis.

Sincerely, Rob Chapdelaine, Communications Committee

Weddings and Events

The summer of 2023 brought to the Chapel, four weddings. July 15th, July 22, August 12th and September 16th. Four perfectly beautiful days in Atkins Bay. Our calendar in 2024 reflects bookings on August 10th and August 24th. It is my privilege to serve the Popham Chapel.

Sincerely, Terry Whetstone, Wedding and Events Coordinator

Popham Circle News

It's been another year of transitions for the Popham Circle as we slowly return to more normal post-pandemic times. During 2023 we've gotten back to regular weekly meetings at the Chapel House, sponsored our full array of annual fundraisers and helped with several memorial receptions for beloved members of the Popham community. A very musically talented Circle member (thank you Jane Morse) started a new group for ukulele players and many of us also spent the year renovating a vintage dollhouse donated by The Phippsburg Historical Society for a fundraising raffle.

Once again, we participated in the George Popham Day Parade and this year our float carried the Circle Ukulele Ladies performing a medley of crowd pleasing tunes (until the monsoon Flare Night rainstorm drowned us out). In the fall we took our first group field trip since COVID to Pineland Farms in New Gloucester. After a lovely lunch at the farm market, we paid a our respects at the nearby Malaga Island Memorial, which is dedicated to the residents of that community and their descendants.

Each November we undertake one of our favorite and most satisfying activities, filling baskets with all the necessities for a Thanksgiving feast and many other non perishable food items for Phippsburg families in need of a little extra help during the holidays. This year four overflowing Thanksgiving Baskets were prepared by Circle members and delivered to the elementary school for distribution by their staff. The Circle's annual Christmas gift to the community, is our "Come to the Stable" display of vintage, contemporary, traditional and handcrafted nativity scenes. This will be held in the festively decorated Popham Chapel on the first Saturday and Sunday of December. Complimentary light refreshments are served to visitors in the Chapel House both days and we're told everyone leaves filled with the true spirit of Christmas.

Thanks to the strong support of Chapel membership, the broader Popham community and many generous residents of Phippsburg, each of our 2023 regular fundraisers was a financial success, from the annual summer Craft and Bake Sale, to the Circle Café at Flare Night and in place of Italian Night this year, a Mexican Fiesta Dinner was held in Early October. The Circle's dollhouse raffle on Labor Day provided another income boost and additional revenue is expected from our third annual Holiday Foods Sale, which is scheduled to coincide with our "Come to the Stable" event in December.

Proceeds from the Circle fundraisers help with the costs of maintaining the historic Popham Chapel Facilities and also are donated to local programs that assist members of our community in need. Distributions for 2023 will be decided at the Circle's December business meeting; in addition to the Chapel allocation they are expected to include: the Town Good Will Account (short term financial assistance for basic needs like fuel and food); the school Backpack Program (weekend food for kids); the Grandmother's Fund (help with young children's school activities fees, educational supplies, winter clothes, and other necessities); teacher supplies/resources at the elementary school, and Scholarship Funds for Phippsburg high school graduates. Based on the availability of funds, other community charities also may receive financial support from the Circle.

Respectfully submitted by 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 2nd and Sunday, December 3rd 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 suitable for hostess gifts or Christmas presents for sale on Saturday (Dec. 2) to raise funds for our community service projects. Hope to see you there!

2023 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service – December 24th 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

2024 Easter Sunday Service

Easter Sunday March 31, 2024, 10:00 at Popham Chapel

Ongoing Events

2024 Sunday Worship Services:

Non-denominational, every Sunday starting May 26th – September 29th 2024, 10:00am at Popham Chapel. Coffee Hour following the service at the Chapel House.

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

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

Popham Beach Library – Open the last week of May to the last week in September, 10:00am to 1:00pm Saturday, 10:00am- 1:00pm – PLUS Tuesday, Thursday in June and September: 11:00-1:00. Also, Monday-Friday in July and August, 10:00-2:00.

Popham Game Nights – Wednesday nights year round 6:30-8:30. 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 Support Representative

Jane Morse – Trustee

Connie Shiebler – Trustee, Circle Representative

Scott Whetstone – Trustee, Facilities and Maintenance Committee

Ken Wright – Trustee

Pastor will be Visiting Pastors for the summer of 2024

Kat Logan – Musical Director