

The Elizabethan



The Newsletter of St. Elizabeth Episcopal Church Burien, Washington

November 2014

Issue 2014-11

By Fr. John Forman

Roots and rhythms

Monastic sensibilities have influenced the Anglican way of being Christian since the late 2nd century C.E. Celtic and Benedictine practices continue to shape our worship and spirituality, but they have become so deeply embedded that we often don't remember that they are there. As we approach the end of the church year on the feast of Christ the King and begin a new year in Advent at the end of November, bringing these monastic influences forward may provide some fruitful context.

Benedictine monks and oblates live by three elements—spiritual practices made into promises—that undergird Anglican spirituality: obedience, stability and *conversatio morum*. All three are interconnected in relationship, not unlike the One Undivided Trinity, each influencing the others and influenced by the others. The result is a self-correcting framework for our efforts to seek balance and rhythm for our individual and collective lives.

Obedience: The word comes from the Latin *ob audire*, meaning “to listen.” For individuals, this entails the practice of listening attentively to the mystery of God. We listen deeply not to our own inner dialogue, but to God, whose first language is silence. In a congregational setting, it includes entering the silence of God to not just hear the Word in Scripture, but to absorb it—to take it deeply in with an openness to being spurred into action. It also includes actively listening to each other, practices like our Saturday Centering Prayer or other forms of contemplative practices.

Stability: Life in community requires a good deal of patience. We often come to church unconsciously expecting a conflict-free, stress-free, fully positive environment. What shows up over time is the abundance of weaknesses found in every human community. Ironically, these are the very glue that binds us into one body! To practice stability is to deal with, not run from, ourselves, our issues and our relationships because our individual lives in Christ are a community matter. God is here with us, with *these* people, in *this* place. To practice stability is to follow God's love for us by willingly bearing each other's burdens with forgiveness and patience in the moment, rather than imagining that a greater sense of God's presence will be found in some different mix of people, different size of community or different leadership. It is the dynamic stability of surfing, not the static stability of a brick!

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Conversatio morum: The phrase is best translated as “conversion of life.” In short, it is an openness and a responsive move toward new things from God. It is the practice, in each and every moment, of turning Christward. This commitment to total inner transformation requires us to turn our eyes and ears (obedience) to Christ in search of patience, forgiveness and strength (stability) as often as we can remember to do so, and always in moments of conflict, doubt or stress. *Conversatio* is not a one-time conversion experience, but an on-going, dynamic stance of radical openness that seeks God’s will in all things and under all circumstances, old and new. It is an expectation that God’s new horizon bringing about the kingdom of heaven will transcend and include where and who we are right here, right now.

Blessings to you all in Christ Jesus,

Fr. John

KIDZ KORNER

November 2014

The Boo of Burién inspired Barbara Treen, Julie Dosono, Kathy Hollo, and Gwynne Taylor (representing the Sunday school), to take part in the yearly Halloween candy give-away. A much needed tent was purchased and donated to the church by Barbara. After setting the tent up at the entrance to St. Elizabeth, (with the assistance of Leonard), several hundred ghosts, goblins, Sponge Bobs’, Spider Men, and various other characters visited us. Our own Abur, arrived in a wonderful bumble bee costume and as one would expect, her sister Amiir, arrived as a princess. Not be out done, little brother Yel, was dressed as Superman. Joining us for this grand parade of costumed children was Evelyn Roehl, one of the newer members of St. Elizabeth. She enjoyed the entertainment and her presence added much to this fun afternoon. In addition to candy, we passed out about 150 flyers with information about our Sunday school. The day was a howling success in spite of the howling rain; which was noticed only by the parents.

Throughout the month of November, the class will continue our study of the parables. So far, we have learned about the Good Samaritan, The Lost Sheep, The Sower of Seeds, and the Wise and Foolish Builders.

As we look forward to Thanksgiving, we will be focusing on all the things for which we are thankful.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS...

You Are Invited

Sunday, November 23rd, 2014, the children of St. Elizabeth Sunday school will be hosting coffee hour for the parish. Coffee hour will be held downstairs in the Sunday school room. We look forward to having you visit our little world

Gwynne Taylor, Children’s Ministries

MEMORIAL CELEBRATION OF HOWARD MILLER'S LIFE

Will be January 17, 2015 at 11am at St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church in Shoreline.

As you know, Howard died at 100 years of age on October 7th. When we called long-time parishioners who had known him they all said what a gentle, kind, loving man he was, and we know that heaven is richer with his presence.

Howard was a dear part of our parish for many years—and his wife Patty, too, until her death in 1982. Howard moved to a retirement home in the north end some years ago and then to his son John's home. His 100th birthday was last January.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to his son John, his daughter Janet and their families during this time of mourning.

If anyone needs help in going to honor dear Howard in January, please let us know.

Submitted by Pat Lofstedt

Save the Date!

Safeguarding God's Children class will be at St. Elizabeth on Nov. 29th from 10am to 1pm.

The Elizabethan

The Elizabethan is published monthly by St. Elizabeth Episcopal Church. The deadline for articles is the fourth Friday of each month.

Articles, calendar items and ideas may be mailed or emailed to the addresses below or left in *The Elizabethan* box in the Parish Office.

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Questions during this time of transition for our church?

Priest in Charge: Father John Forman

Sr. Warden: Tony Hettler

Jr. Warden: Barbara Treen

Treasurer: Linda Knutson

Office Administrator: Christine Ramirez



The Annual Bazaar will be, Saturday, December 6th from 9 am to 3 pm. The entire event will be held upstairs on the main floor with the “Attic”, Crafts, Collectables, Crafts, Book sale, Bake sale, Christmas décor & a coffee bar. We still need contributions for all of the above and thank those that have already brought things in. If you have any questions, please call Mary Katherine @206-915-7971

FROM THE JR. WARDEN

At the last Vestry Meeting, we discussed some needed projects and repairs:

--Landscaping: 1) Most of us are finding it difficult to do the bending, kneeling, and lifting that is necessary to keeping the grounds looking tidy. At the last vestry meeting, we discussed the possibility of hiring a landscape/weeding company full time. I think this will be necessary, as a once or twice a year grounds cleanup will not be enough. 2) Fall and winter are the two seasons in which landscaping can be planned, since the weather is too awful to actually be out there weeding and digging holes. We had an excellent plan for the front of the church (on 152nd), but I have not seen it on the bulletin board for a while. Was it put away somewhere? Does anyone have a copy of it? Now that we have an irrigation system in front, I think the new plants may survive. 3) For the east side of the church (on 10th Ave), I think we have several options. There is no irrigation system currently in place there. One possibility is going with all Pacific Northwest native plants, which are adapted to the wet winters and dry summers. Another possibility is “xeriscaping”, planting in drought tolerant plants (Ceanothus, Lavender, other herbs, sedums, grasses, etc.). A third possibility is paying to have an irrigation system put in, as was done in front. In that case, we could plant just about anything that will survive in our climate zone. We would like ideas and suggestions from the congregation on the landscaping; please contact Barb Treen.

--Needed repairs to the church were identified by the JJJ’s and priorities assigned. 6 projects have been rated as high priority: 1) scrape, prime and finish coat of red paint to south façade of parish hall. To be started in summer of 2015. 2) Complete dry rot and window jams/sill repair to west wall of parish hall. Needs protective finish coat of paint. No start date set. 3) Woodpecker damage at parish hall and St. John room; need to be filled, primed and painted. No start date set. 4) The clerestory plastic reight over the Altar is missing screws. The bottom seal needs to be resealed to keep rain out. No start date set. 5) Parish hall doors need exterior weather stripping. This is for both security and economic reasons. We need additional bids (current bids \$12.4K and \$7.8K) before this can be done. Another needed repair (though lower priority) is to put a coat of litimus over the roof of the parish hall, St. John room library, ladies room, and kitchen; to be started in summer/fall of 2015.

Stewardship

This has been a year of challenges, changes and exciting new opportunities for St. Elizabeth. For me personally, I have had the pleasure of making new friends, experienced the spiritual gifts of centering prayer, learned more about St. Elizabeth and my Episcopal heritage and witnessed many acts of kindness and compassion by the St. Elizabeth congregation. I know that I have been given a blessed gift to be a member of this amazing church filled with wonderful Christians!

Everything we have is given to us by God.....time, talent, health, relationships, the Gospel, friends and family, property and the beautiful Earth/environment where we dwell. We truly have been given an **abundance of life** to celebrate!!

Our stewardship and our lives are a reflection of how we serve God and our community. A Christian steward serves God out of love and gratitude for the gifts of life, knowing that it is not how much we have, but it's **what we do with what we have** that is important.

In this season of stewardship and the planning for the future of St. Elizabeth's, I ask that you prayerfully reflect on God's gifts and consider how you will participate in our ministries for the coming year.

Blessings,

Linda Knutson



Learn politeness from the
impolite
North African Proverb

Joy is one of the few things
that is multiplied when
divided

Is prayer your steering wheel or
your spare tire?

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St. Elizabeth Episcopal Church

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Questions Kids Ask About God

Q: What if kids are mean to us and it's hard for us to pray for them?

A: It is not always easy to pray. But praying for kids who are mean to us, is one of the best things we can do to help them. We can pray that God will help those who are mean to stop being mean. We can also pray that God will help us to be kind and loving to them so they will learn about God's love through our example. Maybe if they see God's love in us, they will come to know Jesus.

We should let God judge others. In other words, we should not pray for God to punish someone, even our enemies. Instead, we should pray that people will trust in Jesus and that they will develop a love for God. If they love God, they will stop being mean.

KEY VERSE: [Jesus said,] "I say, love your enemies. Do good to those who hate you. Pray for the happiness of those who curse you. Pray for those who hurt you." (Luke 6: 27-28)