

The Elizabethan



The Newsletter of St. Elizabeth Episcopal Church Burien, Washington

May 2016

From Fr. John:

Why we do what we do: Sacraments and Word. These are the two intertwining movements of the Holy Eucharist, the center of our worship, as well as our sacramental rites. Scripture is central to the daily offices of morning, noon and evening prayer in the Book of Common Prayer. On the spectrum of Episcopalian expressions, one extreme runs the risk of over-privileging the Sacraments and the other extreme runs the risk of over-privileging the Word, in the form of scripture. But both Word and Sacraments are essential to the Episcopal ways of being Christian in the world. One informs and enhances the other, and each parish is well-served to find the balance that nourishes them so that they go out into the world equipped and reinvigorated. Scripture in worship: Bible reflection: Any Christian or group of Christians can benefit from reading Holy Scripture and talking about it together. Every individual has a valid interpretative experience of scripture, because it is their own, but not every interpretation is equally viable. Bible study: A seminary-educated person can provide rigorous guidance for an individual or group interaction with Holy Scripture, whether that is offered from the pulpit by a preacher or in another setting by a teacher. Scripture in the BCP: We take the Bible seriously, not literally. Some Episcopalians like to joke that the Bible has cribbed a lot from the Book of Common Prayer. Approximately 70% of the Book of Common Prayer comes directly from the Bible, and most Episcopalians are surprised to learn that they read and hear more Holy Scripture in Sunday worship than almost any other denomination in Christianity. Informed interpretation: Some Christians insist on the literal truth of Holy Scripture, and they often mean the King James version of the Bible translated in the 17th c. C.E. Others make the mistake of reading 21st c. post-modern notions backwards into 1st c. documents, or contort scriptural references to make them support or refute topics or ideas that they really do not actually address. There is no “original” manuscript of the entire Bible as we know it, but rather sets of books arranged in different ways by different communities at different points in history. The earliest written manuscripts are in Hebrew, Aramaic or Greek, all languages that use beautifully poetic phrases and words carrying multiple meanings, which makes a phrase like “The Bible says...” among the weakest starting positions. Technically, of course, our Scripture does not say anything, but instead waits to be read and heard. Every reading or proclamation is interpreted, intentionally or not, by the reader, by the version of scripture being read and by the culture of the listening congregation.

(continued on page two)

(continued from page one)

What follows are a few points to show why some informed guidance can be useful:

- The Bible was never meant to be read from the beginning of Genesis to the end of Revelation.
- The Bible never contradicts evolution. The book offers two creation stories with very different details, some of which contradict. Both are intended not as natural history but as two versions of a spiritual history.
- “The Jews” did not kill Jesus. A specific, elite group of Jews who worked for the Romans shared responsibility with the Empire for killing Jesus.
- There are not Ten Commandments in Hebrew Scripture. There is an important collection of ten “things” or ten “words,” (in Hebrew, *davar* = things or words), some of which are commandments and some are not.
- The Book of Isaiah (which has at least three, perhaps even three sets, of authors!) does not say that nation should never take up sword against nation. The context for this ideal is that this become the norm only after God rules all kingdoms and decides all disputes between nations.
- The New Testament does not claim to “fulfill” the prophecies of the Old Testament. The Greek word *pliroo* was mistranslated in the KJV as “fulfills.” The word actually implies something more like “matches” or “is like” as in John 19:24’s “...this was to match what the scripture said...” just before quoting Psalm 22.
- There is no “rapture” in the Bible. There is a great deal of speculation about the end of days, but “the rapture” is a 19th c. invention.
- Scripture does not advocate a “one-woman, one-man” model of marriage. Many “biblical” marriages were polygamous.
- Scripture never refers to homosexuality as a sin. Leviticus frowns upon it with exactly same intensity as it frowns on wearing wool/linen mixtures, and the New Testament is far more open to interpretation than some suppose.



St. Elizabeth

Fund Raising - Where Shopping & Giving Unite!!

We now have some additional options for donating to St. Elizabeth while shopping!!

You are now able to link your rewards card/number to St. Elizabeth! Whenever you use your rewards card/number when shopping, you will be helping St. Elizabeth earn a donation. Every little bit helps!!

If you have a rewards card/number, you can sign up on-line with the following organizations through the following links:

Bartells – www.escrip.com/merchants/identity/bcaringcard

Amazon Smiles - smile.amazon.com

Fred Meyers - <https://www.fredmeyer.com/communityrewards>

Boeing Employee Individual Giving Program – contact your HR or Boeing Total Access

If you need help accessing/signing up on the retail websites, feel free to contact Christine Ramirez or Linda Knutson.

I can see clearly now....

Last month four Sunday School classroom windows and two of the main entrance damaged windows were replaced. Thanks to Christine R., Linda K. and White Center Glass for getting this job accomplished!!



*“Let no one ever come to you
without leaving better & happier.
Be the living expression of God’s
kindness:*

Kindness in your face.

Kindness in your eyes.

Kindness in your smile.”

Mother Teresa

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.

St. Elizabeth Episcopal Church

Street 1005 SW 152nd Street

Address: Burien, WA 98166

Mailing PO Box 66579

Address: Burien, WA 98166

Phone: (206) 243-6844

Email: info@stelizburien.comcastbiz.net

Website: www.stelizabethburien.org



Burien City News

Did you know that Burien now has an off-leash dog park? It is located at Lakeview Park (15810 6th Ave SW)

The Farmer’s Market will open again on Thursdays starting May 5th through October. Fresh produce, beautiful flowers, clever crafts and good food.

The Women of St. E will be having a sack lunch meeting on May 25th at 11:30 here at church in the St. John room. Please plan on joining in on the decision making of where the groups focus will go.

Rector: Father John Forman

Sr. Warden: Sue Tierney

Jr. Warden: Gwynne Taylor

Treasurer: Linda Knutson

Office Administrator: Christine Ramirez

Elizabethan Editor: Christine Ramirez

2016 Calendar for Hospitality House

June 7-12 – St. Elizabeth's week for preparing meals for the women.

September 10 – **Walk** for the Women Fundraiser, Burien Town Square

October 11-16 - St. Elizabeth's week for preparing meals for the women.

May 3, 2016 will be a one-day, online charitable giving event, GiveBig, which is designed to raise money for the nonprofit of your choice. Consider making a donation to Hospitality House by going to <http://givebig.seattlefoundation.org> and type in 'Hospitality House' in the 'find an organization' block at the upper right and make your donation that day. Seattle Foundation will add \$ to the donation you made!!

The Spring Fling was a great event and also a successful fund raiser for the mission of Hospitality House. The total earned was \$30,000. This was \$5,000 more than budgeted so a big thank you once again to all who helped reach this goal.

Anyone who might be interested in serving on the board of Hospitality House should give Danielle Butz a call at 206-243-3502 for details of what is involved. It is a rewarding way to make a difference in the lives of women and to help solve the big problem of homelessness on a local level.

St. Elizabeth's Community Garden

Community gardens are plots of land cared for by groups of people who agree to share the cost and effort of the garden. This can be a space where parishioners, friends, neighbors, or even strangers come together to grow food, flowers and community.

It would be great to see Northeast side of the church converted into a community garden. The ground would be divided into separate plots. The plots would be offered to the congregation first, and then I am hopeful to extend the invitation out to the community of Burien. We can expand the community garden into different areas around the church. Let me know if you are interested, or if you know anybody who may be interested.

Thank you,

Shawn Utley, (206)246-4451

The Elizabethan

St. Elizabeth Episcopal Church

PO Box 66579

Burien, Washington 98166-0579



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

You are Invited to Join Us for -

Food & Fellowship

At Our

Parish Potluck Lunch

Sunday, May 22, 2016

11:30 AM

Sign up on the Bulletin Board to let us know you are coming or call the office.

Bring a favorite dish to share.

Beverages provided by the Vestry

Questions? Contact Sue Tierney sjktierney@gmail.com or 404.217.3773

