

The Elizabethan



The Newsletter of St. Elizabeth Episcopal Church Burien, Washington

July 2015

Issue 2015-7

From Fr. John: Why we do what we do—the Sign of the Cross:

Have you ever wondered why many Anglicans, Roman Catholics, Orthodox and even some Lutherans cross themselves? When people cross themselves, it is a form of prayer. When clergy make the sign of the cross over other people or objects, it is a form of blessing. The gesture goes back as early as the third century C.E., but was rejected by some parts of the Reformation church and does not show up in many Protestant churches.

In the Anglican Church, the sign reminds us that we have been baptized—marked as Christ's own forever—and so it can be used almost anytime, but most often in the context of prayer. In fact, there is a stoup (a small font) just to the left of the main doors into the nave at St. Elizabeth that holds holy water so that people may dip their fingers in the water when entering or leaving the sanctuary. People who use it cross themselves as a reminder of their baptism covenant and vocation.

But there are additional meanings associated with the sign of the cross in our liturgy.

At the beginning of the liturgy, the priest and many parishioners cross themselves at the opening acclamation as a way to enter into the mystery by which God reconstitutes the church as the Body of Christ. You will also see many people make the “small sign of the cross” just before the proclamation of the Gospel. As I am tracing three small crosses over the Gospel reading, many people will use their right thumb to trace three small crosses—one over the forehead, one over the lips and one over the heart. Some also whisper or pray silently the words, “May Christ's words be on my mind, on my lips, and in my heart.”

At the prayer of absolution after confession, or at the blessing at the end of the Mass, many Episcopalians cross themselves as a response to the priest's action of blessing almost as if tattooing on their bodies the blessing, forgiveness or restoration to baptismal unity that God is granting. Some also cross themselves at the end of the Nicene Creed or in the Prayers of the People when we pray for the dead, or when the bread and wine are elevated at the sound of the bell during the Eucharistic prayer.

In each version of the Great Thanksgiving, there is a prayer for the blessing of the bread and wine. Each Eucharistic Prayer also provides a petition for God to sanctify all those who will be receiving. This is an especially appropriate moment for making the sign of the cross because we offer our entire bodies, minds and souls—our very lives—along with the bread, wine and alms to make our offering literally “the gifts of the people.” Many Episcopalians also cross themselves at communion just before receiving the bread and taking the cup as an act of reverence for the Real Presence of Christ.

I invite you to consider these forms and moments of physical, silent prayer if you do not already use them. They are certainly not required, but many people find them to be enhancing. And as always, I am delighted to answer any questions you may have about this or any of our practices, or I will learn more with you if I don't have an answer!

7th Annual Highline Classic Burien Jazz Festival

I am excited to tell you that, if everything goes according to our early conversations, we will be hosting part of the 7th Annual Highline Classic Burien Jazz Festival on September 19th, 2015.

The event is a “jazz walk” hosted by several businesses along 152nd from 6th to 10th, ending at St Elizabeth, where there will be dance bands playing in the Parish Hall from about 4:00 in the afternoon to about 9:30 in the evening.

We are scheduled to be showcasing Casey McGill's High Five, a swing band; the Uptown Lowdown Jazz Band, a Dixieland band; the hot jazz group, Holotrband; and Zydeco Rex, for the swamp-and-gator crowd. There will be room for dancing too.

This will be excellent exposure for St. Elizabeth and allows us to be good neighbors and gracious hosts to the community. We may both see some new people in church because of this event!

Fr. John

Sunday School

From the Rector

Sunday School is out of session for the summer but we want to continue our growing ministry to children and outreach to families. Some of our children and potential newcomer families have already expressed their desire for some way to include and engage children in liturgy. By now, you may have noticed our initial, experimental response! For the benefit of families with small children who would like to attend our Sunday services, we have created a child-friendly area in the transept with the Marian shrine at the front of the nave. Children will be able to explore activities to keep their bodies busy while they enjoy Sunday services with us. Parents are invited to sit in the front pews near the children's area to help the children learn how to be reverent as well as joyful. I promise that they will make noise, but I invite the rest of the congregation to embrace that noise as joyful participation and expressions of God's love. We can also practice a little patience as we teach our little ones how to be aware of other people's preference for quieter worship. After all, if God's first language is silence, it is a language that we all need to learn! I am anticipating that the buzz and activity of little ones in our worship space will prove to be a life-affirming gift to the entire parish.

Creative giving for our Parish

Tony is a John L Scott real estate broker in Des Moines and a dedicated parishioner at St. Elizabeth. Tony recently donated a significant percentage of his commission for the sale of a home based on the lead given to him by St. Elizabeth parishioner Pat Lofstedt. This is just one of many creative ways that people have found to help the parish with our currently tight finances. Tony has generously offered to donate a part of any commission resulting from a lead brought to him by a St Elizabeth parishioner. He also happens to be quite good at his job, so everybody wins! You can pass leads or requests to Tony at (206) 650-6730. Let us know if you have a creative approach to building up our finances as we continue to grow and serve a larger community.

Fr. John

Burien 4th of July Parade

The 94th annual parade will have a new route this year.

This year the parade will start on SW 152nd Street and 8th Ave SW, then proceed first eastbound on SW 152nd Street, making a right south onto 2nd Ave SW where it will then move west on SW 153rd and finally finish at Ambaum and 153rd:

Interested in marching in the parade or becoming a generous sponsor or just want more information? Please visit the Discover Burien website for more information on how to get involved:

<http://www.discoverburien.org/events/event/independence-day-parade/> or call their office at (206) 433-2882.

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

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Jr. Warden: Gwynne Taylor

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Elizabethan Editor: Christine Ramirez

Changes Coming to *The Elizabethan*

You may have noticed changes in *The Elizabethan* over the past few years. You may even have noticed that it arrived with a first class stamp on it this month! Well, there is one more change coming to the newsletter. Beginning with July 2015, it will be available mostly online.

This change has come about for a number of reasons, including the fact that the number of subscribers does not justify purchasing a bulk mail permit from the Post Office. An online newsletter will also be more “green” and ecologically friendly, in keeping with our interest in ecological stewardship. Plus, there are new ways to keep in touch with events at St. Elizabeth, including Facebook and the web site.

The newsletter is already available on the St. Elizabeth web site and it will continue to be posted there. And in the future, just like it is now, a print copy of *The Elizabethan* can be picked up at the church itself.

Action Required

If you don't want to stop receiving a printed copy of *The Elizabethan* in the mail, you still can. To continue getting a mailed copy, you can call or email Christine Ramirez in the St. Elizabeth office to be put on a list of newsletter mail subscribers. Christine's email is Christine@stelizburien.comcastbiz.net; her phone number is: 206-243-6844.

Thank you for your patience with this transition.

Summary

- The Elizabethan is going online in July 2015: <http://stelizabethburien.org/newsletter/>
- Copies will be available for pickup at St. Elizabeth Episcopal Church, Burién
- Call or email the office before June 19 to continue getting a copy in the mail: 206-243-6844

Thanks to a parishioner's generosity and belief in communication in all forms, we will continue to mail the Elizabethan by first class stamp for the foreseeable future. As our parish continues to grow and transition, we encourage those who prefer to either pick up a printed copy in the narthex or to receive the newsletter by email to let us know so that we can accommodate you as we seek to be both good stewards and better communicators.

Did you know? Burien is busy!

Have you been curious about the construction activity across the street from Bartell Drug store in Burien Town Square? There are two developments going on at the same time. The area to the east is going to be a new Merrill Gardens with 126 independent living and memory care units and to the west will be apartment condominiums with 228 studio, one & two bedroom units. Both will have underground parking and limited first floor retail space.

I know, Burien currently has retail space that is not occupied, but your editor is hoping that the addition of these two developments will rectify that situation and new businesses will come to Burien.

We currently have four new restaurants that either have opened or will be opening soon. Frankie's Bistro has opened in the Key Bank building previously occupied by Lombardi's. Frankie's is also an Italian restaurant. The Kayak is occupying the space on 152nd that was CeCe's and advertise themselves as a family friendly restaurant. The space previously occupied by Mick Kelly's is being readied for a sports bar by the same owners of The Bridge in West Seattle and lastly Smartie Pants will be opening soon in the space behind Grand Central Bakery. The Smartie Pants owners also have a place in Georgetown that your editor has actually been a customer and they have wonderful pizza.

It is with great hope and joy, that as we watch Burien grow and transition so will we continue to do so at the wonderful parish of St. Elizabeth.

Hospitality House News

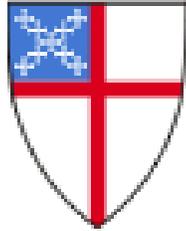
The month of July is St. Elizabeth's and St. Bernadette's month to collect items for the women at Hospitality House. There is a list of basic needs on the bulletin board by the drinking fountain and a basket in the office to drop off items.. You may also drop items directly to the shelter housed in Lake Burien Presbyterian Church at 1419 SW 150th right here in Burien. Any donations are tax deductible. Questions? Call Sheenah Randolph @ 206-242-1860. The women at the shelter are always very grateful for any assistance they receive.

The Elizabethan

St. Elizabeth Episcopal Church

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Save the Date:

St. Elizabeth is having another Town Hall meeting on

September 13th after the 10am service. This year we will combine it with our annual Parish picnic. Please come and join us for fun, food and fellowship!!

There will be a sign up sheet on the bulletin board when the event gets closer.

Please be advised:

The Burien Block Party is Saturday, July 18th and 152nd Street will be blocked off to traffic from Ambaum to 10th Avenue all day.