

The Elizabethan



The Newsletter of St. Elizabeth Episcopal Church Burien, Washington

August 2016

From Fr. John:

On angels (Part 3): The books of the Christian Bible make more than 300 references to the appearances of angels. These range from the messenger of YHWH in Exodus to the multiple angels that accompany various prophets in the Old Testament to the named angels of the Apocrypha: Raphael, Gabriel and Michael. Moses, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob all have angelic encounters in the Old Testament, but they appear in the New Testament as well.

In the very first story of Luke's Gospel, the angel Gabriel tells Zechariah that his wife, our own matron St. Elizabeth, will bear a son whom they are to call John. When Zechariah first sees Gabriel, "the angel of the Lord," he was terrified and fear overwhelmed him. But the angel says to him, as angels invariably must, "Do not be afraid." When Zechariah questions Gabriel, the angel replies "I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. But now, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time, you will become mute, unable to speak, until the day these things occur."

Clearly, God uses the angels for creative and sometimes fearsome purposes that occasionally take enigmatic turns. In the story immediately following, Gabriel then also goes to Elizabeth's kinswoman, Mary (not to Joseph). Gabriel greets Mary as "favored one" and tells the perplexed young Mary not to be afraid and that she has found favor with God. "You will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus." When Mary questions Gabriel, the angel answers her questions, waiting for her consent. When Mary agrees to "let it be with me according to your word," Gabriel departs.

There are multiple other stories of angels in the Gospels: the throng of heaven singing hymns of praise at the nativity in Luke, ministering to Jesus in the desert in Matthew and Mark, and as messengers present at the resurrection in Matthew, Luke and John. They appear elsewhere in John as messengers and in Luke as the "heavenly court." They are ministers of God's judgment in Matthew and are promised to come with the Son of Man at his coming again in glory in all three synoptics. Throughout the Gospels, the theology about angels does not differ markedly from the Old Testament depictions. They are still, first and foremost, messengers occasionally showing up as members of God's heavenly entourage. There is not often a distinction between the angel as a personal being and the personification of God's divine action.

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There are other references to angels in the letters of the Apostles, though with far less frequency. An unnamed angel springs Peter and John from prison in Acts and later releases Peter from another jail. One angel appears to Paul in a dream and another brings a fatal disease to Herod Agrippa. Other references talk about angels and not about specific appearances. They are said to witness the suffering of God's children and to be present in liturgy.

The Second letter to the Colossians, which Paul likely did not write, explains that, out of reverence for the angels, women must cover their heads because a woman's hair is her glory and head-coverings allow the glory of God to appear. The same letter claims that Satan also has angels and can disguise himself as an angel of light, although the notion of angels that have revolted and fallen appears only in the second letter of Peter. Malicious spirits mentioned elsewhere are not explained as angels. The experience of heavenly beings of one sort or another runs with a great deal of consistency throughout Scripture. Although their specific nature has not been entirely clarified, the assertion is that they are primarily spiritual and they are from time to time no more than an inscrutable, but personified Divine communication or operation.

The larger point is that our ancestors in the faith understood themselves and the church writ large to be in the midst of angels at all times. To be aware of and curious about that is to ponder, like Mary, what that means in our hearts. We may never understand it entirely, yet we already enjoy and are made whole by the "panis angelicus," the "bread of angels" at the Altar of Christ around which we join our voices in the Eucharist with angels and archangels, and the entire company of heaven, all the saints, known and unknown, and our Lady of All Angels, Mary, the queen of the heavens, who forever sing, "Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory!"

Exploring St. Elizabeth's ...

1955 March 19 - St. Elizabeth's Ground Breaking

December 18 - St. Elizabeth's Building Dedication

December 24 – First Service at St. Elizabeth's on Christmas Eve

1957 The Parish of St. Elizabeth received First Place Honor by the National Council of Church Architecture at their annual convention.

1959 A 12-foot high photograph of St. Elizabeth's sanctuary was one of 100 photographs displayed at the U.S. National Exposition in Moscow, Russia.

Architects Durham, Anderson and Freed of Seattle were known for their effective church designs. For St. Elizabeth's they chose a plan "free in its form, based on the use of simple parabolic laminated fir arches." According to *Forth* magazine, this design was a reflection of the community "populated by aircraft engineers and mechanics." This article describes the sanctuary as a "rhythm in wood" and calls out the "distinctive lighting where the parabolic arches are so arranged...to let a flood of light into the chancel area without the source being seen from the nave." They accomplished this with a budget of \$100,000.

Writing this article gave me a new and quite wonderful perspective on our Sanctuary, my hope is that it will do the same for you.

Sue Tierney, Senior Warden

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.

Fred Meyer has updated their Community Reward Computer/Software program.

Designations to St. Elizabeth must be updated in the new software by linking to www.fredmeyer.com/communityrewards. If you have a Fred Meyer rewards card and have not designated St. E's...Now would be a great time!!!

Christine Ramirez or Linda Knutson can assist you.

Our Food Cupboard is well loved and well used.

Some additional ideas for items are bags of rice or beans, canned soups, canned vegetables, canned fruits, peanut butter, toothpaste, toilet paper or paper towels, cereal, condiments, and of course the usual—any kind of canned meats, top ramen and mac-n-cheese. Sorry to say this, but the healthier foods are not taken very quickly. **A great big thank you to those that regularly contribute!!!!**

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



God Delights in His Children

He is the perfect parent... embracing us, supporting us as we learn to walk... encouraging us to grow... providing an example to follow, correcting us so we can mature. We are the apple of His eye, the treasure of His heart, the object of His love.

Stewardship is a reflection of the abundance and understanding that all we have are gifts from God. We can celebrate the summer season and God's gifts by continuing our monthly financial giving to St. Elizabeth.

Although we may take a summer holiday, the monthly expenses of maintaining our sanctuary at St. Elizabeth do not vary much throughout the year.

Thank you,
Linda Knutson
Treasurer

Rector: Father John Forman

Sr. Warden: Sue Tierney

Jr. Warden: Gwynne Taylor

Treasurer: Linda Knutson

Office Administrator: Christine Ramirez

Elizabethan Editor: Christine Ramirez

COFFEE HOSPITALITY

Each Sunday morning we celebrate our friendship and invite newcomers to get to know us.

Join in by providing treats, serving or cleaning up for our coffee service.

Sign up on the bulletin board or call Sandy Stonhouse at 206-858-6470.



Around Burien...

Summer is always a busy time and Burien has some activities you may be interested in.

Every Thursday until August 11th from 6:30 to 8pm there is ***Music in the Park*** at Lake Burien Park, SW 148th & 16th SW.

Kids Day is September 10th from 10am to 3pm at the new Burien Fire Station.

Arts-A-Glow Lantern Festival is September 10th from 5 to 10pm at Dottie Harper Park.

The ***Independence Day Parade*** was a big hit this year. For the first time the B-Town Blog videoed it live on Facebook. Your editor watched the parade from the comfort of her own home and got a kick out of watching all the kids chasing after candy. Thankfully, the B-Town Blog was videoing from the Town Square and I did not see the political shenanigans that took place over by Elmer's Pub that made the news.

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St. Elizabeth Episcopal Church

PO Box 66579

Burien, Washington 98166-0579



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Yard and Garage Sale

Don Purrington is having a garage sale in preparation for his move to Merrill Gardens in the fall. It will be Saturday, August 13th and Sunday, August 14th from 9am to 4pm. Please ask Don for the address.

