

The Elizabethan



The Newsletter of St. Elizabeth Episcopal Church Burien, Washington

January 2015

Issue 2015-1

Why we do what we do:

Episcopalians, like many other Christians, are now in the season of Christmas. These are the 12 days during which we celebrate the birth of God incarnate in our lives through the Holy Child of Bethlehem. We reflect our joy with the colors of white and gold, the use of incense during the liturgy and the return of the *Gloria in excelsis*. We also use Eucharistic Prayer B because of its greater emphasis on the incarnation.

The Christmas season ends on Epiphany, which opens the season of manifestation. In the visit of the Magi, Jesus was first noticed as the savior of all people and not just the children of Israel. We will celebrate the feast of Epiphany on Sunday, January 4th this year, rather than on Tuesday the 6th because it is one of the seven principal feast days for the Episcopal Church. The others are Easter Day, Ascension Day, the Day of Pentecost, Trinity Sunday, All Saints' Day, and Christmas Day.

Epiphany is the day we recall the gifts gathered and given in recognition of and in gratitude for God's gift of the Christ-child, which is why our in-gathering of pledges and red port also happens during this season. In addition to the important pledge of our financial resources to the church, this is an excellent time to discern a role in the categories of time and talent. We need acolytes, greeters, ushers, altar guild volunteers, grounds and building maintenance volunteers, nursery and Sunday school help, and coffee hour hosts. We are a growing parish and there are ample and increasing opportunities to join in the revitalization that is gathering momentum—opportunities to express gratitude and generosity in ways that are not necessarily financial.

I will be training some of these volunteers in the weeks ahead, so if you are the least bit drawn to being an acolyte or are a seasoned acolyte, please come to the sanctuary at 9:00 a.m. on January 11th to learn how St. Elizabeth acolytes do what they do to serve at the Eucharist. Additional dates for other training will be coming soon. And, as ever, please know that I am so very deeply grateful for all the marvelous help that shows up to make St. Elizabeth beautiful, inviting and strong. Blessings to you all!

Father John

KIDZ KORNER

December 2014

St. Elizabeth's children have continued the study of the parables. One of the most enjoyed highlights of November was the lesson of the foolish and wise builders. Within their individual containers, each child selected rocks for a foundation and also formed a foundation of sand for which they placed a house on the rocks and one on the sand. Soon, the rains came tumbling down, and the floods came up. They were fascinated by the story and the results of making wise or foolish choices. They also enjoyed learning the song about the "foolish" man and the "wise" man as well as acting out the story. Yel and Ari joined us from the nursery at the end of our lesson, and got in on a little of the fun.

To focus on the things for which we are thankful at Thanksgiving time, we decided that the grownups in our church were very important to us.

St. Elizabeth Liturgical Calendars are available in the Parish office and are only \$2.00 each.

From Forward Day by Day

"We stand for our Lord when we humble ourselves to serve others. God's love will flow through us to the people in our world and that's when we know love best."

They are the ones who help plant the seeds that make our church a wonderful place for which we can come and worship God.

The Sunday school invited the parish to their classroom, (their little corner of St. Elizabeth), to host coffee hour. The children were very excited. Abur and Amiir came to the church kitchen and learned what muffins were and helped in the baking of them. This was in itself a wonderful experience for two young South Sudanese girls. Preparing for the event was exciting for everyone.

The adults were given an opportunity to select the names of our Sunday school children, for whom they will become personal "Prayer Partners". The children will in turn, be praying for the adults of St. Elizabeth. Each child will get to personally know the adult(s) who is praying for them with the goal of bonding the generations and establishing new relationships.

Children's Ministries

A GREAT BIG THANK YOU to Linda Pomeroy-Hull for the beautiful wreaths that adorn our front doors.

MINISTRY-TO-CHILDREN

HOW DOES CHILDREN'S MINISTRY HELP FAMILIES?

8 Ways Children's Ministry Benefits Our Children

1. **It supports godly parenting.** The church was never meant to be the exclusive faith teacher of children. Instead, God's plan was for the two institutions (church and family) to form a partnership.
2. **It helps nudge some parents into more faithful attendance.** Usually parents become more involved in the church when their kids become more involved in the children's ministry.
3. **It brings unchurched families in contact with the Gospel.** In our culture, reaching children is one of the most effective ways to make contact with unchurched families.
4. **It helps new families get connected with the church.** Even when a new family comes into the church, they still need help to get plugged in.
5. **It helps identify families that may benefit from biblical counseling.**
6. **It helps dads get involved in the church.** For various reasons, fathers have a difficult time getting connected with the church family.
7. **It provides families with meaningful shared experiences.** This is true especially when the whole family can participate in events like VBS or summer camp.
8. **It helps answer those hard questions.** Almost every week a child will have a religious question that may stump their parents. Even while answering the question, parental teaching authority is reinforced. Parents can be helped in finding resources that will answer future hard questions.

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



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 Elizabethan

St. Elizabeth Episcopal Church

PO Box 66579

Burien, Washington 98166-0579



Non-Profit Organization

US Postage Paid

Seahurst, WA

Permit No. 7

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Time Value: January 1, 2015

Ingathering and Blessing of Pledge Cards, Sunday, January 18

Please join us on Sunday, January 18, as we celebrate God's abundance in our lives and what we've raised during our stewardship drive.

St Elizabeth Episcopal Church continues to be blessed by the support of our parishioners' gifts of "time, talent, and treasure." You should have received the Stewardship commitment letters and pledge cards in the mail. Please prayerfully consider the abundant blessings in your life and what portion you will give back to God.

If you have not already done so, please return your pledge card by Sunday, January 18. These can be returned to the parish office by mail or presented at the Stewardship Ingathering at the 10:00 service on January 18.

Your pledge card can be placed in the offertory plate on this Sunday.

Please, if you can, also bring a bottle of ruby port for celebrating the Holy Eucharist over the next year.