

The Elizabethan



The Newsletter of St. Elizabeth Episcopal Church Burien, Washington

February 2015

Issue 2015-2

St. Elizabeth as sanctuary

A sanctuary is a sacred place—a place set apart for holy objects, holy actions and holy moments. These places can be churches, temples, synagogues, mosques or zendos. Over time, the meaning of “sanctuary” has come to include a sense of safety or protection in a more secular sense. English law from the fourth to the 17th century officially recognized churches as places where fugitives were immune to arrest. Even today in the U.S., federal agents from Immigration and Customs Enforcement are reluctant to remove undocumented people from places of worship unless they pose an immediate threat.

Many Episcopal and other churches, including St. Elizabeth, are noticing an emerging trend. People are seeking sanctuary not for secular or legal safety, but for safety and recovery from religious wounding. A dear friend and colleague, Fr. Samuel Torvend, in writing about this trend claims that “a community of faith is inspired by the love of God to live into this gracious love for all people.” I agree with Fr. Samuel wholeheartedly. I also share his position that “we are called by the healing work of Jesus to promote wholeness and health – what our tradition calls ‘salvation’ – when and wherever people, other creatures, and the earth experience suffering.” Fr. Samuel and I and others are noticing that many of the newcomers and visitors to our churches are experiencing a liberating respect for who they are just as they are; an experience that people do not find in every religious community.

“I become distressed,” writes Fr. Samuel, “whenever I hear or read that religious leaders scold, condemn, or surround their communities with the language of fear and intimidation. None of this – none of this – has anything to do with the authentic voice of Jesus: with his steadfast resistance to the preaching of fear and hate, with his choice of unconventional friends that scandalized his religious colleagues, with his gracious and healing presence in the world today, with his self-giving love for those harmed and diminished by religious and cultural forces.”

We, the parish of St. Elizabeth, are increasingly living into our church home as a sacred place—a place set apart for holy objects, holy actions and holy moments for many people, including those who have experienced religious wounding. As we move through this brief Epiphany season, the season of manifestation, we have the opportunity to live ever more fully and intentionally into the baptismal vows that we renewed on the feast of Epiphany: to seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving our neighbor as ourselves; to strive for justice and peace among all people, and to respect the dignity of every human being.

Fr. John Forman +

Priest-in-Charge | St. Elizabeth Episcopal Church | Burien, WA

KIDZ KORNER

February 2015

St. Elizabeth's Children's Ministry collected \$35.42 for donation to our Highline Food Bank. The children will have their collection cans ready for you and your change every first Sunday of the month. They will be looking forward for your donation.

Thank you all for supporting our Children's Ministry and the Highline Food Bank.

God has blessed St. Elizabeth with several new children to add to our growing children's program. They are Luca, Ruby, Ruth, and Ari. When you see a new child's face in the hall or at coffee hour, please take the time to get down to their eye level and say, "hello" to them.

We have recently been studying the parable of the talents. This has produced some very interesting conversations. As I have often found with many adults, they are not certain they have any special gifts. While getting to know each child a little better throughout the year, some pretty clear gifts are appearing to me. I observe the gifts of construction, analysis, song, dance, kindness, inquiry, thoughtfulness, gentleness, quietness, compassion, creativity, generosity, and many more which I am certain you observe in your children. Thank you for sharing your child with us and allowing us to be a part of your child's Christian walk. As they walk through the door at St. Elizabeth's each Sunday, they are a blessing to so many.

Children's Ministries

Questions Kids Ask About God

Q: Where did angels come from?

A: God created everything, and that includes angels. The Bible doesn't say, "God created angels," nor does it mention when God created angels. But we know he did because the Bible explains that God created everything that exists. The Bible never says that God created dogs, for example, but we know that he did because he created all things. We also don't know if God created all the angels at once or if he creates them as he needs them. Angels take orders from God and serve him. They aren't equal with God and don't have the same power as God. Remember, God didn't discover angels- he created them.

KEY VERSES: Praise him, all his angels! Praise him, all the armies of heaven! ...Let every created thing give praise to the Lord, for he issued his command, and they came into being.

(Psalm 148: 2,5)

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

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Hospitality House News

Hospitality House's biggest fundraiser of the year, **the Spring Fling** which includes a dinner and an auction, will be on Saturday March 7, 2015 and will be held at St. Francis of Assisi Church Unity Hall in Burien. We are partnering this year with the students at **Puget Sound Skill Center** culinary program who will prepare the food. What items are popular? A five night stay at a timeshare condo, a sailboat ride on the Puget Sound, a quilt to raffle or a platter & soup tureen which can be made into an appealing soup and biscuit basket. Use your imagination, what would you bid on? Would you have anything you might want to donate to auction at the fling? No item is too small because we can always combine it with other items to make it wonderful. Please contact Danielle Butz or drop items in the office.

Thank you so much!

*He who sows courtesy reaps friendship,
and he who plants kindness gathers love.
St. Basil the Great, Greek Bishop
329-379 A.D.*

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: TBD

Jr. Warden: TBD

Treasurer: Linda Knutson

Office Administrator: Christine Ramirez

Not Too Late to Pledge!

If you have not received a letter and/or your pledge envelopes for 2015, it is possible that you did not mail in your pledge of financial stewardship to St. Elizabeth. It's not too late! If you are interested in pledging your support, you can call or email pledge secretary Barbara Zimmer for a pledge card or to just let her know the amount you wish to commit. You can reach her at: bjzim@hotmail.com.

Your pledge will help the new vestry balance the budget and make financial decisions in the year ahead. A guide to proportional giving is printed here for your information--we ask you to prayerfully consider your personal finances and needs when you are pledging. Even a small amount goes a long way toward our growing fiscal health at St. Elizabeth.

Thank you for considering a pledge to St. Elizabeth Episcopal Church.
Meg MacDonald, Stewardship Chair and Member of the Vestry

St. Elizabeth Web Site Fast Facts

submitted by Meg MacDonald

- The URL for the St. Elizabeth Episcopal Church, Burien, web site is www.stelizabetchurien.org
- The current version of the web site launched in March 2013 was three pages—it is now 19 pages long
- In all of 2013, the web site was viewed by 170 visitors—so far, in the first 3 weeks of 2015, 140 people have visited the site (there were 1255 visitors total in 2014). The monthly number of visitors has increased each month since April 2014.
- An average of 7 visitors look at the web site each day and many look at more than one page
- This January the most-viewed pages are: Welcome, Worship and Liturgy, Newsletter, and Sunday Bulletin
- All of Father John Forman's sermons are posted on the web site, which is updated weekly
- The website was reviewed in 2013 by the internet strategist for the Diocese of Olympia, and his recommendations for improvement were implemented
- Most internet visitors are referred to the St. E web site when they are searching for an Episcopal church in the Burien area, but some type in specific search terms, like "*Episcopal Christmas services near SeaTac*," or "*what is the difference between an aumbry and a tabernacle?*" (Hint, the answer is in our Glossary at <http://stelizabetchurien.org/newcomers/glossary-of-terms/>)
- You can send photographs, suggestions and event announcements for posting to info@stelizburien.comcastbiz.net

HOW DOES CHILDREN'S MINISTRY HELP FAMILIES?

8 Ways Children's Ministry Benefits Families

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.

<http://ministry-to-children.com/benefits>

If you were not able to attend the Parish Annual Meeting and would still like a copy of the report—they are available in the office, Monday through Friday 9am to 1pm

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Permit No. 7

This letter was sent to Fr. John here at the church and we thought we would share it with all of you

Christmas 2014

Dear Friends,

I know from the beautiful letters, renditions and loving thoughts that I have received, that you have been holding me up in prayer and that is why my healing is progressing in a positive way.

I want you to know that I am alive and doing well.

I can't thank you enough for the way in which you have uplifted me in thought and prayer, through your many calls, cards and visits. This is playing an important part in my healing.

I am endeavoring to be a force of Love and Light to all who live here at Richmond Rehab and beyond.

During this Holy Season, I would like God's loving thoughts of love, compassion, forgiveness and gratitude to be with you as you go about your work of uplifting the planet.

From your loving friend who wishes you all the best in life. Once again, I cannot thank you enough for raising my spirits during these challenging times.

Arnold