

# The Elizabethan



The Newsletter of St. Elizabeth Episcopal Church Burien, Washington

March 2015

Issue 2015-3

**Why we do what we do in Lent:** Since the earliest days of Christianity, the season of Lent has been closely associated with baptism. Throughout the season, we engage in a number of practices intended to bring us deeply into the rhythm of the forty days as preparation for baptism or the renewal of baptismal vows. On the first day of Lent, we are marked with a cross of ashes in the same pattern as the cross traced on our foreheads with oil at our baptism. Then on the first Sunday of Lent, we chant the Great Litany, which the first specifically Anglican form of public worship, written by Archbishop Cranmer in 1544. The penitential nature of the litany makes it especially appropriate for Lent as we contemplate the exquisite fragility of our mortal lives that are so utterly reliant on God's unrelenting mercy and love for us.

At the beginning of every Sunday Mass after the first, we hear the Ten Commandments proclaimed and then we ask for God's mercy. We hear Jesus' call to "love the LORD our God with all our heart and soul and mind and strength" and to "love one's neighbor as oneself." The intent is to remind us, not in shame but in humility, that we so often forget or refuse to recognize our dependency on God as well as our responsibilities to love our neighbors and ourselves. We keep silence so that we can practice not fixing each other or rationalizing our failings away or slipping into blaming others. In the silence, God is present as we expose all of who we are with sometimes painful honesty to ourselves. And then, once again, we hear the assurance of God's mercy and forgiveness. The practice merges our desire and consent for transformation with God's loving and empowering energy. We signal our willingness to stay in the wilderness of this live-giving blend with the One who joins us there by chanting the Trisagion: "Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One, have mercy upon us."

Fr. John Forman +

"God chose us for his love, and  
now loves us for his choice"

John Trapp

# KIDZ KORNER

MARCH 2015

Our "First Sunday" of the month of February collection for the Highline Food Bank enabled the Sunday school to donate \$73.05 to help feed the hungry. WOW, the parish really stepped up their generosity. Mike Werle, who is in charge of the Food Bank, is so very appreciative of the efforts of our Sunday school and St. Elizabeth Church. Thank you everyone! The kids and their cans will be looking for you Sunday, March 1st for another monthly collection.

Our study of the parable of the 'Talents', brought about several interesting questions from the children. After completing a mini assessment of their own talents, the following are a few of the questions that arose:

Do old people have talents?

Do their talents wear out?

Do people get new talents?

Do we each get a certain number of talents?

If we quit using a talent, do we ever get it back?

What if I wish I had someone else's talent and I don't like my own talent? Will that make God mad?

My, oh my, the things our youngsters do wonder about. After considering these questions, the children decided that the grown-ups in church should also assess their own talents.

Everyone did just that. Self-reflection is good, and hopefully we all took time to consider just how blessed we are with the talents we have been given. Hopefully we will continue to use them; even dig deep, dust off the old rusty ones, and put them to use once again.

St. Elizabeth is a parish filled with wonderful people of many diverse and much needed talents.

I do believe that God is providing us with the opportunity to take inventory of our "gifts" and in part, use them to make anew, St. Elizabeth Church. What an exciting and wonderful challenge with which we are charged!

John 14:15 If you love me-show me.

To show our love for our church and all those within, the children prepared valentines for everyone in the parish. Of course quite a few candy kisses were consumed in the process, but that's part of the fun and joy of sharing our love.

After the completion of the study of the "Talents", we began exploring what it means to be a "prodigal son". Our focus on this parable was to illustrate yet another example of how Jesus taught us about love and forgiveness. "For this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found." Luke 15:24.

## Billie Mellis Putnam

Born in Tacoma on January 5, 1930, died peacefully in her sleep on February 20, 2015, after braving a very serious stroke in 2012. She was the beloved wife to her best friend, Robert K. Putnam, who passed away in 2008. She raised four children "to the glory of God," in the Burien area of Seattle, and was first and foremost devoted to her Lord Jesus Christ.

Billie attended Stadium High School in Tacoma and went on to complete her English degree at the University of Washington. She then pursued a career teaching English in the Highline school district, where she met her beloved Bobby. They enjoyed a wonderful marriage of 55 years, particularly their travel abroad together, and their home and gardens. Billie covered the walls of her home with pictures of the people and places most dear to her, and she treasured them all her days.

Billie's love of God, people, language, music, and literature are perhaps how she will be best remembered. Giving her "spare" time to the service of St. Elizabeth's Episcopal parish in Burien, she tended to the sick, elderly, and lonely so that she could touch hearts and share her faith with those in need.

Billie is survived by sons Jonathan (Jennie) and Joel, and daughter Kerry (Alex Fautsch); grandchildren Carolina, Alejandro, Luis, Emilio, Magdelaina, Elizabeth and Samuel; goddaughter Claudia O'Neill (John) and their children Jack and Jennifer; and by Hon and Saroeum Paung and their children Bunareth, Bunary and Bunarath, her "adopted" family from Cambodia. Her cherished son Jeffrey Kent Putnam died in 1985.

There will be a memorial service at St. Elizabeth's, 1005 152nd SW, Burien, on Saturday, March 14, at 2 p.m. In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts may be made for the work of God's kingdom to St. Elizabeth's.

Billie's good cheer, devotion, and love of life will be sorely missed by those who knew her. "Go and do."

Published in The Seattle Times on Mar. 2, 2015

## 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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### Questions during this time of transition for our church?

**Priest in Charge:** Father John Forman

**Sr. Warden:** Gabriel Grant

**Jr. Warden:** Gwynne Taylor

**Treasurer:** Linda Knutson

**Office Administrator:** Christine Ramirez

***Did you notice the new Lenten banners in the church?*** Well of course they were beautifully hand-crafted by our own Bunny Frisvold who is also a new Grandma!

Thank you for the lovely banners and congratulations to Bunny & Martin.

Our Cycle of Prayer has gotten quite lengthy. We don't want to take anyone off if they need to be there but if you recognize any of these names in the military (Ryan Clogston, Jamie Donahue, John Gilman, Nick Hanson, Blake Harris, Amanda Hettler, Evan McCracken, Thomas Pearce, Jade Pearce, Paul Pfeifer, or Alan Shade) and they have left the military, could you please call the office and let us know. If you could check the long-term list also it would be much appreciated.

### **St. Elizabeth, Mother of John the Baptist, Our Primary Patron Saint\***

Elizabeth (whose name in Hebrew is often translated to mean "consecrated to God,") was a descendant in the priestly line of Aaron. She and her husband, Zachary (Zachariah), a Temple priest, lived an upright and blameless life in one of the hill-towns of Judea. The great disappointment in their lives was that although they had prayed fervently for a child, Elizabeth had reached an advanced age without ever having conceived. This would have been a devastating situation for a Jewish woman such as Elizabeth at that time. What a miracle it was, then, when the Archangel Gabriel appeared separately to Elizabeth and Zachary informing them that she would bear a son. This boy, to be called John, would be the forerunner of the messiah. When told by the angel that his aging wife would give birth to a child destined to become a great prophet, Zachary did not believe this could be true. For this lack of faith, Zachary was struck dumb.

Elizabeth was related to the Virgin Mary, and although we do not know their exact relationship, apocryphal writings suggest their mothers were sisters and consequently that they were first cousins. When Gabriel appeared to Mary to tell her she had been chosen to be mother of the messiah, he also told her that Elizabeth was expecting a child. He further stated that with God, nothing is impossible.

Mary, eager to share in Elizabeth's happiness and to relate her own good news, traveled from Galilee to visit her. Upon arriving, Mary greeted her kinswoman who was now six months pregnant. The moment she spoke, John leapt with joy in Elizabeth's womb, thus acknowledging the presence of Christ. Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Ghost, responded to Mary with the words, "Blessed art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb. . .". Some interpreters of the Bible state that in the original text of Luke, the "Magnificat" (Luke 1:46-55) may also have been ascribed to Elizabeth rather than to Mary.

(continued on page 6)

### Bazaar 2014

Deposit: Funds collected day of bazaar	\$3,654.62
Deposit: Funds collected pre bazaar quilt raffle	220.00
Deposit: Funds collected post bazaar	46.00
Deposit: Funds collected Half Price Books	74.25
Deposit: Funds collected post bazaar clothing	<u>5.00</u>
Total	\$3,999.87
Less expenses: Fudge	(58.61)
Bread	(100.00)
Quilt expense	(250.00)
Net proceeds	\$3,591.26

Our bazaar was a great success due to the generosity of our parishioners who baked, knitted, crocheted, donated items, purchased baked goods, crafts and attic items and those who gave of their time, to set up, clean-up and take items to the Salvation Army and take unsold books to Half Price Books.

Many thanks to all who participated!! Mary Katherine Nicholson, Chair

The next meeting of the Women of St. E will be April 15th @ 11:30 am. Bring your sack lunch and join in!

“Money is an article which may be used as a universal passport to everywhere except Heaven and as a universal provider of everything except happiness.”

Wall Street Journal

# *The Elizabethan*

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(continued from page 4)

Mary remained with Elizabeth for approximately three months—possibly until the birth of John. This visit is a favorite subject of artists. The contrast is striking: Elizabeth, seemingly too old for child-bearing, but destined to give birth to John, last prophet of the old Covenant; and the Virgin Mary, seemingly not ready to have a child but destined to bear the messiah, the beginning of the New Covenant. The gospel story tells us that when John was born, friends and neighbors rejoiced with Elizabeth. On the eighth day when the infant was to be circumcised, officials expected him to be called "Zachary" after his father, or possibly named after a dead relative, as was the custom. However, Elizabeth said, "He shall be called John." When questioned about this irregularity, Zachary, still mute, agreed with Elizabeth by writing down the name "John." Thereafter, Zachary's voice was restored. After the birth and circumcision of John, there is no further mention of Elizabeth in the gospels.

\* Credit: Web site, St. Elizabeth's Episcopal Church, Roanoke, VA, <http://stelizabeth.dioswva.org/About%20St.%20E%27s/patron-saints.html>