

# The Elizabethan



The Newsletter of St. Elizabeth Episcopal Church      Burien, Washington

April 2017

## From Fr. John:

The Benedictine shape of Anglican and Episcopal life

In 595 C.E., Pope Gregory sent a Benedictine monk named Augustine to England. The Pope's intent was to influence and nurture Christian life in the south of England. Celtic Christianity had already taken root in what are now Scotland and Ireland. The confluence of these two monastic movements has had considerable significance on the patterns, liturgy and theology of English Christianity for hundreds of years.

Daily monastic prayer became a parish practice. Caring for animals and tending orchards and gardens developed from and alongside monastic practices. The virtue of patient listening developed from the Benedictine vow of obedience, from the Latin "ob audiere" meaning to give one's ear toward. The vows of stability found expression in the virtue of staying in one's local parish and the vow of "conversatio," or continually turning one's life toward Christ, seeped into and continues to nurture congregational life. Monks cultivated visual, written and musical arts that served chapels and parish churches and the arts continue to inspire Anglicans. Historians suggest that English Christianity was endowed with a profoundly monastic ethos that still permeates Anglican liturgy and experience.

Nearly 1,000 years after Augustine went to England, King Henry VIII dissolved the monasteries of the realm as part of his effort to separate control of the Catholic Church in England from the Pope in Rome. And yet, the Archbishop of Canterbury Thomas Cranmer kept the monastic practice of daily prayer alive in the Book of Common Prayer. Despite reformation efforts, the monastic ethos has never left the Church of England.

For example, Deacon Nicholas Ferrar founded a religious community at Little Gidding that lasted from 1626 to 1646. The community advocated for an incarnational and sacramental spirituality that contrasted with the sterner Calvinist spirituality that was also influencing the church. The Puritans of Oliver Cromwell's army denounced and forcibly broke up the community, but their example survived to inspire and influence later undertakings in Christian communal living. One of T.S. Eliot's *Four Quartets* is called "Little Gidding" in memory of this influential community, who practiced daily prayer and a form of Christian socialism based on the Acts of the Apostles, following a rule of life reminiscent of the Rule of St. Benedict.

*(continued on page three)*

## **St. Elizabeth 76th**

On Palm Sunday, April 9, 2017, St. Elizabeth will celebrate the 76th anniversary of the first church service. Initially, St. Elizabeth was begun as an off shoot of St. John's parish, West Seattle. That service, hosted at the Burien Masonic Temple, was held on Palm Sunday, April 6, 1941.

In February 1941, the Rev. E.C. Schmeiser, rector of St. John's, West Seattle, met with six women to discuss the idea of a new parish. They adopted the name, St. Elizabeth since she was the mother of St. John the Baptist. Many efforts ensued to provide an adequate building for the new Christian community. At the 1944 Diocesan Convention, St. Elizabeth was admitted as a mission. Finally, at the 1959 Diocesan Convention we were admitted as a parish of the diocese. On this festive Palm Sunday, April 9th, we will have a 'sweet' celebration at the coffee hour. Our gathering will be in honor of the many dedicated people in our history who have brought us to this time 76 years later.

Carolyn Terry has been elected *Junior Warden*. Please address any building or grounds issues to her.

Meg MacDonald is the new Clerk of the Vestry for 2017.



Christine's landlords have decided to sell the house her family has been renting from them for almost 12 years. Needless to say, they want to stay in Burien and the housing market for rentals around here is almost non-existent. If anyone knows of a 2 bedroom house, please call the office or Christine. Thank you!

*(continued from page one)*

As the Anglo-Catholic reform movement emerged and began to grow in 19<sup>th</sup> c. England and North America, the church brought monastic life back to the Anglican Communion, despite bitter opposition from those who insisted that God sanctioned only one form of Christian life: marriage between one woman and one man for the primary purpose of producing children. The far greater diversity of life present in scripture and in the circle of Jesus' followers apparently eluded the attention of those who spoke against monasticism. The narrow perspective did not prevail and by the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> c., communities of women and men were restoring the virtues of monastic life as an enhancement to church life. That restoration now extends to the Pacific Islands and Australia, South Asia, Africa, Europe, and North and South America.

The Anglican liturgy speaks of our Holy Father Benedict as a shining light whose Rule grounds Christian life in "ora et labora" (prayer and labor, which includes study), in a discipline marked by love of God and neighbor in a life open to the grace of God as revealed in creation, community, prayer and work. Benedict's search for a life of meaning and purpose as a young man led him to a cave in Subiaco, Italy. The Rule that he crafted for his first monks continues to flourish and inspire 1,500 years later among those who are drawn to his life and his Rule: "a primer in the school of the Lord's service."

## 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



**Rector:** Father John Forman

**Sr. Warden:** Sue Tierney

**Jr. Warden:** Carolyn Terry

**Treasurer:** Linda Knutson

**Office Administrator:** Christine Ramirez

Elizabethan Editor: Christine Ramirez

## **This Old House of God....Building Update**

The Parish Hall and kitchen have been listed on the Multiple Listing Service (MLS) commercial leasing site. We have had three inquires during March. If you know anyone that is interested in leasing the space, please have them contact Tony Hettler.

A second leaky toilet in the women's bathroom will be replaced in late April.

A big Thanks to Moses Dut, Ryan Davis and Josiah Volkmann for moving soil and ferns away from the north sanctuary side of the building. This will help with drainage and prevent the siding from deteriorating due to moisture.

The exterior drainage system is in place and seems to be functioning well. The remaining effort includes replacing cement in five locations and replacing the asphalt in the front driveway and Parish Hall entrance. This work will be completed in the next couple of months, weather permitting.

Plans for long-term maintenance of the building and grounds need to be addressed. If you have a desire to share your talents, please contact Carolyn Terry.

Linda Knutson



## ***Dinner for Six Update***

Congratulations to all the St. Elizabeth's parishioners and guests that have participated in the Dinner for Six Program during January, February and March of 2017. Each month, four groups of 5 or 6 people gathered for a meal, conversation and compline with evening prayer. Groups selected from brunch, lunch or dinner in various homes, restaurants or coffee shops. The purpose of the Dinner for Six dinner ministry is to build community within St. Elizabeth's while promoting relationships and friendships among parishioners.

During April the Dinner for Six groups will be encouraged to participate and support two parish meals: The Maundy Thursday Agape Potluck Dinner on April 13<sup>th</sup> – and the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Potluck on April 30<sup>th</sup>. By supporting these two events with food, the Dinner for 6 groups will not meet in April.

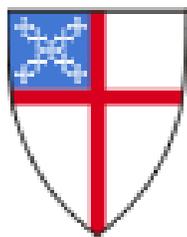
The committee is now organizing new groups of 6 for the next three months: May, June and July. If you would like to continue participating, or you would like to sign up for a group, please contact Janey Montgomery or Gwynne Taylor at [janeymontgomery68@gmail.com](mailto:janeymontgomery68@gmail.com) or [Gwynnetaylor@me.com](mailto:Gwynnetaylor@me.com). We will need four couples or individuals to host the first dinner in May, then other group members will host in June and July. The hosts contact members by email and arrange the time, place and menu with group consensus.

# *The Elizabethan*

St. Elizabeth Episcopal Church

PO Box 66579

Burien, Washington 98166-0579



**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**