

# The Elizabethan



The Newsletter of St. Elizabeth Episcopal Church      Burien, Washington

August 2015

Issue 2015-8

## **From Fr. John:** Making a difference takes a village

Over time, life in Christ tends to make people more conscientious, more self-giving and more compassionate. Ironically, these are the same attributes of people most at risk for a condition called “compassion fatigue,” a mild form of traumatic stress disorder. Anyone reading or hearing the news these days would be forgiven for feeling overwhelmed by the pain and the need in our neighborhoods, our communities, our nation and the world. One of the presenting symptoms is a sense of frustration or helplessness that can cause people to slow down or stop their charitable giving. For some, the continued fatigue can develop into cynicism.

In the church, fortunately, life in Christ is also the best avenue for help. First, we learn to focus on the opportunities that God presents, and to do what we *can* and not what we *can't*, leaving *all* the results of our efforts in God's hands. Secondly, Christian life is communal life. That is to say that we are networks within networks of people and so God can amplify even the smallest efforts from St. Elizabeth. *We can't* heal the world. But God can with our hands, hearts and resources.

Did you know, for example, that some of your financial contributions have already been given to the Bishop Abraham Yel Nhial of South Sudan to help build a dormitory for about 50 young women at St. Mary's High School in the capital city, Aweil? When it is completed in 2016, St. Mary's will be the first girls' high school in the state of Northern Bahr El Ghazal. Bishop Abraham tells me that, in addition to the difficulties facing all Southern Sudanese people, girls in South Sudan are under additional social, cultural and economic pressures that make it difficult for them to go to school. Even if they get there, many do not or cannot finish high school. I am also aware of research showing that the fastest approach to healthy development in a new country like South Sudan is to educate their young women, and so we will be gathering additional funds to help them in the months and years ahead.

At the same time, we are requesting a Millenium Development grant from the Diocese of Olympia to help launch a project that is already getting underway at St. Elizabeth for the girls of at the Marial Bai Secondary School in Aweil. Our Junior Warden Gwynne Taylor and parishioner Moses Dut are coordinating an effort to create and deliver 125 feminine hygiene kits under the sponsorship of Bishop Abraham and St. Elizabeth.

*(continued on page two)*

## **7th Annual Highline Classic Burien Jazz Festival**

I am excited to tell you that, if everything goes according to our early conversations, we will be hosting part of the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Highline Classic Burien Jazz Festival on September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2015.

The event is a “jazz walk” hosted by several businesses along 152nd from 6th to 10th, ending at St Elizabeth, where there will be dance bands playing in the Parish Hall from about 4:00 in the afternoon to about 9:30 in the evening.

We are scheduled to be showcasing Casey McGill's High Five, a swing band; the Uptown Lowdown Jazz Band, a Dixieland band; the hot jazz group, Holotraddband; and Zydeco Rex, for the swamp-and-gator crowd. There will be room for dancing too.

This will be excellent exposure for St. Elizabeth and allows us to be good neighbors and gracious hosts to the community. We may both see some new people in church because of this event!

I recently wrote an article for the Elizabethan, about the start of the JJJ's about 20 years ago. Now I would like to add another chapter about some of the JJJ accomplishments over those past 20 years. Major projects include replacing the siding on the parish hall and the south wall of the nave, removing and replacing the peeling plaster over the altar and repainting the ceiling and renovating the Zechariah room to make it a usable kitchen. At the annual bazaar we typically set up and took down tables and chairs and moved furniture from the St. John room. During these years we also did a variety of smaller tasks, including minor plumbing and electrical, hanging pictures, painting when necessary and working hard to keep the grounds free of weeds. This list is certainly not all inclusive but gives you some idea of the importance of the JJJ's. Recently I had some health problems from which I have recovered. On that occasion, Father John said to me, “Don, listen to your body.” I am doing just that and my body says “RETIRE!” so I am doing that effective immediately. I hope for your understanding and that others will pick up the work and continue the tradition of the JJJ's. Blessings, Don Purrington

*(continued from page one)*

From Father John:

These kits will help young girls maintain their health and stay in school. If you are reading this, that means you are member of the network working in increments to respond to what God has put before us with the resources that God has provided. I invite you to consider prayerfully how God may be inspiring you to respond.

We may not be able to solve all the world's tragedy and suffering, but we are not helpless. Together, this community we can make the lives of 175 girls just a little better. And if their world is a little better, so is ours!

## Saint Elizabeth's Church Community Garden

Community gardens are plots of land cared for by groups of people who agree to share the cost and effort of the garden. This can be a space where parishioners, friends, neighbors, or even strangers come together to grow food, flowers, and community.

The ground on the east side of the nave has been weeded and is ready to be planted. The plan is to convert that area into a community garden. The ground will be divided into separate plots. The plots will be offered to the congregation first, and then we may extend the invitation out to the community of Burien. The community garden can be expanded into different areas around the church allowing for garden growth.

Please consider joining in our community garden effort.

Contact me with questions and/or to stake your ground. Shawn Utley (206) 246-4451

## ***Hospitality House News***

Ladies and Gentlemen!

Do you have old jewelry you no longer want to keep dusting!

How about odds and ends of cuff links, earrings, pins with missing pieces etc? If you want to clean out your jewelry box and do a good deed too, then please drop off your "jewels" at Burien Art Gallery, 826 152nd St. or at St. Elizabeth's, and a group of jewelers will remake them into new and beautiful pieces for the women of Hospitality House ,and other shelters.

The recipients of the new jewelry are free to do with it as they choose, wear it for an emotional boost on a job interview, give it as a gift, or sell it to benefit the shelter. Thank you for your consideration .

## 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](mailto:info@stelizburien.comcastbiz.net)

**Website:** [www.stelizabethburien.org](http://www.stelizabethburien.org)



**Rector:** Father John Forman

**Sr. Warden:** Gabriel Grant

**Jr. Warden:** Gwynne Taylor

**Treasurer:** Linda Knutson

**Office Administrator:** Christine Ramirez

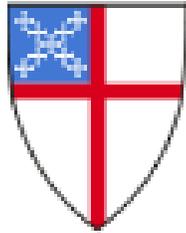
Elizabethan Editor: Christine Ramirez

# *The Elizabethan*

St. Elizabeth Episcopal Church

PO Box 66579

Burien, Washington 98166-0579



**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

## ***Save the Date:***

St. Elizabeth is having another Town Hall meeting on

September 13th after the 10am service. This year we will combine it with our annual Parish picnic. Please come and join us for fun, food and fellowship!!

There will be a sign up sheet on the bulletin board in a few weeks for you to sign up to bring your favorite picnic side dish. The church will provide hot dogs and hamburgers.