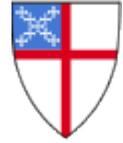


The Elizabethan



The Newsletter of St. Elizabeth Episcopal Church Burien, Washington

September 2014

Issue 2014-09

Come and see

By Fr. John Forman

Greetings people and friends of St Elizabeth Episcopal Church! What a delightful honor it is to be with you all, and to be writing this first note to you all. You are a part of something very exciting that is just beginning to take shape in the parish. We are already growing. New people are coming. Former parishioners are coming back.

In John's Gospel, two disciples see Jesus walking by and they ask, "Rabbi, where are you staying?" Jesus says to them, "Come and see." The next day, Jesus finds Philip and says to him, "Follow me," which Philip does, but he also goes to find Nathanael, who is initially a little skeptical. Philip does not argue or pressure or cajole or shame or bribe or plead...he simply says to Nathanael, "Come and see." And when Nathanael does come to see and recognizes that he is in the presence of the Son of God, Jesus promises, "You will see greater things than these."

And so come and see what's going on at St. Elizabeth. Come and encounter the presence of the Son of God. Oh, and bring your friends and family. Because we are going to see things greater than any that we have come to expect!

Part of what you are seeing (or will see if you come and join us!), is a shift in the liturgy on Sunday mornings. We are working our way toward a chanted Mass for three main reasons: First, chanting the liturgy uses a different part of the brain, producing both a more communal experience of the Divine and, in time, a more transcendent personal experience. The more deeply people experience God, the more of God's light they radiate out to the world beyond St. Elizabeth. Secondly, there is a part of the Episcopal Church that seems to be growing and drawing people in communities where some other churches appear to be struggling. The churches that are growing spiritually and, in many cases, also in numbers are embracing Anglo-Catholic roots, combining ancient liturgy with forward-focused theology. Thirdly, the community surrounding St. Elizabeth is home to an increasing number of artists of all kinds. We hope to attract singers, musicians, fabric artists, sculptors, and artists of all kinds and of all ages.

Rev. Dr. John Westerhoff had this to say: "Truth, goodness and beauty are related to each other in that the presence of one is judged by the presence of the other two...While some traditions emphasize truth or goodness, Anglicans have made beauty the doorway into truth and goodness. We have a strong respect for and belief in the beauty of holiness and righteousness." Westerhoff went on to say that money spent on beauty was justified as a way to reveal and advocate for truth and goodness. "Our churches are intended to be works of art," he said, "and we make every effort to ensure that the arts used in our churches are of high quality. Artists have always been at home in our congregations and played a significant role in our worship and common life."

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And so I invite you to join me on Sunday mornings at 9:00, starting on October 5th, to learn how to chant the Mass that we will be celebrating at 10:00. Joan Barnes, our dedicated organist, will join us when she can to help with musical support and I will teach you how to relax into this expanded and inviting way of being Christian in the world! Together, we will create beauty and offer it to God. What could be better than that!

Blessings to you all in Christ Jesus,
Fr. John

KIDZ KORNER

September/October 2014

August 25, our Sunday school class celebrated summer's end with a wonderful swimming party hosted by the Nicholson family. There was much hilarity, water, sun, and food. A special "Thank You" goes out to the Nicholson's for making it happen.

To ring in the new year of Sunday school, a party was planned to check out our new play set and become reacquainted. We welcomed and enjoyed new-comer friends Wyatt and Will. We had a great time outside in the sunshine, played games and had special prayer. It was a wonderful celebration.

We will begin our year learning about parables. A parable is an earthly story with a heavenly meaning that Jesus taught.

September Sunday school lessons will focus on the following parables:

- 9/14 Parable of the Good Samaritan -Luke 10:25-36
- 9/21 Parable of the Lost Sheep- Luke 15:1-7
- 9/28 Parable of the Wise and Foolish Builders- Matthew 7:24-27

October Lessons-

- 10/05 St. Francis Day
- 10/12 Parable of the Sower-Matthew 13:1-23
- 10/19 Object Lesson- 'Fizzy Faith'-Colossians 3:1
- 10/26 Parable of the Prodigal Son- Luke 15:4/ 15:11-32



Questions Kids Ask About God

Q: Will all of my friends go to heaven?

A: God loves your friends just as he loves you. Only god knows who will go to heaven and hell; we don't. But there is only one way to heaven-through Jesus. So we can go to heaven only if we have given our life to Christ. If your friends don't follow Jesus, you can help them understand by telling them the Good News about Jesus and how he died for them. Heaven is worth going to, even if your friends don't realize that.

KEY VERSE: Jesus told him, "I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." (John 14:6)

Gwynne Taylor, Children's Ministries

Did you know....

Shawn Utley updates the reader board ***

Julie Dosono maintains our Facebook page***

Meg MacDonald takes care of our website***

Lisa Burley keeps the pew pockets and the literature rack tidy and filled***

Patti McGowan is head of Altar Guild and Donna Abell makes their schedule***

Gwynne Taylor takes care of Children's Ministry***

Pat Lofstedt volunteers in the office & makes calls to ensure we are all okay & doing our jobs***

Don Purrington schedules the servers***

Gwynne Taylor schedules the ushers & greeters***

And last but not least—The JJJ's do any maintenance around the building and grounds that they are able***

Now we need a librarian!!!



Save the Date!

Hospitality House Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon is Nov. 1st at Southminster Presbyterian.

Safeguarding God's Children class will be at St. Elizabeth on Nov. 29th from 10am to 1pm.

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.

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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

***A very warm welcome to our new
Priest-in-Charge Father John Forman!***

MINISTRY-TO-CHILDREN

Kids matter to God and they should matter to us.

In the coming months, the Elizabethan will have a series on 'Why Children's Ministry Matters'. The series will include:

- Ways Children's Ministry Helps Kids
- Ways Children's Ministry Benefits Families
- Ways Children's Ministry Benefits the church



The more good we find to say about anyone, the more good that person will become.

A good memory is fine, but the ability to forget is the true test of greatness.

Be careful how you live; you may be the only Bible some people will ever read.

Arthur Richard Lofstedt

Memorial Eucharist is October 11th at 2pm here at St. Elizabeth, Inurnment of Ashes in the Columbarium

Reception to follow in St. John the Baptist room

Please join the Lofstedt Family in celebrating the life of their loved one, Dick

God's rich blessings on (The Rev.) Chris Hertlein as she begins her new ministry (on Sept. 15th) at St. James in Lincoln City, Oregon

The Glastonbury Thorn Tree

There is a tree on St. Elizabeth grounds that has some religious history affiliated with it.

The earliest history and traditions of the church in England commenced with the arrival in England about 37 A.D. of Joseph of Arimathea and his followers. They arrived in Avalon, a Celtic name, which was later renamed Glastonbury by the Saxons.

Following the disembarkation of Joseph and his followers, they made their way up the hill, known to this day as Glastonbury Tor, where it is reputed that Joseph, weary from his travel, stopped to rest and thrust his staff into the ground. Tradition tells us that the staff became part of the earth, taking root and in time blossomed. Historically it became known as the "Holy Thorn".

From ancient times it is referred to as a phenomenon of nature, being the only thorn tree in the world to blossom at Christmas time and again in May. The Holy Thorn continued to be world famous for its strange blossoming habits; however, in the 1600's during the Oliver Cromwell regime, it was partially cut down while the desecration of holy places was in operation. But this sacred phenomenon did not die and can be seen to this day, a healthy, fertile tree blooming at the appropriate seasons, now transplanted to the abbey grounds adjacent to St. Patrick's Chapel.

Through the kindness of Dr. Edward Breakey, a cutting from the original tree at Glastonbury, England, was planted on the grounds of St. Elizabeth. Dr. Breakey, father of Ellen Holt, (an old-time parishioner) had a cutting from England shipped here. He nourished and cared for it at his house until it was strong enough to be planted and flourish on its own. Ellen now has all of her father's files and is going to copy anything about the tree and send it to the church. There is also a framed story about the history of the tree on the wall by the library.

To be continued in a future Elizabethan....

MINISTRY-TO-CHILDREN

Kids matter to God and they should matter to us.

14 Ways Children's Ministry Benefits Our Children

Seven ways will be listed this month, with seven more following next month.

Hopefully, you will find these ideas not only interesting, but encouraging that our goal at St. Elizabeth is to instill these Christian values into the children whom God has led and entrusted to us.

- 1. It promotes their eternal happiness.** The goal for our children is to find indestructible joy in Christ.
- 2. It helps to make sense out of life.** Only understanding that it was God who made the world, what went wrong and God's plan to fix it can explain this world we all experience.
- 3. It's their best chance to accept Christ.** Research has proven that kids tend to be more receptive to the Gospel than any other age group. We want St. Elizabeth's children to have every opportunity to believe in Jesus.

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The Elizabethan
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4. **It helps avoid some negative outcomes of sin.** Only God's grace can change our hearts, but knowing the consequences of disobeying God is often a wake-up call. When children understand the great price that Jesus paid for their salvation, they are more likely to stay on the way of the righteous.
5. **It can counter balance worldly influences.** Everyone knows the harmful influences present in our society. Kids need positive influences to tip the scale.
6. **It can help them to learn to love others.** The second greatest commandment is to love your neighbor. We must teach this as a way of life, because it doesn't come naturally.
7. **It is something fun to do.** Do you know who invented fun? God did. Do you know why? For His own glory. While entertainment and fun-seeking can become an idol we should not think God is against fun.