

# The Elizabethan



The Newsletter of St. Elizabeth Episcopal Church      Burien, Washington

November 2016

**From Fr. John:** Dear ones,

Flannery O'Connor once said of us Christians that “we shall know the truth and the truth will make us odd.” The time has come once again for us to make our annual financial pledges in support of this wonderfully odd and holy place, St. Elizabeth. This year is a little different! Looking ahead to 2017 and beyond, we are making a sea change in our attention. I have covered some of the details in the letter that I have sent to each of you, but I am excited to say that we are refocusing our attention to the work that God has given us to do: to love and serve God as faithful witnesses of Christ, our Lord.

The time has come for us to tend to the harvest of ministry in this marvelous place on behalf of a community in change. We can help to heal and unify a small corner of a nation in division. While there are still building issues for us to deal with, this parish can now turn its focus and resources toward ministry to our neighborhood and the surrounding community. Having done what we can to make sure that there will be a place for future generations to gather in the presence of God, we are ready to share this blessing with others.

Authentic happiness, you see, comes from identifying and cultivating the gifts that God has given each of us so that we can joyfully give them to the world. Unlike some churches, St. Elizabeth is not a destination, but a filling station and school for the love of God. We can offer our friends, neighbors and all those whom Christ draws to us a place to find, nourish and give the unique gift that God has planted within them. We can show people and teach them how to model their lives after Jesus Christ, who does not tell us what to think or what to do, but rather how to live. The One we follow, who gives us all that we have and to whom we ourselves belong, leads us into a life of abundance steeped in love for others—a life based on trust in that which is greater than us all.

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Gazing upon our beautiful Altar each service is one of the many blessings that we share here at St. Elizabeth. An important part of the beauty are the lovely flowers that we see gracing each side of our Altar. These flowers are donated each week by the Normandy Park Market at 200th and 1st Ave. This is such a blessing to our church as many weeks we have flowers enough to also give beauty to our Narthex. The money saved by this generous gift is huge and the Altar guild is very appreciative. I hope that we at St. Elizabeth can show them our appreciation by often doing our marketing at their store.

Patti McGowan

It was easy tonight to sit in my comfortable home and look back upon the very many blessings that God has given to me. I just wonder how many at church realize that we have such a blessing right here at St. Elizabeth. Her name is Joan Barnes and she is part of our strong worship. Each Sunday we hear beautiful music coming from our balcony and we know that Joan is here and giving to each of us, her wonderful gift of music. There are rare times that her oldest son comes to visit his Mom and plays his musical gift to each of us during our worship. All of this should be enough. But I'll bet you didn't know that Joan also gives her time and talent to Judson Park each week to accompany our "elderly" choir. This gift to us is completely unpaid, and is so very special. So you see, not only do we enjoy and benefit Joan here at our home church, but she is also sharing her gift of music to very appreciative elders. Thank you Joan, for everything you share with so many!

Patti McGowan

### **Exploring St. Elizabeth's Liturgical Ministries...**

Before the Service:

*Be present, Lord Jesus, be present! Grant that I may faithfully and loyally serve you in love and through my service proclaim, "In all things, God be glorified." Amen\**

The ministry of the **Altar Guild** is to care for the altar, vessels and fine linen of the parish. Members of the guild prepare the sanctuary for the services including setting the altar, arranging the flowers, marking the lectionary and gospel books, and posting the hymns and psalm. Our guild works in pairs, serving on average once a month. They meet quarterly for breakfast and education. For more information, talk to Patti McGowan or Donna Abell.

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In the last Elizabethan, I wrote about the difference in perspective between thinking about ourselves as “practitioners” rather than “members.” That applies to our giving as much as anything else. Ministry is not solely about money, but our money is a good part of the engine behind ministry. And giving is not “dues-paying,” but is a crucial spiritual practice. By investing in ministry, we discover ourselves and learn more about God, whose whole being is generosity. Giving teaches us to recognize where all our resources come from and returns a liberating and exquisite joy.

On the mornings of November 13th and 20th, at 9:00 in the St. John room, we will have some conversations about what it is to be a practitioner rather than a member, and about the specific areas of ministry that God uses to transfigure practitioners. You will also see in the letter that I sent that the time has come for us to be a little bolder in our transparency around money. I invite you to pray over the next couple of weeks and then to join me in expressing your gratitude to God through our financial pledges. These will be combined with the pledges of time and talent that we gathered last month and used to create a vision for 2017. This is truly a momentous time to be part of this for this delightfully odd and holy parish, and I thank you for being here!

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The ministry of the **Servers** is to assist Fr. John during the Mass. Ideally two people serve each Sunday. One server might be the crucifer and the other the intercessor. Both servers are acolytes and chalice bearers. A server should be prepared to be the reader or psalmist. Servers are scheduled for one or two services a month. For more information, contact Tony Hettler.

**Lay Readers** are the ministers of the Word. They read sections of the Old Testament, the Psalms and the New Testament as selected from the *Revised Common Lectionary*. Readers receive the text in advance via email so they can prepare. Readers are scheduled to serve once or twice a month. For more information, talk with Fr. John.

It is Fr. John’s hope that we will have **Lay Eucharistic Visitors** in the near future. These ministers will take Holy Communion from our altar to parishioners who are homebound, in the hospital or care facility. If you are interested in this new ministry, please talk with Fr. John.

After the Service:

*Glory to you, Lord Jesus, Glory to you! Grant that as I have served in your presence, so I may witness faithfully and loyally to your love in the world and forever proclaim, “in all things, God be glorified.” Amen\**

*\*A Manual for Acolytes: The Duties of the Server At Liturgical Celebrations by Dennis Michno: A Server’s Prayer.*

## Sunday Morning Coffee Hospitality

During the summer, into the fall 12 different teams have served coffee. If you haven't served yet, you too can join in helping to provide treats, serve or clean up. To shore up your confidence, ask anyone who has done coffee serving for tips on how to do this very needed hospitality service for St. Elizabeth. Also, if you like good coffee, pay attention to the morning coffee quality in upcoming Sundays. Something good is coming.



## From our webmaster:

Do you have any digital photographs or videos featuring the people and happenings of St. Elizabeth that you are willing to share? If you do, please send them to Meg MacDonald for posting on the web site, with a brief explanation of when and where they were taken.

Newcomers often check the online photo gallery when they're looking for a church. With your help, we can keep it updated with pictures of some of our fun activities.

The easiest way to get your photos to Meg is by emailing [megmmac@comcast.net](mailto:megmmac@comcast.net). Thank you!

## 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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## **Women of St. Elizabeth**

Wednesday, October 19th, we enjoyed a lunch meeting in the St. John Room. Women brought ideas as to what our goals and priorities may be. No one wished to chair our group so it is up to individuals to forge ahead with a project they would be interested in. We had many suggestions:

Kathy Hollo will post a schedule of day trips on the bulletin board. These trips leave from the Burien Community Center (the old Burien Library), usually around 10am and return by 4 or 5pm. Bus transportation is provided to and from the listed activity.

A Book Club was suggested. Danielle Butz suggested that perhaps an interesting news article could be read and discussed. Also we could bring a favorite poem and have a poetry afternoon.

Patti McGowan suggested a visit to the Episcopal Church in Olympia where Ethel Philpot's daughter is a member. There is also a wonderful outdoor market in Olympia.

Most of us are already serving our church in various capacities and are looking forward to doing some fun things together.

So ladies, it is up to us to set a time to try out a new idea for a fun afternoon.

Donna Abell

***There will not be a Christmas Bazaar in 2016 or the foreseeable future.***



# *The Elizabethan*

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**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

## **Just a reminder... HIGHLINE FOOD BANK CHANGE COLLECTION**

Sunday school will be once again collecting change from anyone's pocket from which we hear coins jingling.

Typically, we will be collecting change on the first Sunday of each month. So, please empty those loose change vessels and help our neighbors in need.

