

# The Elizabethan



The Newsletter of St. Elizabeth Episcopal Church    Burien, Washington

November 2018

## From Fr. John:

Pledge season is here: I invite you to pray over the next couple of weeks and then join me in expressing our gratitude for this welcoming, beautiful and holy place. Watch for a letter from our Stewardship Secretary, Barb Zimmer, our Treasurer, Linda Knutson, and me in the next week or so. (If you do not see one shortly, please let me know!)

The time has come to tend to the harvest of ministry in this marvelous place and to plant for the year ahead. We can't solve all the problems of the world, but we can do our part to help heal and unify our own small corner of a nation in division. We have come a long way toward restoring and revitalizing St. Elizabeth as a place for future generations of different perspectives to gather in the presence of God, the creator of all. We are co-creating with God to make St. Elizabeth a school for the love of God, where we can offer our friends, neighbors and all those whom Christ draws to us a place to find wholeness, and then to 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.

We will gather in and bless pledges on November 25<sup>th</sup>, the Feast of Christ the King and the last day of the liturgical year before turning our attention to Advent. (Of course, pledges and donations are always welcome after that!) The Vestry will then create a budget based the actual amount pledged by the end of the year, and so after careful prayer and consideration, please do return a pledge card as soon as possible.

Thanksgiving Mass: Did you know that the folks who founded Plymouth Colony didn't call themselves "Pilgrims"? They called themselves "separatists" or "puritans" because most were dissidents who had broken away from the Church of England. That said, having since resolved most of our differences, we will gather at 10:00 a.m. on November 22<sup>nd</sup> for a Thanksgiving Eucharist that family, friends, even Puritans can join! Every Eucharist is a thanksgiving, but we will gather for a liturgy specific to Thanksgiving Day in the US, where we will offer a feast of a slightly different kind in gratitude "for the fruits of the earth and those who harvest them."

## **Neighborhood House**

If you are new to St. Elizabeth and have come to the church on a weekday, you may be curious about people who are not parishioners in the upstairs hall and kitchen. They are most often parents, teachers and admin staff for Neighborhood House, the child-care center downstairs that helps up to 16 neighborhood children ranging from about a year old to about four. Teachers provide high-quality pre-school services to underprivileged children that include literacy activities, and social and emotional experiences to foster healthy development. The teachers work to foster a culturally responsive environment for diverse and multilingual families, and build family partnerships through parent engagement in the program planning.

They have been a remarkably generous and collaborative tenant for the past year, and the work they do perfectly aligns with the role of an Episcopal Church in the community. The people who need their services can walk to St. Elizabeth where they can find support without any pressure to “convert.” Teachers and staff leasing our space are currently serving low-income families in Burien with pre-school programs that combine excellent teaching with cultural sensitivity to foster healthy development and build school readiness.

Neighborhood House helps the children to be successful by providing family support services and meals, snacks, developmental and health screenings for all of their students. The children are getting a hot lunch from the kitchen that Neighborhood House remodeled and updated, and the classes are held in rooms that NH renovated with new safety features that we could never have afforded. They provide culturally-appropriate services to all enrolled families, many of whom are recent refugees and immigrants, and so you will hear a beautiful symphony of languages along with the occasional response to skinned knees and other playground noises.

Since 1906, Neighborhood House has been serving diverse communities in Seattle and King County. They have been providing a variety of services including Parent Child Home Programs that involve weekly home visits in the home language of families to build early literacy and school readiness. They provide Head Start, Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program, and Step Ahead programs in West Seattle, Central Seattle and South Seattle.

Until Neighborhood House moved into two of our lower rooms, the Burien area and South King County in general have been woefully underserved, even as the need and the cost of living continues to rise. And so, next summer, we hope to expand our relationship with Neighborhood House as the Bridge School leaves to find more space. We are already co-creating a garden to share with the children so that we can grow flowers for our altars and vegetables for

We are in early conversations with Neighborhood House leadership and will keep you all informed as that progresses, but there are some exciting possibilities. In addition to the improvements that we hope to make to the classrooms and bathrooms downstairs, our neighbors will have access to still more resources and counseling. The additional income will take a good deal of financial pressure off the church, which means we may be able to keep the Parish Hall as it is and not be forced to lease that space. We are grateful for the partnership. Stay tuned!

## Celeste Alfred

As most of you know, Celeste Alfred has been filling in temporarily during Christine Ramirez's absence. We now know that Christine's health issues will not allow her to return, and so Celeste has agreed to stay on as our Administrative Assistant.

Celeste is the former supervisor of the Early Head Start program at Neighborhood House downstairs (see the article on p. 2). Her parents came to the U.S. from the Philippines and made San Francisco their home. They had three children and after her mother died, Celeste's father remarried and had seven more children.

Eventually, Celeste went on to San Jose State University where she earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Sociology and Psychology. She has two sons and a 4-month-old grandson whom she is happy to tell you about! She also enjoys outdoor activities — jogging, hiking and canoeing among them — but gardening is a true joy for Celeste.

And so she also works at Elder Grow, where she can bring gardening and nature into the lives of seniors in memory care.

For now, Celeste will be in the office on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from about 8:00 to about 1:00. She has already done a fantastic job organizing and updating the office, and is a wonderfully friendly presence for the folks who come to the office or call.

Drop in and welcome Celeste aboard next time you are out and about. We are truly blessed to have her with us!

## 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

**Associate Priests:** Fr. Alwyn Hall

Fr. John Fergusson

**Sr. Warden:** Kirk Utley

**Jr. Warden:** Carolyn Terry

**Treasurer:** Linda Knutson

## Thank you!

At this time of Thanksgiving in our country we have to give thanks for many people in our parish. Every Sunday our community gathers together after the worship service for conversation, sharing food, getting to better know one another and welcoming visitors. This happens with the offering of 14 people who are creative and reliable in making each Sunday a warm welcome. Anyone who would like to join this serving are welcome so those who do much may open their giving to others and lighten their commitments. This is particularly true with the preparation of coffee. Ryan Davis and Meg MacDonald know how to have coffee ready each Sunday. They will show you how to prepare coffee and welcome a change of pace for themselves.

~ Sandy Stonhouse aka "coffee lady"

## Get involved!

Life in Community: The togetherness of work, meals and conversation helps us to become more fully who we are and learn what it means to be the community of St. Elizabeth. Here are some of the numerous ways to join in:

- Go to Coffee Hour, Dinners-for-Six or Friday "Coffee and Conversation" and get to know other people in the parish.
- Sign up to host or to clean-up with a Coffee Hour team.
- Sign up and bring a little something to a potluck Sunday.
- Invite people to join you in a shared interest. Quilting? Crafts? Theater? Music? Dancing? Book Club? Join the Altar Guild; become an acolyte or reader; come help with maintenance; bring food for our food pantry; bring clean white socks or toiletries for Operation Nightwatch; get involved in some other voluntary activity that builds up the world in a hopeful and affirmative way and let us know about it!

**Altar flowers:** Our generous supply of donated flowers has dried up for now. Consequently, you will occasionally see envelopes on the pews for donations that the Altar Guild will use to buy the fresh-cut flowers that beautify our worship space. If you would like to donate flowers for a specific remembrance or event, please let us know and we will put a note in the bulletin.

You can also contact the office by calling 206.243.6844 or you can send a check with your request to P.O. Box 66579, Burien, Washington, 98166.

## Meet our associate priests:

It is our tremendous good fortune to have two associate priests at St. Elizabeth. Both are unpaid, voluntary positions and each offers “gifts differing according to the grace that is given to them.”

Fr. Alwyn Hall joined us two years ago. He is registered in the Diocese of Olympia while we clear up some federal paperwork that will allow him to find a position somewhere that can pay him. His perspective, experience and background deepens our liturgy and our awareness of the loving presence of Christ.

Fr. Alwyn was ordained to the priesthood in July of 1991, and served at St. Michael Anglican Church in Jamaica until 2014. He was also a science teacher at Manchester and Newell High Schools in Jamaica, and prior to that was on the theology faculty of Lord's & Fairweather's Theological Seminary. He holds a Master of Arts in Education from the Vocational Training and Development Institute of Jamaica; a Bachelor of Arts in Theology from the University of the West Indies, and an Associate of Arts from the United Theological College of the West Indies.

He and Alicia Warren were married at St. Elizabeth on September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2016. Since joining us as an Associate, Fr. Alwyn has been serving at the altar and providing as supply clergy around the Diocese when he can. He will be expanding his role at St. Elizabeth in the coming months.

More recently, the Reverend Canon John Ferguson joined us as an Associate Priest. Fr. John retired after nearly 34 years as the Rector of the Church of the Redeemer. He was ordained to the priesthood in 1972 and served at a mission church in the Ada-Cascade region of Grand Rapids, Michigan. In 1979, he was named Canon Honorary and Dean of the Cathedral Church of Christ the King in Kalamazoo, Michigan.

Fr. John served in the United States Marine Corps, including a year tour-of-duty with the 15th Marine Counterintelligence Team in Northern Quang Tri Province, Viet Nam. He has presented papers, served on panels and workshops on moral and spiritual aspects of Post-Traumatic Stress Syndrome, and counsels combat veterans dealing with PTSD. Fr. John says that his personal spiritual journey is shaped by his own experiences of the dark side of life, the Paschal mystery, and a deep, profound belief in the power of liturgy and living into the church year to transform people's lives. His 30 year relationship with his recently deceased spiritual father, a Trappist monk at Our Lady of the Assumption Abbey in Ava, Missouri, has also been a lasting source of inspiration and strength.

He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Biology from Albion College, in Albion, Michigan and his Master of Divinity (Theology) from Seabury-Western Theological Seminary in Evanston, Illinois. He and his wife, Ginny, have two adult children. Since joining us as an Associate last year, Fr. John has taught several Adult Form courses, and created and printed the “Praying the Eucharist” brochures that we place in the pew racks. We look forward to his continued and expanding involvement.

Both our Associates welcome your questions and we are grateful for their continued ministries.



# *The Elizabethan*

St. Elizabeth Episcopal Church

PO Box 66579

Burien, Washington 98166-0579



**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

“Let’s not be afraid to receive each day’s surprise, whether it comes to us as sorrow or as joy. It will open a new place in our hearts, a place where we can welcome new friends and celebrate more fully our shared humanity.”

~ Henri Nouwen

## **Coffee and conversation:**

The next opportunity to come for an informal “get-to-know-you” chat will be on Friday, December 7<sup>th</sup>. Come and chat over coffee and such from 10 a.m. to noon in the St John room at St Elizabeth. We are bringing cookies to enjoy and exchange, which we can share with friends, family or office/work sites. You can also bring a Christmas craft to share. Come and enjoy coffee, cookies and conversation. We hope this can be a casual place for parishioners, interested friends and curious neighbors to get more acquainted with each other in small groups outside our worship together as a larger congregation. If you are interested in hosting one of these monthly events, Janey Montgomery has put up a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board across from the library. Please join us and bring a friend. We’re all about community!