

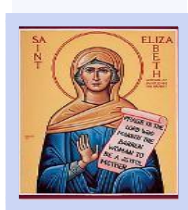
SEPTEMBER 2026

St. Elizabeth's Episcopal Church

Birthdays & Anniversaries 2

Announcements and
Events 2 - 4

Next Newsletter will
be in NOVEMBER



The Epistle to the Elizabethans

Thoughts from the Rector's desk...

The Journey of being in Christ

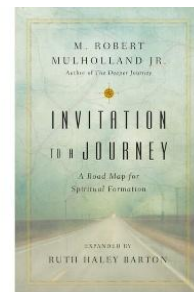
Thus says the Lord: "Stand by the roads, and look, and ask for the ancient paths, where the good way is; and walk in it and find rest for your souls." Jeremiah 6:16 (ESV)

Have you ever wondered, is this all there is to life? Or what is the real meaning to being a Christian? These are valid questions that God longs to answer in His word. If you think about it, the Christian faith is more than just philosophical concept, or a bunch of dogmas to be believed and followed. While it does involve these things; there are philosophical concepts we adhere to and dogmas in which we believe, Christianity is so much more than just head knowledge we assent to. No, the Christian faith is at its very roots, a journey in relationship with God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. Jesus when He is teaching the disciples about prayer, says to them that God is their father, "Do not be like them (the Gentiles), for your *Father* knows what you need before you ask Him. Pray then like this: Our Father..." (Matthew 6:8-9a). Jesus assumes that God is our Father, which signifies a special kind of relationship we have with God of all creation... we are His children!

Our relationship with God is the most important relationship we have because it is the only relationship that lasts for eternity. And genuine, lively relationships are not stagnated but are ever growing and deepening. When I first dated Sindy, my wife, we started the journey with getting to know one another. At first, it was superficial but as time went on, we got to know each other more deeply and more intimately. This does not mean that at some point we reach the place where we know everything there is to know about each other. We are, as individuals, growing and changing. After many years of marriage, we are still growing and learning about each other. Our love for each other has grown deeper as we have grown more mature together. Our journey with God is a lot like that. The more we pray, study, and the more experiences we have with God we grow in depth and breadth in the knowledge and love of God. In this kind of journey in relationship, we have to be *intentional* in seeking God. It is hard to have a relationship with someone that you don't spend time with!

We have to stick to pursuing the faith in the good times and in the bad times. In fact, it is often the case that we grow stronger and deeper in faith during the tough times. What does it mean to grow with God, Father, Son, & Holy Spirit? Jesus provides Himself as the way the truth and the life. Christ is the source of all good and all life. In the Christian journey we are called to grow *in Christ*, not just to know him abstractly but to grow *in Him* to be like Him. In his book, *Invitation to a Journey: A Road Map for Spiritual Formation*, Robert Mulholland writes this, "The Christian journey is an intentional and continual commitment to a lifelong process of growth toward wholeness in Christ. It is a process of "growing up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ" (Eph 4:15), until we 'attain to mature personhood to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ' (Eph 4:13). It is for this purpose that God is present and active in every moment of our lives" (Mulholland 25). Mulholland defines this growth as spiritual formation and argues that "spiritual formation is a process of being formed in the image of Christ for the sake of others" (Mulholland 15).

The spiritual life is a journey in relationship and not just for the sake of self but *for the sake of others*. If you are interested in this topic and want more information, we are in the process of running our first of two Alpha programs. We would love to see you there. On the other hand, if you are looking for a resource that you would like to read then I recommend the book, *Invitation to a Journey: A Road Map for Spiritual Formation*, by Robert Mulholland. Our Lord calls us to His abundant life, one that is for us but more so, or others in our lives. Where are you on the journey? Mulholland, Robert M. *Invitation to a Journey: A Road Map for Spiritual Formation*. Downer Groves, Ill., Inter Varsity Press, expanded edition, 2016. ISBN 978-0-8308-4617-7 (print) (This book is also available on Amazon Kindle). **Fr. Deke +**



SEPTEMBER Birthdays

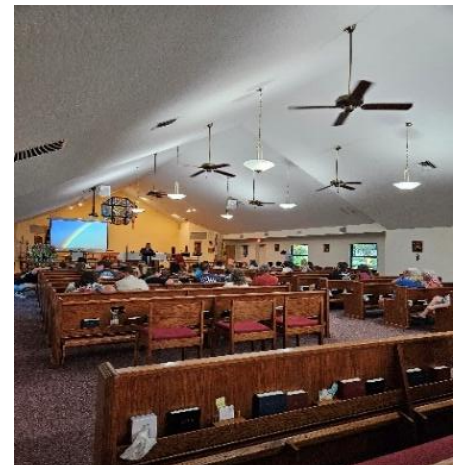
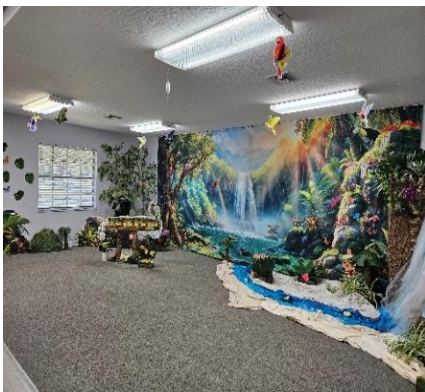
Linda Jakubowicz	2
Joan Capozzoli	3
Patricia Baisley	4
Carl Lum Shue Chan	6
Shirley Bhola	7
Gayle Murray	9
Marg Marble	12
James Hamilton	17
Dawn Curtis	19
Diane Crockett	20
Amy Vavra	20
Arjantin Benjamin	21
Michael Granger	21
Edna Palazzo	21
Michelle Donaldson	22
Jeanne Chiarmonte	23
Frank Montefusco	23
Addisyn Kapp	26
Emily Tobias	26
Joan Shute	27
Ermias Barnett	28
Dr. Holly Hamilton	29
Terry Bourgoin	30

SEPTEMBER Anniversaries

Ken & Lori Doolittle	1
Lloyd & Joyce Thomas	1
Richard J. & Darlene Kennedy	9
John & Dora Wunner	10
Chris & D. Elaine Kirkcaldy	13
Robert & Sandra Rose	13



***Vacation Bible School held in July was a great success!
We had 25 students sign up this year!
Looking forward to another great year VBS 2027!***



What is ALPHA ??

Alpha is an experience that unpacks the basics of the Christian faith in an open, friendly environment. It's for anyone who is curious, no matter their beliefs or background. Our **ALPHA** program began on Sunday, August 23rd and will end on Sunday, October 11th. If interested, come join us every Sunday 4pm-6pm in the Russell Bldg as we continue to learn more about **ALPHA**. We are also looking for volunteers to bring a quick & easy Dinner or Dessert to share for approximately 25 people to our **ALPHA** program. Please see signup sheet on bulletin board in Narthex.

Upcoming events....

PET BLESSING Saturday, October 3rd 10:00am ~ Church Parking Lot
Bring your pets! Come join us for this wonderful blessing!



ULTREYA

Ultreya Meeting & Potluck Dinner Friday, October 16th
Meeting at 6:00pm & Potluck Dinner



Treasure Sale (Episcopal Church Women ~ ECW)
Friday, October 23rd & Saturday, October 24th 8:00am - 1:00pm

*Donations will be accepted on Sunday, October 18th Noon - 3:00pm and
October 19th - October 21st 8:00am - Noon*

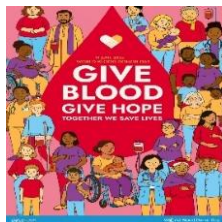
Start saving your Treasures!

BIG RED BUS coming to St. Elizabeth's Episcopal Church!

Sunday, October 25, 2026

*Blood Donation Hours 7:30am - 12:30pm
(before & after both services ~ church parking lot)*

Thank you for donating blood!



Save the Date!

Missions & Outreach Workshop ~ Wine & Cheese Reception

Saturday, November 21st

4:00pm - 6:00pm Russell Bldg

We are planning a wine/cheese reception on Saturday, November 21st. Come join the discussion on how we look outward with Missions & Outreach and ways the Endowment Fund helps the church. Plans are being made for 2027! Reminder... a donor has challenged us to raise money this year for the Endowment Fund and will match most donations through 2026. Ask a Clergy or a Finance Committee member for more details.

The Finance Committee

The Finance Committee and I want to keep everyone informed about the Church's financial situation. While we are doing better than originally forecasted; we are still facing a deficit of around \$30,000 for the year. We are a very busy church, and your financial support goes a long way in keeping our ministries vibrant and growing.

We also want everyone to know that every gift and pledge is greatly appreciated, but gifts and offerings through this summer have been slightly below what was budgeted. You can help with this by making sure that your contributions, pledged or not, are up to date. As the body of Christ, we each have a role in supporting the work that God is doing here among us. Thank you for all your love and support of St. Elizabeth's.

Finance Committee & Fr. Deke

Altar Guild

Just a brief note of thanks to all the great ladies working on Altar Guild. They quietly prepare our Altar for all our services on Sundays and weekdays. We keep our green hangings for the season of Epiphany and Pentecost until the first Sunday of Advent (Nov. 29) this year. Advent marks the beginning of the church calendar year and a change in the readings to Book B this year. Come join us!

Our longtime florist, Sherrie's, closed due to health issues. We have transferred our business to Paradise Florist in the Washington Plaza on Rt. 1 (Vic's Restaurant Plaza). Flowers have been beautiful! They have asked us to please return the vases if possible. ***If you receive a bouquet of Sunday flowers, please return the vase when the flowers are gone and leave it on the kitchen counter.*** They will pick it up when they deliver our flowers on Saturday. Blessings to all!

Linda Dean, Altar Guild Directress

A word from our Sr. Warden, Denise Roberts

Summer was a busy time as we planned for the upcoming year and prepared for Vacation Bible School (VBS). Our July VBS was exceptional! The children had a wonderful time learning about our Lord through science, play, Bible stories, Sticky Scriptures, and music. The evenings were filled with the sounds of laughter, conversation, and fun. I truly believe this was one of our best VBS programs yet! A huge thank you to Fr. Deke and all the volunteers who readily raised their hands to help. We were also delighted to welcome back several of our VBS graduates, who returned to volunteer!

A word from our Jr. Warden, Ken Dean

Goodbye Summer! Hello Fall! The worst of the summer heat is over! We're not ready for our winter jackets yet (*Autumn begins Sept. 22*) but we are through most of it. Our lawn and shrubs love the sun and the daily shower, keeping everything green and growing. Our guys have been starting earlier before the day gets too hot to work outside. Big thanks to them all! I was able to catch a picture of Barry Brown & David Bean. I will try to get photos of the rest of the crew for the next newsletter in November. Thank you to Ray Bhola, Guy McKenzie & Mike Millard for all their help every week during this brutal summer heat. Blessings to all!

