



"In my Father's house everyone cares about everyone else"
Matthew 20:28



St. Elizabeth's Episcopal Church

To share Christ who transforms lives.



Parish Profile 2021



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Rev 09-19-2021

LETTER FROM THE SEARCH COMMITTEE

God’s blessings to our Prospective Rector!

If you are reading this, you may sense that God is calling you to consider a new call to ministry.

We would like for you to take a close look at our vibrant community of faith and discern if the Lord may be calling you to be our next rector!

Our congregation is a warm and friendly community of Christ who are faithful believers to God’s word. Looking at all our ministries you would think we were a mega-church! Our ministries underscore our in-parish service as well as our many outreach projects.

We thank you for prayerfully considering becoming our new rector. If you are faithful to God’s word and willing to work alongside our devoted laity, we would love to begin a conversation with to determine if God is calling you to be our next Rector

“God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another” I Peter 4:10

The St. Elizabeth’s search committee



“God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another” I Peter 4:10

ST ELIZABETH’S IS OUR HOME

- A place where the Holy Spirit touches lives
- A warm welcoming church with a strong sense of community
- A church of active seniors and some families

Challenges at St. Elizabeth’s are not small - where we are challenged

- For parish growth and renewal that will support current programs and provide financial stability
- Support of ministries and development of programs that will attract young families and youth

To our new priest: are you called to our church? Is it you?



WHAT OUR PARISHONERS ARE SAYING

“More members”

“More growth”

“Young families to grow our parish”

“Continuing Bible studies”

Our youth responding to their survey were almost unanimous in requesting a youth message on Youth Sunday each month.

WHAT OUR PARISHONERS ARE SAYING

“A faithful leader”

“A priest filled with the spirit, strong enduring faith, bible knowledge”

“The children are important for the future of the church, the seniors are important to guide and teach, the rector should be able to help the church grow and be someone that is good with youth and with the elders. The welcoming and kindness of St Elizabeth’s should not change.”



WHAT WE SEEK IN A RECTOR

We are looking for

- An experienced Leader and faithful Bible teacher

“Show yourself in all respects to be a model of good works, and in your teaching show integrity, dignity,”

Titus 2:7

- Inspiring sermons that apply to everyday life
- A Priest who believes the Bible is God’s inspired Word
- A Shepherd who is supportive and compassionate an who can provide competent pastoral care
- A clergyperson with a lively personal spirituality and devotional life.
- A Rector who has demonstrated competence in ministry growth and youth development programs

“Heaven measures success by what a man does for others, not by what they do for him”
Matthew 20:26



St. Elizabeth’s Sanctuary

OUR MISSION AND VISION

MISSION STATEMENT: Encourage the faithful to seek out the lost and hurting. Empower them through the teachings of Jesus Christ and fill them with the power of the Holy Spirit.

STRENGTHS:

- ◇ We are a welcoming and friendly parish
- ◇ Our goal is to share the love of Christ.
- ◇ Our parish is biblically grounded.
- ◇ We gather for worship at two services on Sunday mornings.
- ◇ Our parish is strongly connected to the Diocese of Central Florida.
- ◇ We have active ministries that aid in many areas of need throughout the community.
- ◇ We share our facility with service groups from the community.
- ◇ We are spiritually fed by several weekly Bible studies.

VISION STATEMENT: To share Christ who transforms lives.

INSIDE STORY HEADLINE



BRIEF HISTORY OF ST. ELIZABETH'S



In the spring of 1984, The Very Reverend David Lord, with the support of his congregation, Trinity Episcopal Church in Vero Beach, FL, established St. Elizabeth's Mission. Father Morgan Gray was called to become the first Vicar.

Later that year, on October 21, the first service was held at the Masonic Lodge in Sebastian with 76 people in attendance. The number grew to 161 people attending the Christmas service. The establishment of the congregation had begun.

In the New Year, 1985, the Mission was officially established. Twelve faithful people were elected to the Vestry, and they chose the name of John the Baptist's mother, Elizabeth, as the name for the new Mission.

The Diocese of Central Florida purchased 3.25 acres on October 12, 1986. Bishop Herbert Edmundson broke ground and the new building was started. The construction was complete in less than six months.

The first service was held in the new building in March 1987. St. Elizabeth's was now a reality and continues to be welcomed by the community today.

As the New Year was rung in January 1991, a celebration was coming. St. Elizabeth's became an independent parish; the mortgage was burned much to the delight of the congregation.

April 1993 brought many changes. A major addition to the sanctuary and the Russell Education building which includes the parish hall, was built. The addition enlarged the sanctuary, added a narthex, a small chapel, memorial garden and a columbarium. This was much needed for the growing congregation.

In June 2009, it was time for a roof replacement. All buildings were able to be completed thanks to generous help from the congregation.

OUR FACILITIES

Our Church, St. Elizabeth's, sits in a park like setting within a residential neighborhood of Sebastian. Surrounded by three acres of lawn and trees, the buildings and grounds are welcoming to all and we have room to grow.

Attending worship in the Sanctuary at St. Elizabeth's, people often comment how they feel welcomed and a lively sense of the presence of the Holy Spirit can be felt during service. We have pew seating for over 200 people, an audio visual booth and most services are projected on a screen and sermons posted online. The choir and organist are behind the altar.

The attached administrative wing includes a sacristy, the rector's office, the finance office and two additional offices. The recently refurbished conference room is comfortable for small meetings. Our kitchen was remodeled in 2017 with new countertops, fixtures and commercial grade refrigerators.

An adjacent building, houses the parish hall and four classrooms as well as a youth room. Here we hold parish meetings and host many events including dinners, memorial receptions, coffee hours, our annual fashion show, soup supper during Lent and other social events. Our youth meet here for Sunday school, youth gatherings and vacation Bible school. Our chartered scout groups and other outside organizations also use this facility.

Upkeep and renovations over the years are generously provided with the time and treasures of our parish family. Recent fundraising has provided for the refurbished kitchen, replacement LED lights, new front doors to the administrative wing and this year a new flower garden and lawn tractor. The playground and repainting of the buildings were both scout projects.

"For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ."

1 Cor. 3:11

Fellowship with an Impact

Other groups and outreach events: Knitting group that made prayer shawls and robes, Shrove Tuesday pancake suppers, spaghetti dinner fundraisers, Pet blessings at our Fall festivals, Men's breakfast and study fellowship, quarterly quarters fundraiser.



From Jessica

My favorite memory is when my children Jackson and Mary, were baptized and I was confirmed at St. Elizabeth's. I had been raised Catholic but was not feeling great about our experience with other places of worship in the area. I really wanted to find a place where my children could find their faith and get to know God. Father Dave was so welcoming at our first meeting, and even though we started here just over a year ago, it already feels like a family to us! Couldn't be happier with our church and grateful for His presence in our lives everyday!



OUR FINANCES

We are blessed that our parishioners are supportive of their church giving of their time, talent and treasure. If an unexpected need arises, there always seems to be generous support from the congregation.

“Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver” Corinthians 9:7

Financial Summary

	2018	2019	2020	2021 Budget
Total Rev	184,921	204,322	187,804	175,865
Operating Exp	193,665	195,190	137,174	184,062
Repair & Renovation	10,493	7,346	-0	-0
Total Expense	204,158	202,536	137,174	184,062

DISCUSSION OF FINANCIALS

Air conditioner replacements increased expenses in 2018 and 2019 by \$17,839 combined. A Paycheck Protection Program grant increased 2020 revenue by \$19,750. This was a loan that was forgiven.

The pandemic and ongoing Covid issues have affected our P&L and budget: attendance is down and we have lost members. However, we remain in the black and are building reserves. As of August 31, 2021, the cash balances of operating funds and reserves were \$158,831.

The vestry is currently working on establishing an endowment fund. We received an undesignated endowment (not included above) and want to use these monies to establish and promote a growing endowment resource.

We are in good standing with the Diocese of Central Florida. The St. Elizabeth family continues to strive to be good stewards of all resources entrusted to us.

PARISH WORSHIP

Before Covid-19 our average Sunday attendance in 2019 was 137. Like many Florida congregations our visitors from the North increase our numbers during the winter months.

- ◇ The Sunday 8:00 am service is Rite I with no music.
- ◇ There is coffee hour after each service with a Bible study between services led by the Rector.
- ◇ The Sunday 10:00 am service is Rite II with music, nursery and Sunday school.
- ◇ Every third Sunday is Youth Sunday, with our children having an active role in worship most Sundays. Daughters of the King provide individual prayer during communion.
- ◇ From fall to late spring there is an informal Wednesday service at 10:00 am with a teaching following. A variety of liturgies are used at this service.
- ◇ During Lent we have Soup Suppers on Wednesday evenings with a teaching led by the Rector.
- ◇ There are also several in home Bible Study groups.



WORSHIP SERVICE SUPPORT

“The one who is taught the word is to share all good things with the one who teaches him.” Galatians 6:6

Deacon
Music Leader
Organist
Choir
Lectors, Lay Eucharistic Ministers, Acolytes, Ushers and Altar Guild
Prayer Team
Lay Eucharistic Visitors
Audio/Visual Team



2021 Update

St. Elizabeth's remains open welcoming worshipers to our two Sunday services. Average Sunday attendance has been approximately 75 throughout the summer. Our music and Sunday School programs continue. We have lost some parishioners and some have not returned because of safety concerns. Sermons are being posted on YouTube with a link from our web site and we continue to mail monthly newsletters.

We are Blessed that Fr. Norm, our supply priest, ministers to us on Sundays and helps with an extra day during the week. Deacon Lori has returned and is assisting with services and outreach.

We are beautifying the outside of our church this year with a totally renovated church garden with fencing and plantings creating an attractive memorial garden. Ministries that are active include this past summer's Vacation Bible School, Helping Hands and The Source.

Post service coffee socials have restarted, office angels and grounds crew remain active, and DOK and ECW have resumed meetings. We look forward to some form of "normality" and the return of parishioners for the remainder of 2021.

WHO AND WHAT IS ST. ELIZABETH'S

Most of our parishioners have joined St. Elizabeth's within the last 10 years and fifteen percent within the last three years. From our recent survey, the number one reason people give for joining St Elizabeth's is "Our church has an open and welcoming spirit and I have a sense of belonging."

The parish demographics reflect the Sebastian community with a mix of working families with children but mostly retirees. Much of our recent growth comes from retirees who have migrated to this area. Because of our lovely weather and small town feel we also have northern visitors who describe St. Elizabeth's as their "church home away from home." Our parishioners agree our primary challenges for St Elizabeth's are a clear path forward that includes growth in numbers and in finances, and connecting with younger families.

In addition to our deacon and volunteers, our current paid staff are all part-time and consists of an administrative assistant, a bookkeeper, an organist and a nursery attendant. We have dedicated lay people who donate their time and skills and more than 30 of our parishioners serve in various Eucharistic duties.



SEBASTIAN, FLORIDA

A PART OF THE "TREASURE COAST" OF FLORIDA

Discover the natural splendor and rich history of Sebastian along the Florida central Atlantic coast. The city of Sebastian is located in Indian River County between Melbourne and Vero Beach. The area is known as the "Treasure Coast". A shipwreck from the 1715 Spanish Plate Fleet left many treasures along the coast that treasure hunters continue to search the shoreline for today.

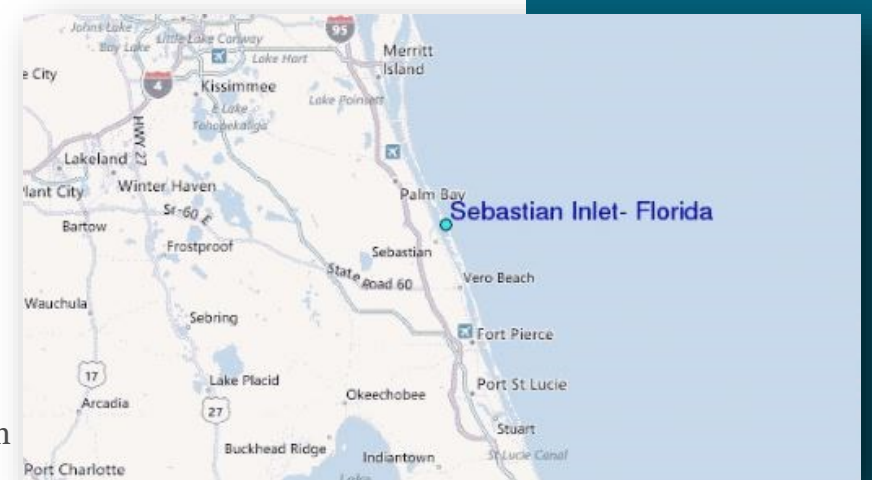
Sebastian is home to Pelican Island, America's 1st National Wildlife Refuge, known for its unspoiled beauty with over 130 species of birds. The St. Sebastian River Preserve State Park, part of the Great Florida Birding Trail, is considered one of the top birding locations in the United States. Archie Carr National Wildlife Refuge, a 248 acre refuge was designated to protect habitat for what is a significant area for loggerhead and green sea turtle nesting.

With more than 10 unique nearby beaches to choose from, families can spend the day reconnecting over simple pleasures like sandcastle building and beach picnics. In the Indian River Lagoon on and on the St. Sebastian River you will find waterways perfect for fishing, boating, kayaking, and paddle boarding.

Enjoy the view of the Intracoastal Waterway while dining at a waterfront restaurant. Attend concerts, festivals, craft shows and the now famous Sebastian Clambake at the city's River-view Park.

Medical services in the Sebastian area include two primary medical facilities, Sebastian River Medical Center and the Cleveland Clinic Indian River Hospital. The school system has some quality institutions with charter, private and public primary and secondary schools.

Residents of the City of Sebastian prefer sunrises to high-rises with an approximate population of 26,000. It is predominately a family community with a mix of young and not so young families. Sebastian prides itself on maintaining the old fishing village feel with a thriving business community that attracts visitors from far and wide.



COMMUNITY EVENTS

Our friendly church has hosted many different events throughout the years, some of them include: IRCSSO deputy presentation on identity theft, VNA health screenings for blood pressure, memory care screening, a 12 week Healthy Living Seminar and hosting boy scout and girl scout troops as well as Al-Anon and BNI.



ECW FUND RAISERS

The ECW organizes and sponsors many events throughout the church year hosting memorial receptions, social events and fund raising projects in support of our church mission.

One popular event is our annual Fashion Show and Tea, sold out every year. Combined with a luncheon, laughter and comradery, “models” from three to 80 years parade their treasure finds from local thrift stores!

Our major fund raiser is the annual Treasure Sale. This two-day event brings together many volunteers, men and women, and it takes all week to prepare: sorting, pricing, and organizing. In addition to “treasures” we have a bake sale and serve breakfast sandwiches and also lunch on the grill.

These events provide an opportunity for people from both services to interact with each other and strengthen our relationships. This event brings many visitors to our church and some have come back for services. The fellowship we enjoy in doing the Lord’s work is priceless.

ECW



VESTRY

The Vestry has nine members that serve for three years and are elected on a rotating basis. The vestry is fully involved in the workings of the parish in support of our rector. Our current vestry consists of:

- Laurel Matthews, Senior Warden
- Rick Zarembo
- Denise Roberts, Secretary
- Janet Farmer
- Pat Cleary
- Ash Badger, Junior Warden
- Jim Bonet
- Bill Curtis
- Diane Garrison



SEARCH COMMITTEE

The Search Committee consists of seven members representing our parish-ioners including two vestry members. The Search Committee consists of:

- | | |
|----------------------|----------------|
| Gina Anderson, Chair | Margo Barney |
| Valerie Nubi-Collins | Bill Curtis |
| Linda Dean | Diane Garrison |
| Carol Pasquarosa | |



“For You are
my rock and
my fortress;
Therefore, for
Your name’s
sake, lead me
and guide me.
Psalm 31:3

VBS



FELLOWSHIP, MINISTRIES AND GROUPS

CRAFT GROUP

This group meets on Tuesday mornings; their on-going project is to make plastic mats for the homeless to keep their bedding off the ground. These mats are crocheted from plastic grocery bags. The group also does other crafts in support of VBS, the annual ladies tea, and other projects for the church.



KIRB - KEEP INDIAN RIVER BEAUTIFUL

About five years ago several parish members looked for an out-reach program in the community where they could volunteer their time. KIRB is a non-profit whose mission is to unite the community through environmental responsibility. On Saturday mornings, once a quarter, we gather at our half mile long designated site on the lagoon shoreline to pick up trash and recycle as much as possible. Usually 8 – 14 people volunteer a few hours on these Saturday mornings.



HELPING HANDS

This is a new ministry that is still evolving. Several men have banded together to lend a hand to parish members in need of help for small household repairs. For example, we have fixed sprinkler heads, installed a doorbell camera and repaired a broken door and soffits. We hope to expand this ministry with more volunteers and funding to cover material costs.



FELLOWSHIP, MINISTRIES AND GROUPS

THE SOURCE

The Source is a soup kitchen plus that serves the homeless of Indian River County with food, training and shower facilities. St. Elizabeth’s provides support that includes a hot meal on a quarterly basis along with goody bags of snacks, personal items, etc. The meal is served by our parishioners including church youth and DOK sisters who provide individual prayer support.

OFFICE ANGELS

This group volunteers to have someone in the church office Monday through Thursday mornings to help with reception, readings and bulletin folding, tidying the conference room, sanctuary and narthex, and many other miscellaneous duties.

FOOD PANTRY

We support the local ecumenical food pantry with donations of food, funding and volunteer time. Food items are collected Sundays and donated to the pantry.

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

“Many hands make light work” is often quoted when our grounds team get together early Wednesday mornings. Mowing, trimming and landscaping chores are quickly completed keeping our grounds attractive.

THIS IS US



FELLOWSHIP, MINISTRIES AND GROUPS

Seventy-five percent of our parishioners are involved in three or more in-reach or outreach ministries.

“As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God’s varied grace:” 1 Peter 4:10

DAUGHTERS OF THE KING (DOK)

“Powerful in prayer, caring and interactive” best describes St Elizabeth’s 5 year old chapter of the DOK. They are 15 members strong and eager to participate in the lives of our brothers and sisters both inside and outside of our parish community. Ministries include personal prayer and interaction in our chapel after communion and recognizing parishioners’ birthdays and anniversaries with personal cards. Since Covid isolated many of our seniors, DOK sisters have been reaching out with monthly phone calls to the home-bound.



EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN (ECW)

The ECW purpose is to deepen the spiritual life of church women and to enlist their active support of the whole program. That is the main focus. In addition we take our responsibility to support ministry and mission in the world seriously. We are also a resource for the parish by hosting several events to raise funds in support of St. Elizabeth’s needs.



CURSILLO

We have about twenty-six Cursillistas, approximately nineteen are active. Several are active on weekends. Cursillo Reunion Group is held on a monthly basis and Ultreya once per quarter. Kay DiStefano and Carol Pasquarosa are our co-coordinators. **De Colores!**

OUR YOUTH

Our parish family agree that children and youth need to remain a first concern at St. Elizabeth’s with growth and development of new programs. Children’s religious education and formation is ranked second in our church’s priorities.

Our Sunday School meets during Sunday service and joins the congregation during the peace. Most Sundays also have children serving on the altar. The Sunday school kids entertain the congregation with a Christmas pageant every year and a performance from their summer VBS. Our middle school/high school youth group meets weekly for fellowship and does bible studies on timely issues such as emotions, dating, parents, and prayer and worship. They are a close knit, fun, and energetic group of seven kids and they help with ministries such as The Source and lay ministries. They also have fellowship events outside of the church a few times a year such as going to the bowling alley, the movies and pool parties.



SOUP MINISTRY

Looking for a way to touch hearts, three parishioners established the soup pantry. Homemade soups are provided for the ill, bereaved, just moved or anyone who might need a lift. Occasional Sunday soup sales have also raised money for VBS, flowers and other projects around the church.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL (VBS)

We annually hold a VBS, free of charge, for children in the community from kindergarten through middle school. A lot of work and planning transform the church into a fun and exciting place for children to learn the word of God!

As many as 50 children have attended our evening program that includes dinner followed by lessons, activity and music. This program is hosted by volunteers from the congregation including some of our high school aged kids. The program culminates Friday evening with a music presentation for staff and parents followed by an ice cream social.

