

SEPTEMBER 2025

Inside this issue:

Birthdays & Anniversaries 2

Announcements & Events 2-4

St. Elizabeth's Episcopal Church



The Epistle to the Elizabethans

A WORD FROM OUR NEW RECTOR FR. DEKE MILLER



*Rejoice always, pray without ceasing,
give thanks in all circumstances;
for this is the will of God
in Christ Jesus for you.*

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Sindy and I along with our two daughters are so thankful to the family of St. Elizabeth's Episcopal Church. Our transition from Winter Haven to Sebastian was an adventure. We are so happy and blessed to be here! We want to thank everyone for all the welcome cards, for those who came out to help us unpack, the meals, and for just the overall welcome that we received.

I have been reflecting on the topic of "gratitude" and why it is important to give thanks even in challenging circumstances. It reminded me of a personal experience. In 2017 when I was the director of Camp Wingmann, we experienced the wrath of Hurricane Irma. The eye of the storm came over Avon Park and literally tore sections of that community apart.

Camp Wingmann suffered significant damage. We lost one entire building and the unrelenting rain flooded another. We had several large trees fall and the debris was at least an inch deep throughout the property. To add to the misery, there was a bad lightning storm which hit the well and blew out the pump. Not a lot of fun for sure.

On the following Sunday we attended the local Episcopal Church where Fr. Bill Yates was serving. There in the Church with no power, no A/C, a small group gathered to worship and to pray. Fr. Bill asked us "what is one thing you are thankful for right now?"

It seemed like a cold question to ask in light of the fact that some of the people in the room had significant damage to their homes and were days without power. It turned out to be the right question to ask for it put our thoughts and prayers in the right vein. Paul tells us to be thankful in all circumstances. I learned a lesson of what that means. What was I thankful for? I was the first to blurt out an answer, "His people... I am thankful for His people". I cannot tell you how many people from the community and around the Diocese came out to help us clean and reset the camp.

The company that serviced the well made a special trip out to repair the well so that we could host a youth retreat that was scheduled.

In the community people were helping each other, providing for many needs, repairing buildings, cleaning debris, especially for the elderly. God worked miracles through His people. Yes, I know moving is not equivalent to a hurricane but giving thanks puts our hearts in the right place.

My family and I are so thankful for the people of St. Elizabeth's for all your love and support of us in our transition. I am excited about what God has in store for us in the months and years ahead. God Bless!

Sincerely,
Fr. Deke and Sindy Miller

September Birthdays

Joan Capozzoli	3
Carl Lum Shue Chan	6
Shirley Bhola	7
Gayle Murray	9
Marg Marble	12
Dawn Curtis	19
Diane Crockett	20
Amy Vavra	20
Arjantin Benjamin	21
Edna Palazzo	21
Jeanne Chiarmonte	23
Frank Montefusco	23
Emily Tobias	26
Joan Shute	27
Terry Bourgoin	30

September Anniversaries

Lloyd & Joyce Thomas	1
Richard J. & Darlene Kennedy	9
John & Dora Wunner	10
Chris & D. Elaine Kirkcaldy	13

WELCOME BACK....HOPE YOU HAD A GREAT SUMMER!

On July 1, 2025 St. Elizabeth's welcomes "*New Full Time Rector*" **FR. DEKE MILLER!**
Fr. Deke & his wife, Sindy relocated from Winter Haven. Stop by and say "HELLO" to Fr. Deke!

**St. Elizabeth's Vacation Bible School ~ A Week of Faith, Fun & Fellowship**

Every July St. Elizabeth's Church opens its doors to children, volunteers, & families for its much anticipated Vacation Bible School (VBS). This cherished tradition brings together the community for a week filled with faith based learning, joyful activities, & lasting memories. This year's VBS was no exception. Offering an enriching experience for all who participated. The 2025 theme "*True North*" invited children to embark on a journey of faith & guiding them to discover how God's word serves as a compass in their lives. St. Elizabeth's VBS would not be possible without the dedicated volunteers who plan, organize, & lead each activity. Teens & adults from the parish devoted countless hours to creating a safe and welcoming environment for all attendees. Their enthusiasm and commitment set a wonderful example of servant leadership! A huge "**THANK YOU**" to all the parishioners who gave of their time & donations! It's a testament to the vibrancy & generosity of the St. Elizabeth's community!

Denise Roberts, VBS Director



SEPTEMBER 2025

SATURDAY MAINTENANCE DAY

Due to scheduling issues we are going to add “Saturdays” to our weekly volunteer work days for those who work or otherwise are not available during the week. We would like to have a “Saturday” option. This began on Saturday, September 6th. It will not affect our weekly Tuesday volunteer work day. If you have any questions please reach out to Guy McKenzie or call the church office.

ULTREYA MEETING ~ Friday, September 12th at 6:00pm

WE NEED A WELCOMING COMMITTEE

We are looking to form a “Welcoming Committee” approximately 3 - 4 people. What a great way to “WELCOME” visitors to St. Elizabeth’s. There will be a meeting for all USHERS and OFFICE ANGELS

Sunday, September 14th 11:00am to Noon in the Sanctuary



Daughters of the King (DOK) Meeting - Sunday, September 14th 11:00am ~ Library



Episcopal Church Women ~ ECW

Welcome Back! Hope you all had a great Summer! Our next ECW meeting will be on Saturday, September 20th at 10:00am. We are having a Special speaker from **Care Net Pregnancy Center** from Indian River County.



Suggested items needed Diapers, Wipes, Strollers, Cribs, Baby Clothes
Please see bulletin board for more donation items needed as it becomes available.

Donations will be accepted on Sunday, September 21st - Sunday, October 5th.

Please place all donations in the box located in the Angel Office. For more information see bulletin board or you may visit their website at carenetchampions.org Thank you for your support!

FRIENDSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING - Sunday, September 21st at 9:15am ~ Library

EPISCOPAL 101 CLASS ON SERVICE/CHURCH

Sunday, September 21st 11:30am to 12:30pm in the Sanctuary. This will be held by the Clergy.

Come join us as they explain “What we do and Why we do it”?

APPRECIATION BREAKFAST MAINTENANCE & HELPING HANDS

Saturday, September 27th at 8:00am ~ Russell Bldg

****SAVE THE DATES****

PET BLESSING - Saturday, October 4th (St. Francis Day) at 10:00am ~ Church Parking Lot

Bring your pets and come join us for this wonderful blessing of our pets!

STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN “Living the Life of Gratitude”

Sunday, October 5th - Sunday, November 9th! *More details will follow...*

CELEBRATION OF NEW MINISTRY/CONFIRMATION/BISHOP VISIT

Sunday, October 19, 2025 ~ 9:00am ~ Rite II (*only one service*) following a luncheon after celebration

TREASURE SALE

Friday, October 24th & Saturday, October 25th 8:00am - 1:00pm

Volunteers are needed. See bulletin board for more details as they become available! Start saving your Treasures!

A special THANK YOU from Fr. Norman & Barbara Desrosiers*Fr. Norman's Farewell Brunch held on Sunday, June 22nd*

Scripture reminds us that for everything there is a season. I now realize that retirement is one of those seasons. St. Elizabeth's church has been so gracious to Barbara and I. I will always cherish the ministry I shared with each of you.

For those wondering how Barbara is doing...she has appointments scheduled with her doctors who will consider the way forward for her health. She has been doing much better since my retirement from the church and the zoo. Although her energy level is down, her spirits are up as she looks toward enjoying change in the future. I sometimes get itchy and think it is time to find something new to keep me busy but, then I pause, and know that I should focus on her health and things around the house.

When I reflect back to my "farewell" Sunday I find myself very humbled by the love that you all share. I can't express the joy and love I felt when reading so many cards. You surely did bring me tears. Your generosity will always remain part of who I am wherever God leads in the future. Thank you so much for the generous gifts that were presented that Sunday. I was recently sent a picture of the bench from your Jr. Warden, Guy McKenzie. I must say you know how to take it over the top. **(see picture below)**



I hope to be with you in the future. I have already added Fr. Deke Miller's Celebration of New Ministry to my calendar. If I don't see you before then I plan to be with you on that Sunday. May God continue to bless each and every one of you as you journey on this new ministry he has presented. You will remain in our heart and prayers for an exciting future to come. **"oh the places you will go!"**

A message from our Sr. Warden, Denise Bersos

Philippians 4:13 "I can do all things through him who strengthens me." Greetings as we enter the Fall season. St. Elizabeth's church family has been blessed in so many ways this Summer. My hope is that most of you have met our new Rector, Fr. Deke, his wife Sindy and their family. Fr. Deke has blended into our fold and is leading us into a new era of growth as we reach out to other Christians in creative ways. If you have not spent time with Fr. Deke as of yet, please reach out and set a time to meet with him. He is excited to get to know each one of us. VBS was a huge success in July. Each year the kids get fed with the commitment of love our volunteers bring to the table. Look for the announcements for next year and come join in the fun. Moving forward there are a lot of events coming up. Mark your calendars..." the Bishop is coming, the Bishop is coming!" Bishop Holcomb will be with us on Sunday, October 19th at 9:00am, Rite II one service only on this day. I personally am so grateful for St. Elizabeth's Church. I want to thank each of you, my family, for your presence in my life. We are a strong and loving body of Christ. The day I walked in the doors of St. Elizabeth's I felt welcomed and cared for. If you have been thinking about becoming more involved I encourage you to pray about where your special gifts could be used to help us bring the light of Christ to others. Please reach out to Fr. Deke and he will guide you into ministries that will be a blessing for you and others. Let us do all things together with Christ who strengthens us. **God Bless You, Denise Bersos**

A message from our Jr. Warden, Guy McKenzie

It has been a hot and humid summer. Our maintenance and grounds team has been a little short handed but has done a wonderful job maintaining our campus. A big THANK YOU goes out to all our Maintenance and "Helping Hands" team for a job well done. We are planning an Appreciation Breakfast for our Maintenance and Helping Hands on Saturday, September 27th at 8:00am

We have seen a big change this summer with Fr. Norm retiring and the arrival of our new Rector, Fr. Deke. Change is good with small steps. It brings new ideas, new life and enthusiasm. I see a lot of new things happening here at STE. It brings excitement and joy to my heart. **God Bless You All, Guy McKenzie**

