

JANUARY 2026

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St. Elizabeth's Episcopal Church



The Epistle to the Elizabethans

A WORD FROM FR. DEKE MILLER



New Year, New Beginning? Really?

People often see New Year's Day as a time of new beginnings, time to start a diet that many have pushed down the line of time, or a time to begin exercising more. It is very common for Gyms to have an influx of people in January and then as the first couple of months go by to see a majority of new people less and less. Why is this so? Why do people often make new year resolutions? Why do so many people fail to carry them out and think our intentions are right but our wills are not all that strong. Often times we do not have the power within us to make the core changes in order to carry out our intentions.

This is why we need God so much. I started here at St. Elizabeth's back in July, and I still feel like I am getting my feet on the ground. I am enjoying this time of getting to know everyone and all that we do as a Church. As this New Year begins, I pray that God will bless each of you richly. Cindy and I are so thankful to be here serving God with you.

I decided a few years ago to stop making New Year resolutions. If I need to change something, then I change it whether it is my diet or the amount of exercise or whatever it may be. For us as Christians God moves in us to change and transform us when His time is right. The trick for us is to stop and be still long enough to hear and to know when that time is and what needs to change.

Recently, I believe, God made it clear that I need to change my diet in order to get healthier. With God's help I found a doctor who is aiding me in this process.

Now, for me personally, the New Year is a good time for me to stop and take inventory on myself. To do some self examination and find those places I need to surrender to God. It is also a time to focus on all that we studied and reflected during the Advent and Christmas seasons.

Did you know that the secular New Years Day falls during our twelve days of Christmas? Have you reflected on what it really means for God to have become one of us? What in your life needs to be brought to Jesus this day?

May God bless you all in this Christmas and Epiphany season!

Sincerely,

Fr. Deke & Cindy Miller

JANUARY Birthdays

Athena Adams	2
Chrissie Grimison	3
Robert Bodeau	4
Judy Mastro	11
Laura Goodger	15
Mitch Kapp	15
Carol Pasquarosa	17
Guy McKenzie	19
George Shedler	20
Ken Marble	21
Amanda Watson	22
Mary Jane Ingui	23
Sherry Anderson	28
Jim Bonet	29

JANUARY Anniversaries

Jonathan & Lorraine (Rai) Childs	8
Ken & Diana Iverson	16
Robert & Roberta Bodeau	21
Chester Alfonso & Valerie Nubi-Collins	22

CELEBRATION OF NEW MINISTRY/CONFIRMATION & BISHOP VISIT

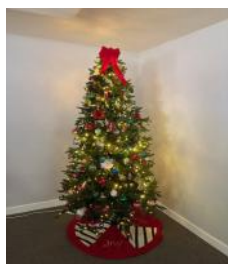
*On Sunday, November 2nd we celebrated Fr. Deke's New Ministry at St. Elizabeth's!
Allison N. Brown, Addisyn Kapp and Coralynn Kapp were Confirmed.
We welcomed The Rt. Reverend Justin S. Holcomb, Bishop
of The Episcopal Diocese of Central Florida.*





JANUARY 2026

Christmas Birthday Party for Jesus/Christmas Play held on Sunday, December 21, 2025



THANK YOU to all who donated to Santa for Seniors & Toys for Tots in December 2025! It was greatly appreciated.



MEN'S MONTHLY BREAKFAST held on Saturday, December 13th at Marsh Landing Restaurant in Fellsmere. Every third Saturday at 8:00am. A gathering of men for a time of breakfast & fellowship. Each person is responsible for paying their own breakfast. Come join us at our next men's monthly breakfast on Saturday, January 17, 2026 at Riverwalk Café on US-1 in Sebastian.



CHRISTMAS STOCKING It's time to turn in your 2025 Christmas Stocking full of coins, or you may write a check payable to St. Elizabeth's Episcopal Church ECW. Please don't forget to pick up your **2026** Christmas Stocking in January located in the Narthex.

ULTREYA POTLUCK DINNER/MEETING ~ Friday, January 16, 2026

Potluck Dinner 5:00pm followed by an Ultreya Meeting at 6:00pm in the Russell Bldg.

Please bring a side dish or dessert to share. See sign up sheet on bulletin board.

A message from our Sr. Warden...

John 13:34-35 *"I give you a new commandment that you love one another. Just as I have loved you and you should love one another. Everyone will know that you are my disciples if you have love for one another."*

I have heard it said many times around our church that **"St. Elizabeth's Church is Sebastian's best kept secret."** The time might be now to let the best kept secret out. Blow the Trumpets and bring others into our fold! God has blessed us with a full time Priest and he is our most valuable asset. Fr. Deke and his family moved here to spread the love of Christ to Sebastian. As a church we are in transition going from a part time Priest to a full time Priest. On Sunday, January 25, 2026 will be our Annual Meeting. We will be going over the budget. We are inviting you to jump in the middle of the boat with us bringing your talents, time, ideas and treasures during this transition (**storm**). Jesus promises to calm the storm as long as we keep our eyes on him. We are all part of the body of Christ and we all belong! I would like to thank the Vestry for their support, hard work, and discernment this year. My heart is full of gratitude to this amazing group of people. As we move forward we will have a new Sr. Warden, Jr. Warden, and three new Vestry members as Guy McKenzie, Alice Stone and myself go off the Vestry. If you have an interest to be on the Vestry for the next three years, please reach out to Fr. Deke **before** the annual meeting. Let's celebrate the love Jesus gives each of us and share this love with each other as well as the people of Sebastian. Thank you & God Bless each of you!

Denise Bersos, Sr. Warden

A word from our Jr. Warden

It's hard to believe that 2025 is now behind us. It's been a very busy year that has seen a lot of changes for us - the biggest change is having a full time Rector. I think this is a wonderful step in the right direction. I pray this will help us grow to our full potential. I see our ministries growing already. We now have a Men's Breakfast group that meets once a month with great fellowship happening. I would like to thank all the volunteers that keep St Elizabeth's running.

Our maintenance volunteers have been very busy this year. I see the grounds looking good. We have worked hard to improve our curb appearance and it shows. We now have a "Building & Grounds Committee" to oversee our needs and make recommendations to Vestry. This is my last month as Jr. Warden because my term on the Vestry ends next month. I have enjoyed serving as your Jr. Warden for the past two years. I look forward to wonderful things happening here at St. Elizabeth's in 2026. Thank you and God Bless.

Guy McKenzie, Jr. Warden

The ECW Christmas meeting and luncheon held on Saturday, December 20th was enjoyed by all. After the meeting we played Trivia. We had our "left/right" ornament exchange then enjoyed our delicious lunch prepared by Guy McKenzie and the crew, Fr. Deke, Ken Dean and John Flockhart. We look forward to seeing you next year!

ECW Luncheon Committee

