

MAY 2025

Inside this issue:

Birthdays &
Anniversaries 2

Announcements 2-4
& Events

St. Elizabeth's Episcopal Church



The Epistle to the Elizabethans

A WORD FROM FR. NORM.....



With the onset of the month of May, I am always reminded that this is the traditional planting season as we prepare the gardens and get the plants ready to go into the ground. Growing up in New England, we were finally assured that we had passed the last of the frost and the ground was warming and ready to receive the new growth of the season.

The first of May is also celebrated as May Day in many locations. I often wondered about its beginnings so I turned to Wikipedia for help. Here is what I found: "The earliest May Day celebrations appeared in pre-Christian times, with the festival of Flora, the Roman Goddess of flowers, and the Walpurgis Night celebrations of the Germanic countries. It is also associated with the Gaelic Beltane.

Many pagan celebrations were abandoned or Christianized during the process of conversion in Europe. A more secular version of May Day continues to be observed in Europe and America. In this form, May Day may be best known for its tradition of dancing the Maypole and crowning the Queen of May.

Various Neopagan groups celebrate reconstructed (to varying degrees) versions of these customs on May the 1st. The day was a traditional summer holiday in many pre-Christian European pagan cultures. While February 1 was the first day of Spring, May 1 was the first day of summer; hence, the summer solstice on June 25 (now June 21) was Midsummer. In the Roman Catholic tradition, May is observed as Mary's month, and in these circles May Day is usually a celebration of the Blessed Virgin Mary. In this connection, in works of art, school skits, and so forth, Mary's head will often be adorned with flowers in a May crowning. Fading in popularity since the late 20th century is the giving of "May baskets," small baskets of sweets and/or flowers, usually left anonymously on neighbors' doorsteps."

It is interesting how many pagan ceremonies transformed into Christian celebrations over the years. The church has given honor to Mary in the month of May in celebration for all she contributed to salvation history.

Easter has just been celebrated, so maybe we should focus on the life of our Lord and give Mary her due on this first day of May. I guess that may be a contributing factor to the celebration of Mother's Day on May 11th. We honor the role of mothers everywhere for their sacrifices and unconditional love in the family.

I hope we can pause this month to remember that, as new life begins in the garden of many of our houses, so also new life begins with the mothers among us. Let us celebrate with mothers everywhere and rejoice in God who gives this wonder of life to us all.

Fr. Norman +

MAY Birthdays

Pam McKenzie	2
Bonny Wilson	8
Debbie Trickett	9
Linda Dean	16
Linda Pelchy	24
Diane Garrison	26
Denise Bersos	28
Betty McNutt	29
Pete Cleary	31

MAY Anniversaries

Jerome & Athena Adamas	7
Frank & Bernice Montefusco	7
John & Chrissie Grimison	20
Fr. Norman & Barbara Desrosiers	31

**BAKELESS BAKE SALE**

St. Elizabeth's is presenting their annual Bakeless Bake Sale. Consider the cost of your special cake & time to bake. No muss no fuss just a need met. Cash & Checks are accepted and can be made out to St. Elizabeth's ECW. Please indicate Bakeless Bake Sale on memo line on your check. All donations are due in by Sunday, May 25th.

Monday, May 26th ~ Church Offices will be closed



MAY 2025

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



VBS is coming *July 14-18* for all kids in Grades K-8. Volunteers are needed! Please see bulletin board for Volunteer sign up! More details will follow at a later date!

CAMP WINGMANN SUMMER CAMP

Camp Wingmann Summer Camp in Avon Park, Florida

for students in Grades 3-12

For more information please visit

www.campwingmann.org or call 863-453-4800

God is an Equal Opportunity Employer ~ HELP WANTED

10am SUNDAYS

This is a unique opportunity to receive Blessings for assisting in our Sunday services. The following positions are available. CRUCIFER Age 6 & up. No experience needed. Processing with the Holy Cross; helping to bring Jesus into the Church. ACOLYTE Age 12 & up Assisting the Clergy in setting the Lord's Table. Training will be provided. LEM Lay Eucharistic Minister and Chalice Bearer Age 16 and up. Assisting at the altar and administering the Chalice. Alb robe provided. Wings have to be earned. Please contact Dawn Curtis or Michele Colangeli if interested.

A message from our Jr. Warden

Many thanks to our Maintenance crew who continues to “keep up” and slowly improve our appearance and curb appeal. If there is anyone who feels called to help out please see Ken Dean or Guy McKenzie.

Guy McKenzie, Jr. Warden

A message from our Sr. Warden

Hebrew 13:20-21.....“ Now may the God of peace who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus that great Shepherd of the sheep equip you with everything good for doing his will. May he work in us what is pleasing to him through Jesus Christ to whom be glory for ever and ever ” *Amen*

Your Vestry has been working diligently to find the qualities in a Priest you have shared with us that would be a good fit for St. Elizabeth's. In the surveys you told us you wanted someone who is caring, compassionate, approachable, prayerful, and spiritual. His focus is on worship/liturgy parish renewal/growth and pastoral care/counseling. You desired that our new Priest's sermons convey a clear and direct message touching on everyday life. Sermons should be Biblically based and illustrated. Church life priorities you desire are preaching/liturgy, visitation of sick/homebound and Bible study. Our challenges you expressed are parish growth, rebuild youth program and increase church income.

We have exciting news!! We have hired a full time Priest!! We believe he fits everything you shared with us that you want in a Priest. His name is **The Rev. Woodford Decatur Miller** (**he goes by Fr. Deke Miller**) He will begin on July 1st and is relocating from Winter Haven, FL to Sebastian with his wife Cindy.



The Vestry cannot thank Fr. Norm enough for his pastoral care for the past 5 years. This will be a huge transition for all of us. During Fr. Deke Miller's interview he mentioned it felt like "coming home". Let's bring him home with all the Christ love we share with each other.

On Sunday, June 22nd after the 9:00am service we plan on having a Farewell Brunch for Fr. Norm and his wife Barbara in the Russell Bldg. There will be only one service on this day. Please see bulletin board for Sign Up/Volunteer Sign Up sheets.

We are also planning to have a Coffee Hour on Sunday, July 6th to welcome Fr. Deke Miller and his wife Cindy to St. Elizabeth's after the 8:00am & 10:00am services. We hope you can join us!

Congratulations! God has answered our prayers! May we be renewed by the Holy Spirit of God!

Denise Bersos, Sr. Warden

