

# ST ELIZABETH'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH



The Right Rev. Phyllis Spiegel, 12th Bishop of Utah  
The Rev. Michael Carney, Vicar

**SUNDAY WORSHIP, HOLY EUCHARIST 10:00 AM**

## Patience and Possibilities

It's been a long winter in Whiterocks: snow and ice and more snow. Recently a local friend posted on Facebook, "Most of you think it's March, but it's actually the 69th of January." One of my Lenten resolutions is to have a better attitude about winter, and remembering high points from 2022 has helped.

A year ago we were just coming out of the pandemic, so our joyous Easter service (with baptisms and a feast) gave us quite a boost. The full revival of Art Empowers was also great fun; so was watching to continued growth of the Youth Group. Well-established in her half-time position, Becca Gardner not only leads both youth programs but has also expanded our outreach ministries. It's great to see kids going home with bags from our clothing room, and once again we served two hundred people at our Holiday Meal.

It was sad to say goodbye to beloved elders like Leo Tapoof and Lena Duncan, but we also had the honor of helping to welcome home Lottie Sireech, a Whiterocks Episcopalian who died at Carlisle Indian School more than a hundred years ago. We've watched baby Scarlett grow into taking her first steps and have appreciated the presence of young adults, including three in college ("I still feel connected," said Pepper Alanis).



The financial generosity of our members and friends reached a new level last year, and our gratitude for support from the Diocese of Utah remains strong. We celebrated the ministry of our longtime friend, Bishop Scott Hayashi, and we welcomed Bishop Phyllis Spiegel, who'll soon make her first official visit to us. We're blessed by a wonderful Bishop's Committee (local leadership group) headed by Forrest Cuch and Becca, with Pepper joining us by Zoom from the University.

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At our Annual Meeting in January, Forrest celebrated the resilience of the congregation, supporting each other and keeping things going through the pandemic. He observed that all Native communities struggle to respond to trauma and reminded us of the blessings we receive from our elders. Becca reviewed the high points of the past year, including the youth setting goals and following through on them. Incorporating Native arts and artists into those programs and developing life skills are making an impact on the young people.



Six months ago, Bishop Hayashi assigned me to serve as Vicar of Church of the Holy Spirit in Randlett, as well as at St. Elizabeth's. That's been a major adjustment, but I've found a new rhythm on Sundays and am curious about ways in which the two congregations

might connect. The members of both churches are caring people who'd love to invite others into their worship, fellowship and community service. The Spirit is at work among us, guiding us forward as followers of Jesus on the Ute Reservation.

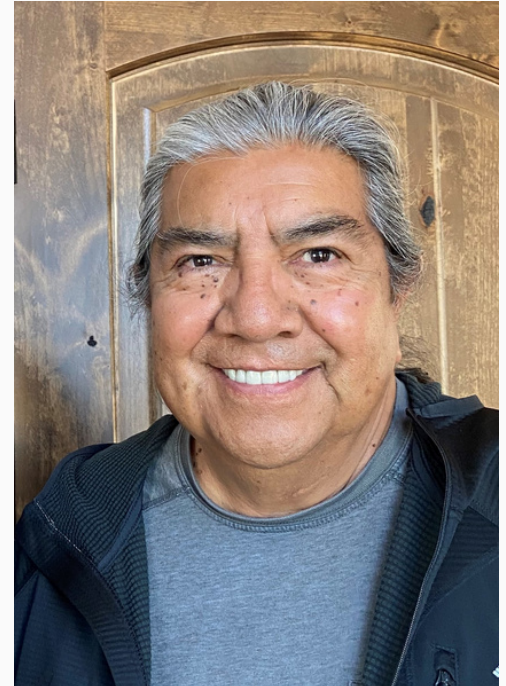
— Michael



# Bishop's Warden's Annual Report

This is an excellent time to reflect on the happenings of not only the past year but the past few very challenging and tumultuous years. Upon immediate reflection, what stands out is that our little church, St. Elizabeth's and our church family, has been a very strong and resilient group. We have weathered a very dangerous worldwide pandemic! We have lost some very dear and beloved elders and family members in the process. And when some family members were faced with very serious illnesses, families and church members responded with love and dedication through prayers and emotional support. Some of those family members are still with us, thanks be to God. Financial challenges were overcome with quick belt tightening action. No matter the challenge, we simply refused to stop moving forward in doing the Lord's work. For that, we as a church family, should feel proud and continue with strong resolve to carry forth our work into the coming year, with renewed strength, commitment and exuberance.

— Forrest S. Cuch



## From "Me" to "We"

Making "me posters" is a common art project for kindergarteners, giving them a chance to present themselves visually the way they feel inside. What was striking about doing this in Art Empowers was how the kids spontaneously collaborated in their work, turning the "me" into "we." Wouldn't our world be a better place if more people could see ourselves as parts of communities instead of rugged individuals?



# Art Empowers Photo Gallery



## Remembering Sonny Bear

Our beloved brother Reuban Cesspooch, Jr. (known to everyone as "Sonny Bear"), has made his journey to join the dear ones who went before him. He got his nickname from his father, Reuban Sr., who was called "Barracuda," hence son of barracuda. Though he went through many struggles in his earthly life, Sonny Bear had a heart of gold and was extremely generous, with small and large gifts. He made wonderful beadwork and loved being with people laughing and having a good time. He was a devoted member of St. Elizabeth's, and receiving communion was a highlight of his last years. May we all bring smiles to peoples' faces and touch their hearts in the ways that Sonny Bear did!



## Greetings from a Dear Friend

As Marsha and Michael were traveling to California for a family visit, they had the pleasure of stopping at Pyramid Lake in Nevada to visit our longtime friend, Rev. Reynelda James, as well as Jackie and Jeannette. It was a joyful reunion, and Reynelda sends her greetings to all her friends in Utah. She's pictured by the lake, where she blessed water to be brought back to St. Elizabeth's and Holy Spirit for baptisms. What a gift to know we're connected with such dear people, though we see them too seldom!

# New Beatitudes



When you're lost and struggling, when you're grieving  
painful losses, you're blessed.

When you're feeling vulnerable, when your heart  
aches for justice, you're blessed.

In times like that, you know you need God,  
and God is with you.

Who are the superstars of our world?

Not the rich and powerful...

But you who are merciful will receive mercy.

You who have open, loving hearts will see God.

You who bring people together are truly God's  
children.

Don't expect to receive fame and fortune—you're  
more likely to be mocked and taunted,  
as prophets always are.

Count your blessings; and  
let the Spirit guide and strengthen you.

*(paraphrase of Matthew 5:3-11 by Michael)*



**St. Elizabeth's  
Episcopal Church  
occupies and operates  
upon the ancestral and  
traditional lands of  
the Ute Indian Tribe.**

