

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

That "Can-Do" Spirit



People often say that young people are the future of the church, but that's not what I see at St. Elizabeth's. It's clear that they're finding their places alongside the adults, and in some ways, they're moving out ahead.

Becca Gardner's leadership encourages that growth, as with our annual Holiday Meal. Way back in 2018, it was Becca's idea to invite the whole community to a dinner in November. "We can do this," she said, and we did. Every year since then we've fed up to two hundred people, with the youth at the heart of our volunteer work force. Thanks in part to their involvement, we're known as a church that welcomes everyone and serves the community.

In the past, we've decorated the sanctuary on a Sunday after worship, but this year Becca told us "the Youth Group wants to do it." At one week's meeting, they put up the tree in the parish hall, arranged the lights and ornaments, and made long, colorful paper chains that spanned the room. The next week they did the same (on a larger scale) in the sanctuary, a pleasant surprise for the adults on Sunday.

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Thank You

▶ to E & B Oilfield Services for purchasing the Art Empowers Christmas tree at the Enchanted Forest Fundraiser in Roosevelt. Once again, this year brought an outpouring of support for local nonprofits.



▶ for the generous donations of the Eccles Foundation, Uintah Basin Medical Center, Northeastern Counseling Center, Helen Duritsa, Mary Coe, Joel and Frances Harris, Sunrise Rotary Club of Park City, Sunwater Spa of Manitou Springs, Mary McEntire, Bill Williams, Scott and Carol Hamre, Aldy Duffield, Nancy Martin, Tom and Noreen Thompsen, Tamara Case and Christy King to Art Empowers and St. Elizabeth's.

▶ to the children of St. Elizabeth's, whose donations of pennies, nickels, dimes and quarters funded a gift of \$256 to the Roosevelt Food Pantry. From staff leader Bobbie Snyder, "Please let the children know their amazing donations will help feed many families."



▶ to the Episcopal Diocese of Utah for its generous support of our congregation and ministries.

Can-do, continued from page 1...

Serving others fits naturally into the regular flow of Youth Group meetings, along with games and meals and prayer journals. Our young people have lots of fun together, and they know they're making a difference. I'm thankful for their spirit and energy, and for Becca and Sadie as leaders. These are snapshots of St. Elizabeth's today, and the youth give me hope for the future. – Michael

Christmas Eve



Advent Conversations



Forrest Cuch and Rev. Michael were honored and excited when Bishop Phyllis invited them to join her in leading a series of spiritual conversations during the season of Advent. About thirty people joined in reflecting on passages from the seasonal Scripture readings and A Native Way of Giving. Those winter nights were ideal for sharing stories and prayers, a wonderful way to get to know each other and our new bishop!

Dear Bishop Michael Curry

I hope this letter finds you well and happy, looking forward to the holiday season. I was honored to meet you several years ago when, as Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church, you were visiting the Utah Diocese. I was blessed to have my picture taken with former Bishop Scott Hayashi, Rev. Michael Carney, Greg Quin, and you.



After sharing the story of how I came to be Episcopalian with someone during the consecration of Bishop Spiegel this past September, it was suggested that I write you and share it with you.

I was born in 1951 and raised in the Roman Catholic faith, St. Helen's Church, Roosevelt, Utah. I vaguely recall that my mother belonged to the Episcopal faith, as she was raised in Whiterocks, Utah. My father was both traditional Ute Indian Sundance practitioner and Roman Catholic. My folks chose to raise me in the Catholic faith. My mother may have been instrumental in this regard as she wanted to make sure I would not become Mormon, as she believed them to be hypocrites. My parents were not regular church goers, but I had a favored uncle (Henry Cuch) who took me regularly for several years. The faith did me well as I grew up in such heavily influenced and controlled Mormon culture.

Many years later I would find myself retired, living back on the Ute Reservation after some 30 years of living away, raising my family and performing several very rewarding jobs, including serving under four governors in the State of Utah. Soon... the Rev. Sue Duffield appeared, a life-changing experience.

Our relationship started out slowly. First, she invited me to come and tell stories to her youth group, called Arts-Kids at the time. Then, one day she invited me to attend church. Well, when I entered the little church, I felt my mother's presence and was in awe of the beautiful native decorum of the church, the drum altar,

the beaded buckskin banner and other native aspects featured in the church. It made a powerful impact on me, but not enough to convert me to the faith.

It was not until 2017, during the DAPL Water Protest in North Dakota, that this would occur. I was watching television coverage of a segment of the protest, when suddenly, I saw you (Bishop Curry) plant the Episcopal flag right next to the flags of the other tribal nations. You gave a wonderful, rousing and inspiring talk, and I was again awe inspired! It was then that I decided and stated to myself... that's the church I should belong to! I was received into the Episcopal church a short time thereafter.

After Rev. Sue retired, I was happy to begin a relationship with our new pastor, Rev. Michael Carney. Michael and I have worked closely together, as I have served as Senior Warden for four years now. And as you know, we wrote a book together entitled, A Native Way of Giving. Rev. Carney forwarded a copy to you a while back.

It is because you are very busy and sometimes constrained by politics and hard-pressed by national issues that I write this letter. I hope that it gives you some assurance and energy to know that your service and actions do carry weight and have a strong impact on the lives of your members and parishioners.

Sincerely,
Forrest S. Cuch



*Congratulations to
Derrick and Bryce Lee Bell
on their baptisms!*

*Along with Grandma Harriet and Uncle John,
we're delighted to welcome them to the
reservation community
and the Body of Christ.*



Inspired by the landscape of winter, in watercolor by Marsha Heron

ST. ELIZABETH'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH OCCUPIES AND OPERATES UPON
THE ANCESTRAL AND TRADITIONAL LANDS OF THE UTE INDIAN TRIBE.