

St. Elizabeth's Episcopal Church • RIDGEWOOD, NEW JERSEY

Welcome
Our Vision



Sunrise at St. Elizabeth's from Fairmount Road

Welcome!

We are happy that you are interested in learning more about our Episcopal parish at St. Elizabeth's Church in Ridgewood. We are a strong congregation in suburban northern New Jersey that is looking to continue its traditional Anglican worship, while being open to new and different ways to reach our neighbors to share the joys of our faith and relationship with God. We come together in our beloved stone church and modern parish house for many reasons – to worship, to explore our faith, to exult in music, to learn, to enjoy the company of parishioners and others, and to serve Christ in all persons.

As you read through this Parish Profile, we hope you catch a glimpse of the various attributes that make St. Elizabeth's a special place for its members – liturgies from The Book of Common Prayer, a strong foundation in classical church music, a child-centric approach to Christian education, lay involvement in services, a robust tradition of fellowship, and a commitment to outreach. We also hope you get a sense of the challenges we see before us as we embark on our search for a new rector – to better reach others to share our faith journey, to better communicate about the many opportunities for spiritual growth and development in our church to those both inside and outside our congregation, and to better welcome newcomers to our parish and engage them in the joyful life of the church.

We look to explore new ways to make a difference in New Jersey, the tri-state area, and the world, and we know that requires spiritual leadership that helps us take the right risks to change what we should while remaining strong in our faith and core beliefs.

We look forward to meeting you!

Don Taylor and Mary Hayes
Wardens

Mary Wynn Seiter
Search Committee Chair

St. Elizabeth's Episcopal Church



Our Vision

1. We want to grow the parish in terms of number of members
2. We want to become more visible to the outside world, Ridgewood and the communities of Bergen County
3. We want to become a more welcoming parish, one that consciously and systematically works toward enfolding newcomers and encouraging visitors to join our parish
4. We want the current membership to become more engaged spiritually, intellectually, emotionally and physically in the life and mission of St. Elizabeth's Church, to grow "unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ"

Ephesians 4:13

“ Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful; and let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.” Hebrews 10:23-25

Welcome
• Our Vision

St. Elizabeth's Episcopal Church



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St. Elizabeth's Episcopal Church



Rector Characteristics

Our previous three rectors each served for more than 20 years. Clearly, we are not hiring a capable employee, but rather calling a dear friend and spiritual leader. It is our hope that our next rector will quickly bond with us and lead us to build upon the strong foundations of our church in our next quarter century. Through a year of extensive discernment, we have come to recognize some of the characteristics and attributes we feel will help make our future rector especially effective at St. Elizabeth's.

The long-held Anglican commitment to "Scripture, Tradition and Reason" is at the core of who we are. As such, our new rector should have traditional views of scripture and Anglican theology. Intellectually curious, our rector should see their sermon as an opportunity to lead us into deeper understandings of scripture and doctrine, while faithfully contextualizing the application of those ancient scripture texts to our modern cultural situation.

“Scripture, Tradition and Reason”



Our Sunday morning worship services are a very important part of our church life. We recognize that our rector plays a critical role in leading us and enfoldng newcomers. As such, their ability to preach effectively to a diverse congregation is very important. We have benefited over the years from insightful sermons that have been based almost exclusively on the lectionary readings of the day. Each Sunday we come expecting to have our thinking and our actions challenged, and, on occasion, be shaken out of our comfort zones.

Rector Characteristics

Worship & Theology
Experience & Leadership
Other Characteristics

St. Elizabeth's Episcopal Church



Worship & Theology

As mentioned elsewhere, St. Elizabeth's has a rich music history and is passionate about the role it plays in our life here. As such, our next rector should share our deep commitment to music as a part of worship. Music weaves throughout The Book of Common Prayer in canticles and other service music. We appreciate the variety of liturgies and the physical use of the BCP in those services. While we would describe ourselves as being traditional, we would not consider ourselves rigid. We are open to expanding into some new styles of worship and liturgy.

We expect our next rector will embrace our high regard for the scriptures and the historic faith of the Anglican/Episcopal tradition and will guide us into deepening faithfulness to Christ. Because we have a high regard for Anglican theology, we desire that the rector value and promote the development of theological education for all members and age groups of the parish. It is important that the new rector hold traditional views of the scripture and particularly an Anglican perspective, while also demonstrating a knowledge and respect for other religious traditions.

We have benefited from our rector's teaching at small and larger group gatherings. Along with traditional classes held on Sundays after services and occasionally on Saturday mornings, we have enjoyed combining education with fellowship events. During Lent, potluck suppers have been a forum for guided spiritual discussions, based on a film or lecture series.

“
A deep commitment to music...
and Anglican Theology” A Parishioner

Rector Characteristics

- Worship & Theology
- Experience & Leadership
- Other Characteristics

St. Elizabeth's Episcopal Church



Experience & Leadership

Our new rector should be approachable, allowing people of all ages to benefit from knowing them, even if only casually. We expect our next rector to be a person of high personal character whose vibrant faith in Christ is evident in how they live, and certainly how the rector preaches and teaches. Being a model of Christ in all relationships, and certainly in pastoral and practical counseling, will serve our parish well in the years to come. While we expect our rector to be able to be articulate as they lead us, we also recognize that the ability to listen well is critically important to guiding a church with various ministries and ministry leaders.

With so many excellent staff and volunteer leaders, our next rector should possess good people-management and administrative skills. We desire someone who is gifted at constructive feedback, support and advice. We are hopeful that our new rector will also have experience in successfully guiding the religious education programs for children, youth and adults. The ability to appropriately shepherd our full and part-time clergy, administrative and music staff is also vitally important.

As our church enters the next era of ministry, we desire that our new rector be able to prepare and lead us in both a short- and long-range vision and ministry plan. We envision a close working partnership with the Vestry and Wardens where our new rector promotes transparency and shared responsibility in key decision making.

“ We envision a close working partnership...” A Parishioner _____

Rector Characteristics

Worship & Theology

• Experience & Leadership

Other Characteristics

St. Elizabeth's Episcopal Church

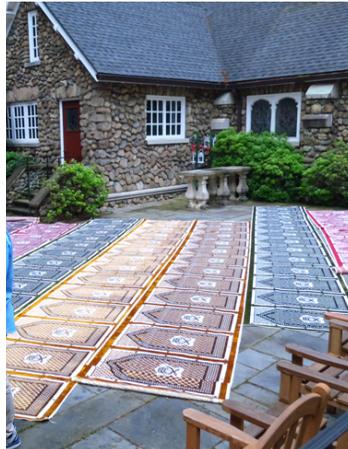


Other Characteristics

As we welcome our new rector, we are hopeful they will have a passion for welcoming visitors to our church. As a parish, we desire to represent Christ and St. Elizabeth's more actively in our local community. We hope that our new rector will have the skills and ability to lead us toward a greater outward focus. We want to formally and informally invite people to explore faith in Christ with us, and welcome them to join with us in attendance and eventually membership.

We have seen value in our prior rector's involvement with other Episcopal clergy and ecumenical groups. Being part of the larger local religious community is important to us, and we support such involvement.

Parishioner participation in our extensive Outreach Ministry occurs in a variety of ways. Whether volunteering our time to charitable organizations, or offering financial support, it is important for our new rector to be committed to these things as well, "to seek and serve Christ in all persons."



“We are not looking merely to hire a new leader for our church, we are looking to welcome the newest member of our church family.”

A Parishioner

Rector Characteristics

- Worship & Theology
- Experience & Leadership
- Other Characteristics

St. Elizabeth's Episcopal Church



Worship

Despite the many activities that compete on Sunday morning for the attention of both children and adults, as “Intentional Christians” we have decided to come to church. We are conscious of the life-long value of being part of a community that comes together regularly to worship and learn. We want to share that with our children and with others outside of our community.

We celebrate our great Anglican tradition, as passed down through The Book of Common Prayer, and the music written for it, both today and in centuries past. We offer Rite I Eucharist at 8:00 every Sunday, and rotate between a Rite I Eucharist, Rite II Eucharist, and Rite I Morning Prayer at 10:00. By continuing this tradition, we believe we offer something unique in the way of worship. As these services are a source of joy, of solace, and of spiritual reflection and growth for us, we believe that they can be for others as well.

For our children, we look to instill a love of church, a sense that it is their “happy place.” More than one parent confesses that it is their child that brings them to St. Elizabeth's, not the other way around. Recognizing that children's ability to

understand what they see and experience at church develops as they grow, we offer services that are tailored to the appropriate age to make worship accessible for them. As they are able, we engage them as acolytes and bell ringers, choristers and crucifers, to teach them that they are not passive observers, but active in the service of God and this congregation.

“ I was glad when they said unto me,
Let us go into the house of the Lord.”

Psalm 122:1

Worship

Children's Worship
Other Worship Practices
The Bells

St. Elizabeth's Episcopal Church



Children's Worship

The importance of fostering the spiritual growth of our children has always been a focus of St. Elizabeth's. A distinctive practice is the weekly Children's Chapel Service. Held in our chapel that was built with this in mind, it invites preschoolers through 2nd graders into a friendly, welcoming space separate but adjacent to the main sanctuary. The children sing Bible songs and a robed lay Chapel Leader teaches Bible stories.

The monthly Youth Eucharist is held in the chapel for grades 3 through 8. Conducted by a priest using a simplified Rite II, children take all the other roles, including distributing the elements to their peers.

Although not exclusively for children, the monthly Family Sunday is certainly focused on them. In truth, some adults say it is their favorite service! The Children's Choirs sing the anthems and the sermon is interactive, with children shouting out answers. Props such as balloons, pipe cleaners, money, hats, and even dogs make the readings relevant to all.

Explaining to children the meaning of Ash Wednesday, Lent, and Good Friday is challenging. Concepts of penance, suffering, and death can be frightening. To help them understand, St. Elizabeth's offers a Family Service on Ash

Wednesday. On Good Friday, the children's service is a simplified "living" Stations of the Cross. Parishioners take part dressed in costume but are silent. Everyone follows Jesus, carrying his cross, around our grounds. He pauses while parents and older children read aloud the story, along with reflections and prayers. It ends with Jesus standing before the altar with arms outstretched on the cross.

“But Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven.” Matthew 19:14

Worship

• Children's Worship

Other Worship Practices
The Bells

St. Elizabeth's Episcopal Church



Other Worship Practices

Sundays, Christmas and Easter are not the only time we gather for worship. Sometimes the group is quite small, but the worship is always reverent and heartfelt.

Every weekday a few gather in the chapel for Morning Prayer at 8:30, ringing a bell to the delight of children passing on the way to school. On the first and third Wednesday of each month, we hold a Eucharist and Healing Prayer Service at noon, accompanied by piano.

On various feast days, 9/11 and Veterans' Day, we celebrate a Eucharist with a homily at noon. At the Veterans' Day and the Sunday of Memorial Day services, a pair of small American flags are blessed and placed in the Memorial Garden.

On Ash Wednesday we offer 4 services, including a Children's Service at 4:00. During Lent a Eucharist service is offered every Wednesday at noon. The Adult Choir sings at the candlelit Easter Vigil. A very popular event is the Blessing of the Animals, held to celebrate the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi. In the Sunday service closest to All Saints' Day, during the service we read the names of those whose ashes repose in our Memorial Garden. On the Fourth Sunday of Advent our Christmas Pageant takes the place of the sermon. Originally written by a parishioner 74 years ago, her daughter continues to oversee the production and care for the costumes, some of which were made for that first production!

Worship

Children's Worship

• **Other Worship Practices**

The Bells

St. Elizabeth's Episcopal Church



The Bells

The bells of St. Elizabeth's Church have become a quintessential hallmark of our weekly services, and other times as well. The first bell was a gift from the Lightner family in memory of Edwin and Jane Cass Lightner. It came to us from Whitechapel Bell Foundry, the oldest manufacturing company in Great Britain. Blessed and dedicated on October 3, 1965, this behemoth weighs in at 1,500 lbs. with a 41" diameter and is our largest bell.

Four more bells of decreasing size were gifted to our church through the generosity of parishioners Susan Snyder and Ann Marie Snyder. These bells, also forged at the Whitechapel Foundry, are perfectly tuned to accompany the Lightner bell. Rung together they can be heard throughout our Ridgewood neighborhood as a reminder to all of our place as a sanctuary and a church where God's work is being carried out.

A Master of the Bells leads a group of more than 30 volunteers in ringing the bells as a call to Sunday services, at funerals, on Christmas and Easter, and other special occasions throughout the year. Rather than using electronics, St. Elizabeth's rings the bells with ropes, following the Anglican tradition of ringing that began in England over 500 years ago. Based upon the crowd that forms around the bell ringers every time the bells are rung, it is evident that the bells are an integral part of our service and an audible signal to the surrounding community that God's work and word is alive and well.



“The bells are a fun addition, and on celebratory or solemn occasions are a welcome aspect of the service” A Parishioner

Worship

Children's Worship
Other Worship Practices

• **The Bells**

St. Elizabeth's Episcopal Church



“ A strong vocal music program for both children and adults focused on classical music as an integral part of worship”

Music

The rich music that our congregation enjoys on Sundays and other occasions is more than just the sounds of an organ, or a seasoned, well-practiced choir. Through the singing of hymns and listening to anthems, we are able to worship God and hear him in ways not possible with just spoken words. Our music program is a great blessing in many ways to our parish and is woven into the very fabric of life and worship at St. Elizabeth's.

Our critically-acclaimed Organist and Choirmaster, Garah Landes, leads our music program. Catherine LeDuc Hostetler is our Associate Choirmaster with responsibility for the children's choirs. Before the 10:00 service Mr. Landes plays a prelude on either the organ or the piano to prepare parishioners for the service. After the service he plays a postlude; many in the congregation remain seated to hear it. Almost every Sunday, from September through June, he conducts the choir in an anthem during the Offertory. The repertoire is quite varied, with a sizable library including music written in the Middle Ages through the 21st century.

The Bible is filled with references to the important role of music praising God. Our goal has been to continue the performance of classical music as an integral part of worship. We believe this style of music speaks to many in our congregation, and we look to pass on this tradition to our children. All are welcome to come and listen – and all are welcome to participate.

Music

- Our Adult Choir
- Our Children's Choir
- The Galletly Scholarship

St. Elizabeth's Episcopal Church



Our Adult Choir

Our adult Choir is comprised of thirty talented and dedicated men, women and teenagers. Although mostly volunteers, a professional soloist leads each voice section. These professionals will sometimes perform individually or as a quartet. In particular, on Good Friday they sing appropriate motets during the 3-hour service. In addition to Sundays, the choir sings for special services, such as Ash Wednesday, and participates in Ridgewood's multifaith services, such as the Holocaust Memorial. The Advent Concert has programming that will both engage seasoned audiences of choral concerts as well as invite families with children to join in singing familiar carols. The choir is accompanied by a chamber orchestra. A festive reception in the Parish Hall follows the concert, with neighbors and friends invited.

The Lenten offering is a Requiem performed as the central part of the service two weeks before Easter, again accompanied by a chamber orchestra.

Every year at sunset the adult choir, joined by a brass quartet, gather on the front lawn of the church for the lighting of our Christmas tree. With candles and lanterns, we serenade the neighborhood with Christmas carols. This is followed by hot chocolate and refreshments. Families, children of all ages, neighbors, holiday houseguests, are all invited and welcomed.



“The familiar and traditional episcopal hymns are important to me; the formality of the adult choir music is... so deeply beautiful that it is also very spiritually stirring to me...” A Parishioner _____

Music

• Our Adult Choir

Our Children's Choir

The Galletly Scholarship

St. Elizabeth's Episcopal Church



Our Children's Choir

Catherine LeDuc Hostetler, an accomplished pianist and teacher of music to children, received graduate and undergraduate degrees in Conducting and Church Music from the Westminster Choir College. Catherine is responsible for the children's choirs of St. Elizabeth's. The Cherub Choir is for all children from Kindergarten to 2nd grade, and the weekly rehearsals ground them in the basics of rhythm, song, and worship. The Junior and Youth Choirs, comprised of 3rd to 5th graders and 6th to 8th graders, respectively, rehearse and perform together. Juniors learn basic choral and liturgical practice while the Youth Choir serve as leaders for the ensemble and study vocal technique and musicianship. On Maundy Thursday, the Junior and Youth Choir usually sing an anthem at the evening service. The Children's Choirs sing once a month for Family Sunday, but also on Christmas Eve and Easter. Choristers from the Junior and Youth Choirs are invited to join the Adult Choir for a portion of the Advent Concert, the Lenten Requiem, and other special occasions.

“The role of the junior and cherub choirs is so important... in the upbringing of my own children and their spiritual life, which I am always grateful for.” A Parishioner _____

Music

Our Adult Choir

• **Our Children's Choir**

The Galletly Scholarship

St. Elizabeth's Episcopal Church



The Galletly Scholarship Program

Junior and Youth Choirs participate in The Royal School of Church Music's VOICE FOR LIFE program, earning medals for their musicianship. Beginning at age 9, choristers are eligible to apply for a Galletly Scholarship to attend a summer Training Course run by RSCM America. This past year, eight of our young choristers earned a week at the Training Course in Newport, RI. The Donald Galletly Scholarship program was founded by long-time parishioner Mollie Galletly in memory of her husband Don. Coming from England, Mollie and Don had sung in choirs all their lives and were very familiar with the kind of music sung in cathedrals and parish churches there. More importantly, they understood the importance of continuing the tradition of training that enables our choirs to sing music that touches the very souls of our parishioners every Sunday at St. Elizabeth's.

Music

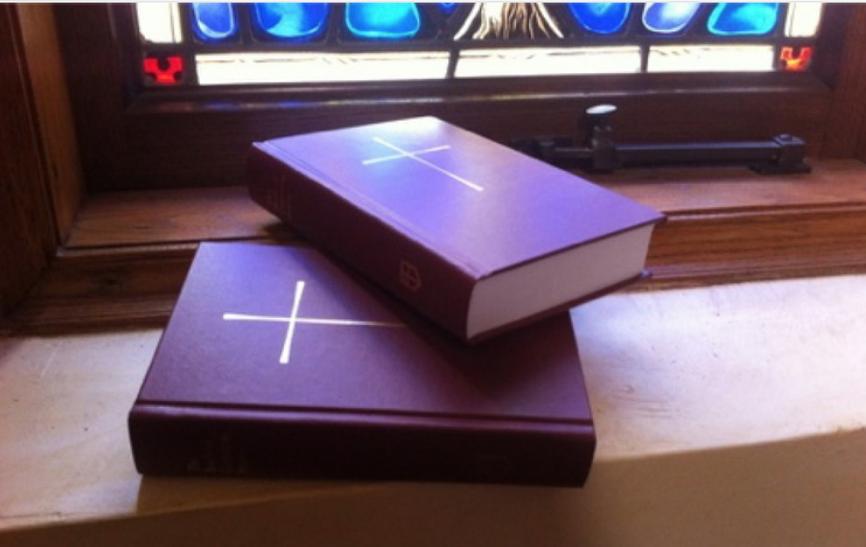
Our Adult Choir

Our Children's Choir

• **The Galletly Scholarship**

“I will sing with the spirit and with the understanding also.” 1 Corinthians 14:15

St. Elizabeth's Episcopal Church



Adult Education

A variety of times and venues are used to provide biblical and theological education to adults. Along with preaching on Sunday mornings, periodic classes have been offered on Sunday mornings after services and on Saturday mornings. The busyness of those times has made it difficult for many to attend, but those that have find them quite valuable. Usually following a theme over several sessions, the topics have varied, ranging from a summary course on the Bible to tracing the history of the Anglican Church.

The best attended of our Adult Education offerings are the Lenten potluck suppers that take place over 5 Mondays. These feature a seasonal, thought-provoking theme that leads to practical faith application. After the meal, the attendees view a short film or part of a film. This becomes the basis for an often-lively discussion of the ideas presented. The evenings end with our uniting together around The Book of Common Prayer to say Compline.

Several other adult small group gatherings offer opportunity for less formal spiritual development (Book Group, Mom's Group, Needlecrafters, etc.).

Adult Education

“
I was raised in the Episcopal Church, but feel that this church has been my best education.”

A Parishioner

St. Elizabeth's Episcopal Church



“
All your children shall be taught
by the Lord, and great shall be
the peace of your children.”

Isaiah 54:13

Church School

The first Sunday after Labor Day is Opening Sunday, when our hallways are abuzz with parents and children registering for Church School. St. Elizabeth's offers nursery care up to three years old. Formal Christian education for children at St. Elizabeth's starts in Pre-Kindergarten and continues uninterrupted until they are confirmed by the Bishop in 8th grade.

Following the Children's Chapel Service, the youngest children go to a classroom and are taught using a curriculum called Godly Play.

Third through eighth graders sit with their parents in the sanctuary until the students process out with their Church School teachers during the pre-sermon hymn. Two volunteers teach each class for a trimester using a curriculum called Living the Good News. On Palm Sunday, third through seventh graders gather for a Seder meal using foods that are unique to that event. A service that accompanies the meal includes foot washing. In addition to Church School, sixth and seventh graders come together 6 times a year for Young People's Fellowship (YPF) events such as bowling and a Halloween party.

Eighth graders enter the Confirmation process and attend weekly classes taught by our Associate for Youth Ministries. They take field trips to Evensong at St. John the Divine and attend a Sunday Morning service at a Gospel Church.

At St. Elizabeth's the education system for children is a successful program, especially since so many of its "graduates" want to volunteer as teachers as soon as they are confirmed.

Church School

St. Elizabeth's Episcopal Church



“Do not speak harshly to an older man, but speak to him as to a father, to younger men as brothers, to older women as mothers, to younger women as sisters.” 1 Timothy 5:1-2

Pastoral Care

Through pastoral care, we work to fulfill the baptismal promise to “seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving our neighbor as ourselves.” Pastoral care is not the exclusive domain of the clergy; in fact, most pastoral care is done informally, person-to-person, by lay people of all ages.

Parishioners experiencing serious health problems or other personal crises receive assistance in the form of meals, transportation, visits, cards, phone calls, and a willingness to do whatever is needed to meet the needs of the moment. Those delivering meals provide more than dinner; they bring tangible expressions of love and support.

Healing services include lessons, a homily, corporate prayer (including reading aloud the names on our Parish Prayer List), individual prayers for healing, and Holy Communion. The Knitting Ministry creates beautiful prayer-shawls blessed at the Healing Service and given to parishioners as tangible signs of prayers supporting them.

Transportation is provided to our senior members to remain actively engaged at St. Elizabeth's. Drivers provide moral

support, a caring presence, and opportunities for enriching conversation and connection. Seasonal Senior Luncheons offer a fabulous meal and fellowship for senior parishioners, clergy, and staff.

Clergy visit parishioners known to be ill or homebound and bring Holy Communion when desired. The clergy provide pastoral counseling as well as the Rite of Reconciliation of a Penitent.

Our care for one another, both within our parish family and in our greater communities, is a large part of what makes St. Elizabeth's such a vibrant community.

Pastoral Care

St. Elizabeth's Episcopal Church



“Fellowship events are key to St. Elizabeth’s success as a parish. It creates the family atmosphere and engenders teamwork.”

A Parishioner

Fellowship and Community

Fellowship and Community are very much alive and well at St. Elizabeth’s. We truly enjoy each other’s company: this is a hallmark of our parish. Ministry to each other that has grown over the years is key to our success as a committed community here at St. Elizabeth’s Church.

While there is a wide array of fellowship opportunities for all ages and interests, many of which integrate education or fundraising, everyone comes to Coffee Hour. Every Sunday after services, volunteers host a wonderful coffee hour, offering not just coffee but tea, juice, a selection of cheese and crackers, pastries, cakes or cookies and, most importantly, good conversation. This is perhaps the most important time for our parish to catch up with each other.

Group gatherings, including luncheons and dinners, are of all sizes. Small groups of fewer than a dozen people often meet weekly. Mid-sized groups are most common, and can have as many as 50 participants. Several events throughout the year welcome the entire parish, and often exceed 100 attendees.

We are dedicated to carrying on our long-held mission of Fellowship and Community, whether via an elaborate event, or simply enjoying each other’s company over a shared meal or a cup of coffee.

Fellowship & Community

- Large Gatherings
- Mid-sized Gatherings
- Small Groups

St. Elizabeth's Episcopal Church



Large Gatherings

The year begins with the Ingathering Brunch, celebrating the completion of the Stewardship campaign. Held after the Sunday service, this brunch provides an opportunity for fellowship and a time to discuss stewardship as it relates to yearly pledges, operating expenses and the budget.

Our next large gathering is the Progressive Dinner, usually held in early February. It begins with an every-member cocktail hour at a parishioners' home. Then smaller groups of eight to ten go on for dinner in parishioner's homes. To end the evening, all attendees gather at another parishioner's home for coffee, dessert, and to tell about the new connections formed that evening. This is a premier event of fun, fellowship, and community.

The Annual Evening for Outreach Auction is held in early May. The parish hall is transformed to reflect a chosen theme. There is food and drink, some entertainment, and the culmination is the auction of goods and services donated by parishioners and local businesses. The funds raised at this event usually account for one-third of the grant money distributed by the Outreach Committee the following year.

The Church School year ends in early June, with Flower Sunday and the Church Picnic. Children decorate a wooden cross with flowers, lead the service, and thank their teachers. After the service everyone gathers outside for the parish photo, followed by the Church Picnic.

“I just love, love, LOVE St. E's Fellowship!” A Parishioner

Fellowship & Community

- Large Gatherings
- Mid-sized Gatherings
- Small Groups

St. Elizabeth's Episcopal Church



Mid-Sized Gatherings

These gatherings are often seasonal, reflecting the church year. The Potluck Advent Craft Party is a multi-generational dinner the first week in December to kick off the season. At the Shrove Tuesday Pancake supper the Confirmation Class typically are cooks and servers, while the younger children watch the burning of the palms in the Courtyard. Adults enjoy the Monday Lenten Dinners, where they contribute a dish, watch a film, and engage in discussion led by the rector.

The ECW hosts a tea or brunch in the fall and spring, which is both a fundraiser for Outreach and a social gathering. The Senior Luncheon is for our oldest members, and occurs seasonally.



“A community that enjoys coming together”
A Parishioner

Fellowship & Community

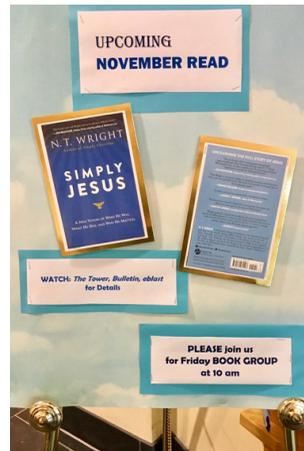
- Large Gatherings
- Mid-sized Gatherings
- Small Groups

St. Elizabeth's Episcopal Church



Small Groups

Some people have said that St. Elizabeth's is a church of small groups. The Book Group and the Needlecrafters gather weekly for conversation and exploration of their interests. The Altar Guild has both organizational meetings and social gatherings throughout the year. Mothers of all ages gather monthly for the Moms Group, while twice monthly pizza nights and parenting conversations offer parents (many who are waiting for children in choir rehearsal) space for fellowship, prayer and connection.



“Parishioners relate to each other with genuine warmth, across generations and especially through small groups with shared interests.” A Parishioner

Fellowship & Community

- Large Gatherings
- Mid-sized Gatherings
- Small Groups

St. Elizabeth's Episcopal Church



Outreach

The main goal of St. Elizabeth's robust Outreach program is to "seek and serve Christ in all persons" by sharing our time and resources to help others in need. Through grants funded largely by the operating budget, St. Elizabeth's actively supports approximately thirty charitable organizations. After reviewing grant applications, the Outreach Committee determines the recipients. This team of parish volunteers visits the charities and evaluates their effectiveness in meeting their mission and suitability for receiving funding. The amount distributed is approximately \$125,000. Also contributing to this total are gifts from the Teen Outreach program, the ECW, and the proceeds from the annual Evening for Outreach Auction.

A corollary of this is FaithWorks, a program that offers opportunities for parishioners to participate in service projects with the organizations receiving grants. One week a year parishioners staff The Thrift Shop, a multi-church operation, and monthly prepare meals for up to 40 men at the Emergency Men's Shelter of St. Paul's Church in Paterson. This is in addition to the parish-wide collection of gently used clothing, infant supplies, and food for several local charities and food pantries. Adults are encouraged to donate blood during the semiannual Interfaith Community Blood Drive and parishioners of all ages come together on Christmas morning to sing for residents at New Bridge Medical Center.

“ We learn as Christians that faith without works is dead. Faith needs to be manifested in our outreach and service to others.” A Parishioner

St. Elizabeth's has been uniquely blessed with both financial resources and a very talented membership to carry forward God's plan. Our entire congregation understands and embraces the mission of our Outreach Ministry.

Outreach

Outreach Auction
Teen Outreach / ECW
Philip's Academy

St. Elizabeth's Episcopal Church



Outreach Auction

Every year we conduct a parish-wide Evening for Outreach Auction in the parish hall. The funds raised (\$40,000-\$50,000) supplement the money allocated from our budget for Outreach grants. Parishioners and local businesses donate items ranging from home-baked cookies and wine baskets to Yankees tickets and a week in a vacation home. A theme for the event is chosen (last year was *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*) and the hall decorated accordingly. Entertainment from the congregation is provided, and parishioners are encouraged to dress in costume. The auction is very well attended and participants are always generous with their auction bidding. The funds raised at this event usually account for one-third of the grant money distributed by the Outreach Committee the following year. This is an event that serves both Outreach and Fellowship.



“Parishioners feel like they belong and are happy to contribute their time, talents and money for the good of our church and the people we serve.” A Parishioner

Outreach

- Outreach Auction
- Teen Outreach / ECW
- Philip's Academy

St. Elizabeth's Episcopal Church



Teen Outreach / ECW

Teen Outreach was formed as a means for St. Elizabeth's youth to directly serve those in need in our community. Like the adults, our teens raise funds, which are distributed by the Outreach Committee through grants. However, they primarily take part in direct service activities, often hosted by the organizations we have funded. Activities include: assembling back-to-school backpacks for needy children, participating in the Family Promise "Hike or Bike" event in Ridgewood, collecting shoe donations, providing Halloween candy for children of military parents, helping sort Thanksgiving food for needy families, participation in the annual Wiffle for Cancer Benefit Tournament in memory of young parishioner Nick Currey, and more.



Before there was an Outreach Committee, there was the ECW! Historically, and to this day, this has been the group that has raised money for those in need, as well as collected supplies and food. The ECW raises funds for Outreach by selling seasonal greens at Christmas and sponsors several teas or luncheons during the year. The distribution of money is coordinated with the Outreach Committee.

Outreach

- Outreach Auction
- Teen Outreach / ECW
- Philip's Academy

St. Elizabeth's Episcopal Church



Philip's Academy Charter School

In 2012, the church received a very substantial unrestricted bequest. Rather than seeing this as an opportunity to build an endowment, we chose to share this gift with those outside our walls. The parish selected as the beneficiary of most of these funds Philip's Academy Charter School (PACS), which serves young inner-city children in nearby Paterson. Having made an initial significant contribution to help establish the school, our relationship continues in providing substantial ongoing financial support out of the bequest as well as parishioners volunteering at all levels. As we observe the school's growth and progress, the StEP3 Committee, a team of 13 parishioners, oversees our monetary contribution to PACS, offers advice on financial matters, and also coordinates St. Elizabeth's volunteers and service projects for the school. These projects range from cleaning lockers and painting classrooms to after school programs that help with reading. The school now has grown to over 200 students in grades Kindergarten through Second. We are proud of PACS and the progress they have made, and we are honored to play a part in helping this amazing organization positively impact the residents of one of the neediest communities in the state.

Outreach

- Outreach Auction
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St. Elizabeth's Episcopal Church



Our Church Home

Our founding families designed the church to be a place that honors God with both its beauty and function. Built in 1922, the classic fieldstone and timber architecture seems perfectly suited for the established neighborhood in which we are located. When entering the nave your eyes move up from the heart pine floors to the wood beamed and paneled ceiling. The walls feature working, teaching stained glass windows with scenes from the life of Christ. Above the altar is a large stained glass window featuring the Nativity and at the rear of the church a large rose window. These enveloping images in glass remind us of the significance of our ancient faith and the saints throughout the ages who have worshipped God in this and other spaces like it.

With the importance that music plays for us, it is no surprise that we have a wonderful organ. Featuring 1,818 pipes in the main register and an additional 378 antiphonal pipe register in the balcony at the rear of the church, it is a central part of our worship and special musical events.

“

A beautiful, 96 year old sanctuary for services and a spacious 14 year old parish building meets our needs now, with plenty of room for us to grow in the future.”

Our Church Home

Our Parish Hall
Our Rectory
& Ridgewood, NJ

St. Elizabeth's Episcopal Church



Parish Hall

In 2004 we made a significant investment in our present and future ministry with the construction of a substantial parish house facility. ADA compliant, we are ready, willing and able to enfold all current and future members into every aspect of parish life. The beauty and size of our main meeting hall makes it a wonderful environment for our large meetings, seating over 100 for meals. The adjoining modern kitchen serves as the base of operation for the numerous fellowship meals held there.

Also on the main floor, separate but near the main sanctuary, is the Chapel. While used by the children on Sundays, it is also where small weekday services are held. In addition to two comfortably furnished small meeting rooms, our two conference rooms accommodate multiple adult groups to meet simultaneously. In our commitment to children's ministry, we have dedicated classrooms with age-appropriate furnishings for all grade levels. Our extensive music ministry benefits from a large dedicated rehearsal and resource room with a grand piano. A large lower level area (with elevator access) provides ample storage for seasonal, special event and ministry items/equipment, as well as accommodating three additional classrooms and the nursery.

Our facilities more than adequately fulfill our current ministry needs. As we look to the future, we feel we have all the space we need to welcome and enfold many more members into our fellowship.

“Ready to welcome and enfold many more people into our fellowship.”

Our Church Home

- Our Parish Hall
- Our Rectory & Ridgewood, NJ

St. Elizabeth's Episcopal Church



Our Rectory & Ridgewood, New Jersey

Matching the beauty of our church and neighborhood, our rectory is a spacious, three-story Dutch colonial. It features 5 bedrooms, 2 ½ baths, a modern kitchen, dining room, living room and two additional sitting rooms. With hardwood floors and original trim, this well-maintained house has a classic style and function.

While located adjacent to the church, there is still a sense of privacy available in the sizable front and back lawns. A large detached 3 car garage offers plenty of space for cars, bikes and storage.

We are located in an established, residential neighborhood in one of the most unique communities in our state. With a commuter train station, Ridgewood has long been attractive to commuters to New York City. While retaining its small town neighborhood feel, the Village of Ridgewood has one of the more developed downtown centers in our area. Restaurants and stores, small businesses and even a four-screen movie

“One of the most unique communities in our state”

theater line the pedestrian-friendly streets at our village center. Over the years annual parades, fireworks displays, outdoor musical presentations and other events have contributed to a sense of small-town identity as a community even as the village has grown in population. <http://www.ridgewoodnj.net/>

The Ridgewood School District consistently ranks near the top in our state and offers a tremendously wide range of outstanding athletic, musical and other extracurricular activities. The village also has extensive recreational facilities and programming for all ages, and is home to one of the region's larger YMCAs.

<https://www.ridgewood.k12.nj.us/> <https://www.ridgewoodymca.org/>

Between the church and the village we are located in an ideal place to live, connect and grow as individuals, and as a family.

Our Church Home

Our Parish Hall

• Our Rectory & Ridgewood, NJ

St. Elizabeth's Episcopal Church



Our Challenges

We recognize that there are areas of our life together at St Elizabeth's that could be improved. The list given below was identified as part of our preparation for the search for a new rector. It came out of observations shared in small group meetings, comments made in our All-Parish Survey, and issues surfaced in clergy and staff interviews. We have some ideas on how to address these, and they are incorporated in our Vision. However, we hope that our new rector will be able to help with overcoming them.

- A need for an improved system for consistently attracting, welcoming and enfolding new members
- A need for an improved system for consistently engaging both new and long-term parishioners in programs and ministry
- A dependence on a small number (12-15) families for the majority of Annual Giving
- A need to revamp our external and internal communication systems
- A need to improve our network of pastoral care by both clergy and laity
- A need to develop a consistent programmatic approach to teen church life

“ I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ” Philippians 1:6

St. Elizabeth's Episcopal Church



Appendices

Financial Summary

In graphic format we show the number of pledging members for 2017 and 2018, broken out by number and size of pledge as a percentage of the total amount raised. We also show a breakdown of 2017 expenses by category, and a five-year comparison of actual income versus expense.

Parish Organizations

This list illustrates the many ways members can engage at St. Elizabeth's.

References

Links to Diocese of Newark, list of Search Committee members and contact information

Staff and Vestry

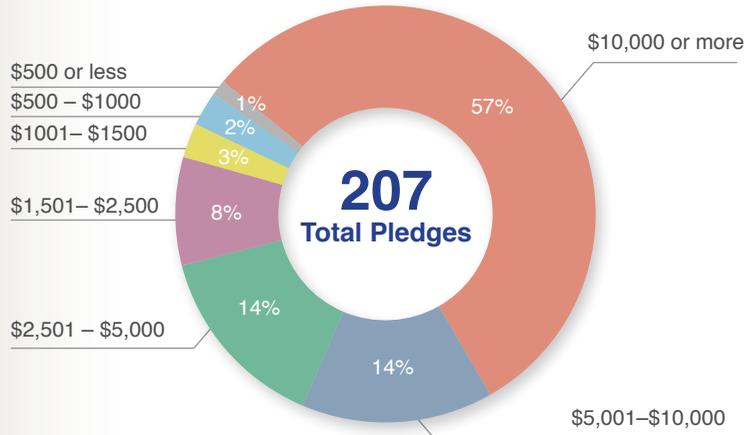
A listing of our leadership

Appendices

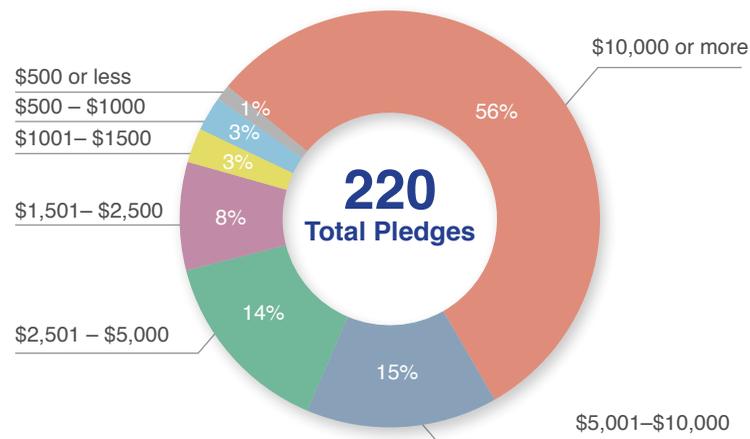
- Financial Summary
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St. Elizabeth's Episcopal Church Financial Summary

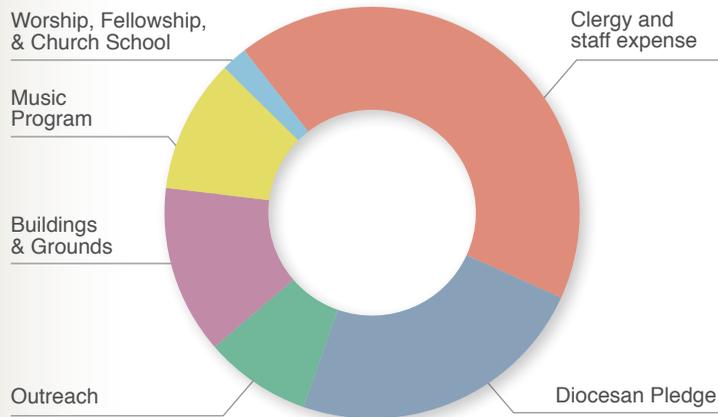
Pledge Amount 2017



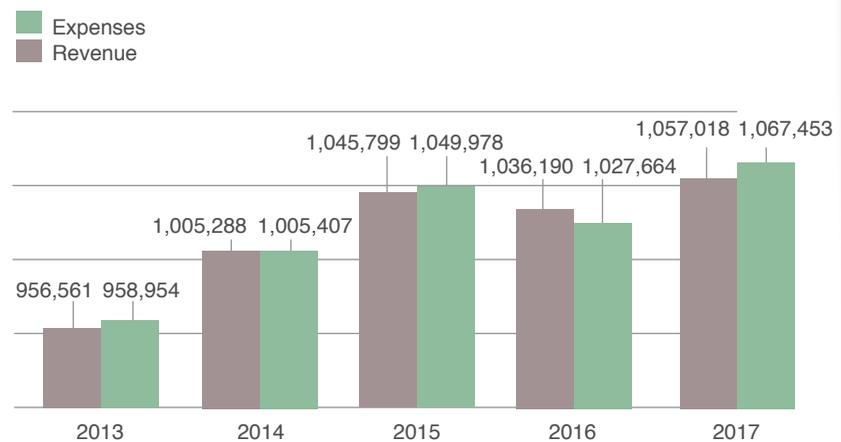
Pledge Amount 2018



Expenses 2017



Revenue vs. Expenses



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Parish Organizations

- Adult Choir
- Altar Guild
- Book Group
- Cherub Choir
- Church School Committee
- ECW
- Environmental Committee
- FaithWorks
- Junior and Youth Choirs
- Moms Group
- Needlecrafters
- Newcomers Committee
- Outreach Committee
- Parents' Group
- Sexton of the Bell
- StEP3 Committee – PACS Paterson Partnership
- Teen Outreach
- Young People's Fellowship (YPF)

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St. Elizabeth's Episcopal Church



References

St. Elizabeth's is part of the Diocese of Newark, which is comprised of the northern half of New Jersey. Please click here for a link to their website:

<https://dioceseofnewark.org/>

If you would like to explore joining us as our next rector, please send an email with a resume and cover letter to:

rectorsearch@stesridgewood.org

Our Search Committee includes 20 dedicated members of the parish, led by chair Mary Wynn Seiter and vice chair Peter Angelica. The other members of the Committee are Terry Berryman, Maggie Bird, Randy Carroll, Kirsten Dickson, Brian Dowling, Neil Goklani, Nathan Heltzel, Brian Hughes, Chet Klope, Jen Marchetti, Buffy McKay, Pat Middleton, Tom Palmer, Doug Shafer, Gaye Thurston, Karla Tombaugh, Sharon Walker and Chris Walsh.

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St. Elizabeth's Episcopal Church

Staff and Vestry



Clergy The Rev. Pierce W. Klemmt, Interim Pastor
The Rev. Joan F. Conley, Clergy Associate
The Rev. Cathy R. Quinn, Clergy Associate for Family Ministries

Staff

Music

Garah Landes
Organist and Choirmaster

Catherine L. Hostetler
Associate Choirmaster

Education

Carolina Pedraza
Associate for Christian Education

Youth Ministries

Sandy Sullivan
Associate for Youth Ministries

Office Staff

Ann Dowling
Parish Administrator

Debra Anderson
Communications Administrator

Grace Arscott
Financial Administrator

Rubén Rosario
Sexton

Wardens

Don Taylor
Mary Hayes

Treasurer

John Taylor

Vestry

Caroline Angelica
Paul Berryman
Barbara Brady
Paul Carter
Mike Dickson
Deanna Hoffman
Karen Hoy
Stacy Hughes
David Jones
Jeff Marchetti
Beth McAllen Veca
John Walker

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