



# St. Elizabeth's

EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF RIDGEWOOD

*welcome home*



June 2023  
Volume 96 Number 6

### *From the Rector's Desk...*

When you have elementary age children in the 21st century, just about every weekend is filled with one birthday party after another. I've lost count of how many parties Charles and Mary Claire have attended since the start of the school year. And I can tell you this: They look forward to every last one of them!

As we start to get a little older, it's those "milestone birthdays" that either excite or terrify us. The 16th birthday. The 21st birthday. The 30th birthday. The 50th birthday. God-willing we get to keep counting upward and hit those next milestones, each with their own opportunities and challenges.

On June 24, 1923, the Feast of the Nativity of St. John the Baptist, Bishop Edwin S. Lines came to Ridgewood to officiate at the very first service of our parish. As the church had not yet been dedicated, the clergy present on that day put on their vestments in house located at 127 Fairmount Avenue. From there, the 368 people processed the short distance from that house to the church, and the rest, as they say, is history.



This summer, we celebrate one of those major milestone birthdays: the 100th anniversary of the dedication of our church. To pay homage to those first St. Elizabethians, we'll process from that very same house on Fairmount Road (they've given us their permission) and sing some of the same hymns from that very first service. Most importantly, we'll give thanks to Almighty God for our beginnings and all that has happened from 1923 to 2023. It will be a very special day, and I hope you will mark your calendars and join us on June 25 as we celebrate this important birthday.

And then, we will begin our 101st year. This year may not be as exciting a milestone, but it is no less important. In our 101st year we will talk more as a parish about how we can continue to strengthen and grow. We will also discuss what we need to do to take care of these beautiful facilities that have been entrusted to us and come up with a vision for the next centenary.

Warren Buffett, the Oracle of Omaha, once said that "Someone is sitting in the shade today because someone planted a tree a long time ago." 100 years ago, our ancestors in the faith had a vision: a modest parish house in Upper Ridgewood. That vision very quickly turned into a chapel, which then turned into its own self-sustaining parish just a few years later. They had a vision and they had a plan. They put their trust in God and we are the beneficiaries. What trees are we planting as we look to the future? What are our dreams as we move closer to the next milestone in our church's life?

It's no secret that St. Elizabeth's is one of the healthiest churches in our diocese. I don't say that in an arrogant way but simply as a matter of fact. Yes, we have our challenges, but we are a strong, dynamic church with a bright future ahead of us. The reason we are so strong and vibrant is because we, to quote Stephen Covey, have "kept the main thing the main thing." And what is the main thing? Jesus Christ our Lord. We have, as we are encouraged to do in the New Testament, grown in the grace and knowledge of Jesus our Lord [see 2 Peter 3.18]. That's it. That's why we're still here. All that we've done over the last 100 years, and all that we will continue to do as we move into the future is connected to the Good News of Jesus Christ.

We've made it to 100 and we are grateful to God. As we come to the end of our Centennial Celebrations on June 25, let's not stop planting and dreaming together as we journey ever forward. And as we go, we will keep our eyes and our hearts and our church always fixed on what really matters: Jesus our Lord and Savior.

Happy birthday, St. Elizabeth's! You look better than ever and we're all excited to see what's next for you, our beloved church.

Faithfully Yours in Christ,  
Andy+

# YOU ARE INVITED

## Sunday, June 25

Please join us for our  
**100<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION**  
Worship Service & Picnic



### The Day's Events

**9:30 am Centennial Worship Service** begins in front of the private home at 127 Fairmount Road (five houses from the church), where the vision for what became St. Elizabeth's Church was born. Just as our forefathers gathered at this home 100 years ago to walk to the church for the very first worship service, we will walk in procession from 127 Fairmount Road with our children leading the way.

**11:30-1 pm Centennial All-Parish Picnic** immediately following the service on the church front lawn.

**Let's Celebrate! RSVP here by June 19**



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## The Choirmaster's Column

The Centennial Commemorative Worship Service and Family Picnic will be on Sunday, June 25th and begins at 9:30 am. Our Senior Choir, soloists and guest instrumentalists are looking forward to offering special programming for this historic service. The featured anthems from the choir include I was glad when they said unto me, by C. Hubert H. Parry. This work, most recently performed at the coronation of King Charles III, is a setting of a portion of Psalm 122. This Psalm was read at St. Elizabeth's first service. We will also offer the final movement, Let all the world in every corner sing from the Five Mystical Songs by Ralph Vaughan Williams. The text comes from the Welsh poet and Anglican priest, George Herbert (1593-1633) and was composed between 1906 and 1911. Please invite your family and friends to this very special service!

Garah Landes  
Organist and Choirmaster

## Children's Music



....To Our Choristers, along with our heartfelt love and best wishes for a great summer! We know that our kids (and their families) have many, many things going on, and it really is the greatest gift to the church when they come on Sundays and Wednesdays to share their voices and their hearts so that St. Elizabeth's can have a children's choir. We had an excellent year of singing, learning about music, fellowship, pizza, ice cream and hot chocolate, and ornament making, among many other activities, and we recently observed an important Anglican tradition by watching Mr. Bean sing the "Alleluia" hymn. Our thanks and gratitude go to Hope Croy, Mark Ferara, Sofia Ferara, Sarah Fernandez, Gabriella Gabera, Jayden Gabera, Shivani Heltzel, AJ Lorenz, Charles Olivo, Mary Claire Olivo, Ewan Shafer, Sydney Shafer, Ryan Steinke, and Alex Teague for their commitment to music at St. Elizabeth's. We love you!

Another Big Thank-You: to high-schoolers Anna Dickson, Katie Dickson, and Emily Olkowski, and to our wonderful professional soloists Alicia Luick and Anastasia Swope, for giving their musical and vocal support to the Children's Choirs over this last year. The memories that our young singers make of singing God's praises with talented and dedicated musicians give them the foundation for a lifetime of joy--thank you so much for being there for us!

And Finally: Love and thanks to all of the parents, grandparents, and friends who support the Children's Choirs; to Garah Landes for his wonderful leadership and the high standard he sets for the kids, and for never letting anything get in the way of a good joke; to the Senior Choir for their mentorship, whether we are preparing the Advent Concert or welcoming new young choristers to their ranks; to Beth Van Emburgh for the loving way she shepherds and teaches all that are in her care; to Ann Dowling, Grace Arscott, Ryan Pettit, and Billy Williams, the most personable, hard-working, and helpful of colleagues and friends; and finally to Andy Olivo for his spiritual guidance, endless patience, good humor, and loving support of all of our children.

Choir Ice Cream Party! And The Week After, A Bowling Party! Our last rehearsal on Wednesday, May 31 will be extended until 7:10 pm to allow for singing, eating ice cream, thanking everyone, and giving out presents and awards! Then on Wednesday, June 7, we will meet in the parking lot at 4pm and depart for Holiday Bowl in Oakland, bowling until about 5:45. All costs, including microwave pizza, are included!

Next Choir Singing Date: Flower Sunday, June 4. Joyful Noise and Cantare will sing at the 10:00 service, and should come to the Sanctuary at 9:15 am sharp for warmup and to give us time to vest.

Please contact Catherine at [chostetler@stesridgewood.org](mailto:chostetler@stesridgewood.org) if you have any questions or would like more information about our Children's Choirs.

Catherine Hostetler  
Associate Choirmaster

## **From the Church School**

School's Out for Summer!

Another school year is coming to a close! The 2022-2023 school year was filled with fun, some new challenges, and a lot of new experiences. We look forward to our Flower Sunday service where some of our children and youth will have the opportunity to participate in the service. Our theme for Flower Sunday, which falls on Trinity Sunday, is "Praise God: Creator, Spirit, Son" and our decorations will focus on the Old Testament reading for the day, the Story of Creation. The Church School children helped to create the decorations that will be hanging in church on Flower Sunday, that creatively showed each of the seven days of Creation. We will celebrate all our wonderful volunteers who give so generously of their time!

As we pack up the classrooms for a well-earned respite, I'd like to offer my appreciation and

admiration to everyone who has helped make the Church School such a unique and rewarding experience for those who attend and serve.

**Thank you to our Church School Leaders and helpers:** David Barrand, Bruce Dickson, Katie Dickson, Mike Dickson, Bill Dunnegan, Kiran Goklani, Susan Goklani, Deanna Hoffman, Kate Hoffman, Alison MacLaren, Rebecca MacLaren, Jen Marchetti, Luke Marchetti, Zach Marchetti, Emily Olkowski, Ben Teague, Katie Teague, Kristin Thauer, and Liz Thauer. It is worth noting that I had several class leaders take on multiple sessions with classes. PreK-K had Katie and Emily for the entire year, and after managing the 1st-2nd grade class, Liz and Kristen jumped to 3rd-4th grade! Many thanks to our substitutes who stepped up to fill in when a leader was needed – Veronica Aquilino, Mike Gabera, and Sandy Sullivan.

**Thank you to our YPF and Teen Outreach Leaders:** Terry Battaglia, Anna Dickson, Katie Dickson, Kirsten Dickson, Karina Ferrales, Stacey Hughes, Jenn Liljegren, and Melissa von Summer. The amount of time and energy these tireless volunteers put into youth programming is very much appreciated! The strength of our youth programs is a direct result of all their efforts, and I am grateful for them.

**Thank you, both parents and parishioners,** for all your help with our many events throughout the year. We rely on the help of volunteers to offer special experiences like the Pageant, the Easter Egg, Flower Sunday and Parish Picnic, and different outreach opportunities throughout the year.

A special and heartfelt thank you especially to Catherine Hostetler for being an amazing ministry partner through another Church School program year. Her valuable assistance, direction, ideas, and partnership has made what we do for the Children, Youth and Family Ministries possible!

I will continue to send the Christian Education Weekly emails with links to the church services as well as summer faith enrichment ideas, and other special events throughout the summer to maintain our special connections to each other with special theme Sundays in July and August, Family Pizza Dinners, possible movie events, and a returning weekday Story Time gathering for families with young children. If you do not currently receive the CEW and would like to be added to the mailing list, please let me know at [bvanemburgh@stesridgewood.org](mailto:bvanemburgh@stesridgewood.org).

Thank you again and enjoy your summer!

Yours in Christ,  
Beth

Sunday, June 4 is Flower Sunday

Time to harvest those flowers! It will be a joyous occasion to collect flowers from parishioners to decorate the annual Flower Cross, in person on Sunday, June 4<sup>th</sup>. Please bring your cut flowers, either from your garden or the store for our flower cross. Stems should be at least 6 inches long and no bigger around than an adult's pinky finger. If you plan to bring flowers

from the store, please remove the cellophane before bringing them to church on Sunday.

Following the service, please join us as we celebrate all our wonderful volunteers who give so generously of their time to help with Church School, Christmas Pageant, Easter Egg Hunts, and more. We will have some special icy cold treat for the kids during coffee hour following the Flower Sunday service.

### **June Children, Youth & Family Events**

June 4                      Flower Sunday

June 21                    Children's Story Time Wednesday, 10:30 am

June 30                    Final Friday Pizza Dinner & S'mores 5:30-7 pm

In an effort to keep families connected and engaged over the summer, I'd love to hear your ideas for fun, faith and fellowship during the summer months! Bring a friend – all are welcome at St. Elizabeth's!

### **Special Sundays for July and August**

Please watch the CEW and St. Elizabeth's Enews for announcements of special event Sundays throughout the summer. We want to keep the fun going, even though Church School is out for summer! Some potential Sundays include: Super Soaker Sunday, Ice Cream Sundae Sunday, Popsicle Sunday. Many of our "theme" Sundays were suggested by our Church School children at our "Animal Meeting" back in January, so I'm really excited to host them!

### **Final Friday Pizza Dinner**

On the final Friday of June, July and August we will host a Family Pizza Dinner to keep our Church School families connected and engaged. Please RSVP at [https://docs.google.com/document/d/18paPKPR21m2hiWRakf\\_yk7o7HJ\\_5DZorFLVJ8zAgxXc/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/document/d/18paPKPR21m2hiWRakf_yk7o7HJ_5DZorFLVJ8zAgxXc/edit?usp=sharing) so we know how many pizzas to order! Invite your friends to join us for a time of fun and fellowship.

### **Story Time Wednesdays**

For our youngest children out of school for the summer, we are offering a Story Time Wednesday. We will read a picture book, have a snack, and have a craft project to do together. All kids are welcome, but the picture books audiences will be Nursery School – Kindergarten. It's a great opportunity to not only have our youngest Church School children get together, but it's a nice time for mid-week fellowship for the parents as well! Invite your friends to join us – all are welcome!

### **Church School Leaders Needed for Next Fall**

Here it is! The annual call for Church School Leaders! Ideally, given current enrollment numbers the class groups will remain as follows: PreK-K; Grades 1-2; Grades 3-4; and Grades 5-6-7. New school years are always new beginnings and, as we are still coming out of this year of post-pandemic flexibility and uncertainties, we are looking forward to next Fall as a time for opportunity and resuming our usual way of doing Church School. I want to find new ways to support our volunteer Church School Leaders, to make them feel comfortable and prepared for teaching. We want to excite children about coming to Church School for fellowship, for fun, and to learn about God's abundant love for and acceptance of them.

Finally, we have a volunteer Church School, and so first of all, we need YOU. St. Elizabeth's is asking for your gift of love, time, and commitment to our children so please consider signing up for a session. We will be looking to fill our Fall slots first, but if that doesn't work for you, please let us know your availability for Winter or Spring. We that you will commit to work with us to make a lively, welcoming, enriching program that children are eager to come to. High School Youth are welcome to be assistants in a Church School class, ideally with an adult teacher especially if they have not led a class in the past.

Please contact me at the Church School Office at [bvanemburgh@stesridgewood.org](mailto:bvanemburgh@stesridgewood.org) to let us know if you can teach, which grade levels you prefer, and especially whether you are available for the Fall session.

### **Congratulations to our Graduates!**

Congratulations to our St. Elizabeth's Seniors graduating High School this month! We have enjoyed watching you grow into the amazing young adults you are today – many of you we've known since your first days at our Church School.

Our graduating 12th Graders are:

Charlotte Celiberti  
Cate Conde  
Chris Conde  
Ian Crowley  
Bruce Dickson  
Roger Gaillard  
Kate Hoffman  
Maggie Hough  
Giordan Ismael  
Lindsey Libenson  
Zach Marchetti  
John Morley  
Emma Ohnegian  
Emily Schmitt  
Nolan Strauss  
Julia Taylor  
Jenna Thauer  
Lindsey von Summer

We also recognize our 8th Graders who are not only graduating from Middle School but are also graduating out of the St. Elizabeth's Church School programs. They are welcomed with open arms as active members of our church community, with many new service opportunities available to them! Nursery, Church School, Children's Chapel, Teen Outreach, and Sunday Worship are many ways that our newly graduated 8th graders can be involved at St. Elizabeth's!



Our 8th Graders graduating this month:

Brody Ismael  
Madeline Corcoran

Mia Taliercio  
Annabelle MacLaren

## **Outreach**

The Outreach Committee will meet on Wednesday, June 7 at 7:30 in the Committee Room. Please feel free to join us then as we will be distributing the charity grants. We do not meet in the summer but do use that time to contact organizations. Meetings will resume on September 6.

However, the men at the St. Paul's CDC Homeless Shelter still need to eat year round. The Outreach Committee maintains the schedule for meals at the Men's Shelter. St. Elizabeth's Church provides a hot meal with dessert and some breakfast items on the third Monday of the month. At the latest count, there were 30 men in the shelter. If you are interested in serving again or taking the plunge for the first time, the following dates are available for you: August 21, September 18, October 16, November 20, and December 18. This is a wonderful way to share your gifts with a worthy group of men who are trying to re-establish their lives.

## **Be the Light**

Thank you to all who attended "Be The Light", the evening to support Outreach and the Galletly Choral Scholarship Fund. The evening was festive with special fellowship and delicious hearty hors d'oeuvres catered by Clementine Caterers and wine and beer supplied by Wine and Spirit World. There are many people to thank: Andy and Billy for their time and thoughtful advice; Billy for the great power point; the Outreach Committee for the concept of the evening and all of the time involved; Garah Landes for the coordination of the event; Garah Landes, Anastasia Swope, Ellana Swope and James Bird for the exhilarating and beautiful musical performance; Beth Van Emburgh for taking ownership of the babysitting; Emma Reichert for designing the beautiful invitation and her suggestions; Ryan Petit for his ongoing communications; Grace Arscott for managing the reservations and the finances; Debra Anderson and Gigo Taylor for the sharing their template from the 100th anniversary cocktail party; to Fredy and Rick Davies for rearranging the room; and Sherry Kock for the beautiful and creative decorations; and Melissa Von Summer for sharing information about Teen Outreach. We are grateful for the silent auction donations given by Cynthia and Steve Gorey, Catherine Chriss and Tim Graham, Barbara and Bruce Brady, Marnie Price, Sue Reid, Clementine Caterers and Denise and John Vollkommer. We appreciate the time that our speakers spent sharing their missions with us. Those speakers were Phil Beverly and Franchesca Hernandez from New Hope Community Ministries, Maria Palmer from St. Paul's CDC and Marie Caliendo from Family Promise. The evening was lovely because you all chose to attend, listen to beautiful music performed by talented musicians, learn about the missions of organizations that you all support and enjoy the company and fellowship of others in the parish. Thank you, thank you all!!

## YPF

ST. E'S YPF--OUR YOUTH GROUP FOR 5 TH , 6 TH , 7 TH AND 8 TH GRADERS--IS ON VACATION FOR THE SUMMER, RETURNING IN OCTOBER! Happy thanks to our wonderful YPF Leaders (aka "PARTYMASTERS") Rev. Billy and Katie, Anna and Kirsten Dickson for loving leadership of this year's YPF fun and fellowship. HOORAY for our 7 th Grade YPFers who are moving up to become St. E's 2024 Eighth Grade CONFIRMANDS!

## Teen Outreach for May 2023

Thank you to everyone who participated in the friendship bracelet-making, the Graduate Sunday church service, and coffee hour this past Sunday. Teen Outreach raised \$200 for Mission.org in support of parishioner Dillon Carroll's humanitarian efforts in Ukraine. We will have those kits available at coffee hours again, too, to help raise more money for this great cause!

### Looking for Summer Service?

Last Sunday was our final Teen Outreach group event until September, but if you are looking for additional ways to help out this summer, we will participate in St Elizabeth's grant request research process again beginning in August. Each year, St Elizabeth's Church receives grants from organizations looking for help funding their organizations and St E's Outreach members must meet with each organization to better understand the request and to make a recommendation about whether to support each grant.

Teen Outreach takes the lead in 1-2 grants ourselves. We meet with the organization as a team of 4-6 of us, write up our recommendation based on our meeting, and present our recommendation to the Outreach committee. Its a great way to get to know some of the organizations in our community who do amazing work, and you can get a head start on some of the service hours you'll need for the school year. You're welcome to bring a friend with you to help out, too! If you're interested in participating this summer, please email Stacy Hughes at [sghughes@corevaluepilates.com](mailto:sghughes@corevaluepilates.com).

## Congratulations, Graduating High School Seniors!

As another school year comes to an end, we celebrate the remarkable achievements of our graduating high school seniors. It is a momentous occasion that marks the culmination of years of hard work, dedication, and perseverance. We commend each and every one of you for reaching this significant milestone in your lives.

As you embark on the next chapter of your journey, we are thrilled to hear about the exciting plans and aspirations you have for the coming year.



**Charlotte Celeberti**  
*College of Charleston*



**Cate Conde**  
*George Washington University*



**Chris Conde**  
*Rutgers School of Engineering*



**Ian Crowley**  
*Lehigh University*



**Bruce Dickson**  
*Georgetown University*



**Roger Gaillard**  
*Denison University*





**Katie Hoffman**  
*University of Washington*



**Giordan Ismael**  
*Columbia University*



**Lindsey Libenson**  
*Tulane University*



**Zach Marchetti**  
*George Washington University*



**John Morley**  
*Drew University*



**Emma Ohnegian**  
*Colby College*

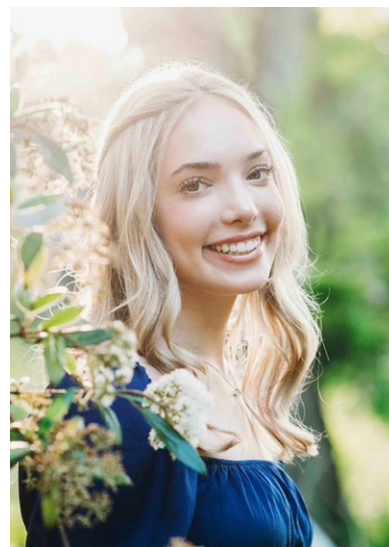




**Emily Schmitt**  
*Wake Forest University*



**Nolan Strauss**  
*University of  
Colorado, Boulder*



**Julia Taylor**  
*Penn State University*



**Jenna Thauer**  
*Fairfield University*



**Lindsey Von Summer**  
*Bucknell University*



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The Rev. William "Billy" Adams, Associate Rector for Church Growth

The Rev. Susan A. Schink, Non-Stipendiary Priest Associate

Garah Landes, Organist and Choirmaster

Catherine L. Hostetler, Associate Choirmaster

Beth Van Emburgh, Associate for Children, Youth, and Family Ministries

Ann Dowling, Parish Administrator

Ryan Pettit, Communications Coordinator

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