

St. Elizabeth's Episcopal Church
515 State Street
Culver IN, 46511

<http://steculver.org>
tom@steculver.org
H: 842-2410 C: 229-4768

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Greetings in Christ!

I am happy to be starting at St. Elizabeth's, and it has been great to meet many of you. I leave later this week for a little over three weeks of graduate school at Virginia Theological Seminary in Alexandria. It seemed as if it might be good to get out a newsletter before leaving.

St. Elizabeth's has a great spirit, and we are doing God's work here in Culver. The church has really demonstrated a lot of determination over the years, and no one can question the commitment we have.

The question for everyone involves the future, and we need to consider how we plan to channel that commitment. I have a number of goals, and I hope to increase the visibility of the congregation with the Academies. I know the vestry would like to increase visibility in the community as well, and we have some ideas to make that happen.

The challenges include time and energy. With a part time pastor and a small congregation, it is all the more important for everyone to help in whatever way possible. 1 Corinthians 12: 7 sums this idea up nicely. "To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good."

Now you have to ask yourself how God is calling you to manifest the Spirit in this community. We are all discerning God's will, and you may have noticed I am always preaching action. I'll come back to this topic, but just as a hint of my theme, I will observe that God typically does not call us to sit around.

Some dates for the calendar include the Book Group which will meet on Tuesdays at 7 PM at St. Elizabeth's. We hope to restart in July the Brotherhood of St. Andrew with a meeting on third Saturdays of the month at 8:30 AM.

We have some projects that are being developed as fund raisers. Judy Becker and Karen Dehne had an excellent cheese ball for us to sample after church yesterday. Everyone seemed as impressed as I was, and the plan is to sell these at the farmer's market in town. Judi Dodge also talked at coffee hour about mailbox covers for Christmas, and this sounds like a great project as well. Garage sale of course is on the horizon.

I will be in Alexandria from June 20 until July 13. While I am gone, the congregation is in the capable hands of Fr. John Houghton. I can always be reached by email and cell phone, and that information is at the top of this page.

Please invite someone to take part in our Book Group or Brotherhood meetings. These are very ecumenical in nature, and they are intended for the community and not just for Episcopalians. Let's each of us invite someone to worship with us on Sunday. When they visit, please help them feel welcome and get them to coffee hour!

In faith,

Thomas E. Haynes

Pastoral Leader

St. Elizabeth's Episcopal Church