



TIDINGS

Saint Elizabeth of Hungary Episcopal Church



June/July 2016

The mission of Saint Elizabeth's Church is proclaiming God's Word, celebrating God's love, and sharing God's gifts.

MUSIC NOTES

by Julie Woodall
Interim Choir Director

This is my first attempt to write an article for the Tidings! Yippee! I wanted to say three things.

First, it is a joy to play music and sing with you. The choir at St. Elizabeth's is wonderful and the congregation sings great, too. What a joy to sing praises to God!!

Second, I want you to know that I honor your music requests. Let me know what hymns you love. Let me know of other types of music that you like.

Third, we need more help in the choir on each voice part. Our loyal choir members feel so guilty when they have to miss a Sunday. Maybe you've always wanted to try singing in the choir, but didn't think you would measure up. I can help you with finding your voice, and our seasoned choir members are kind. This would be a great time to try us out because Summer Choir starts on June 5th. That means we will NOT have Wednesday rehearsals, but will meet in the choir loft at 9 a.m. Sunday morning to get a simple anthem and the hymns into shape for the service that day. We have the best seats in the house!

Well that's it. My email is djwoodall@gmail.com and my cell number is 404-576-9587.



Parishioners gathered Sunday afternoon, May 15, for a report on the results of the recent parish survey and the interpretation of those results by consultant David York.

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Survey Says . . . *Congregation Assessment Tool helps identify future priorities for St. Elizabeth's*

by Michael Zose

The Congregation Assessment Tool (CAT)—a survey instrument designed to help us develop a clearer picture of who we are as a church and what directions might be important for our future—was recently administered at St. Elizabeth's. One-hundred forty-seven persons were invited to participate; of these, 99 persons, or nearly 70 percent, responded.

On May 15, David York, a consultant trained to interpret the results of the CAT, delivered a presentation to members of the congregation, including the vestry and the search committee. The CAT results indicated that, overall, approximately 87 percent of survey respondents at least tended to agree that they are satisfied with things in the church; 51 percent either agreed or strongly agreed. Respondents were particularly satisfied with the quality and spiritual content of the worship service and the music at St. Elizabeth's, and felt that morale, that is, the positive, passionate, and persuasive engagement of members in the mission of the church, is high. Most respondents also felt that St. Elizabeth's welcomes and is enriched by persons from many different walks of life.

While the results of the survey were positive overall, they pointed to areas with room for improvement, including reducing conflict within the congregation and providing greater opportunities for spiritual education and involvement in decision-making. Furthermore, the results pointed to several areas respondents view as future priorities for St. Elizabeth's.

The top four priorities expressed included:

- Making necessary changes to attract families with children and youth to our church;
- Developing and implementing a comprehensive strategy to reach new people and incorporate them into the life of the church;
- Providing more opportunities for Christian education and spiritual formation at every age and stage of life;
- and developing the spiritual generosity of the people to financially support the ministry of the church.

Lastly, the CAT helped identify the abilities respondents viewed as most important in a new rector. Overwhelmingly, respondents chose preaching as the most critical ability, followed by pastoral care, and strategic leadership.

The information gleaned from the CAT is invaluable in helping the Search Committee carry out the search for a new rector and in helping the vestry develop plans to best meet the needs of the congregation.

The Search Committee would like to thank everyone who took the time to complete the CAT for their candid responses