

# ST ELIZABETH'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Rt. Rev. Scott B. Hayashi, 11th Bishop of Utah  
The Rev. Michael Carney, Vicar

**SUNDAY WORSHIP, HOLY EUCHARIST 10:00 AM**



*Winter Talk*

## Something Bigger Than Ourselves

I wish everyone could go to Winter Talk. Most members of small Native congregations can hardly imagine the wider community of the Episcopal church. "They're people just like us," said Forrest Cuch, "with similar backgrounds and challenges, and the same powerful Spirit at work everywhere."

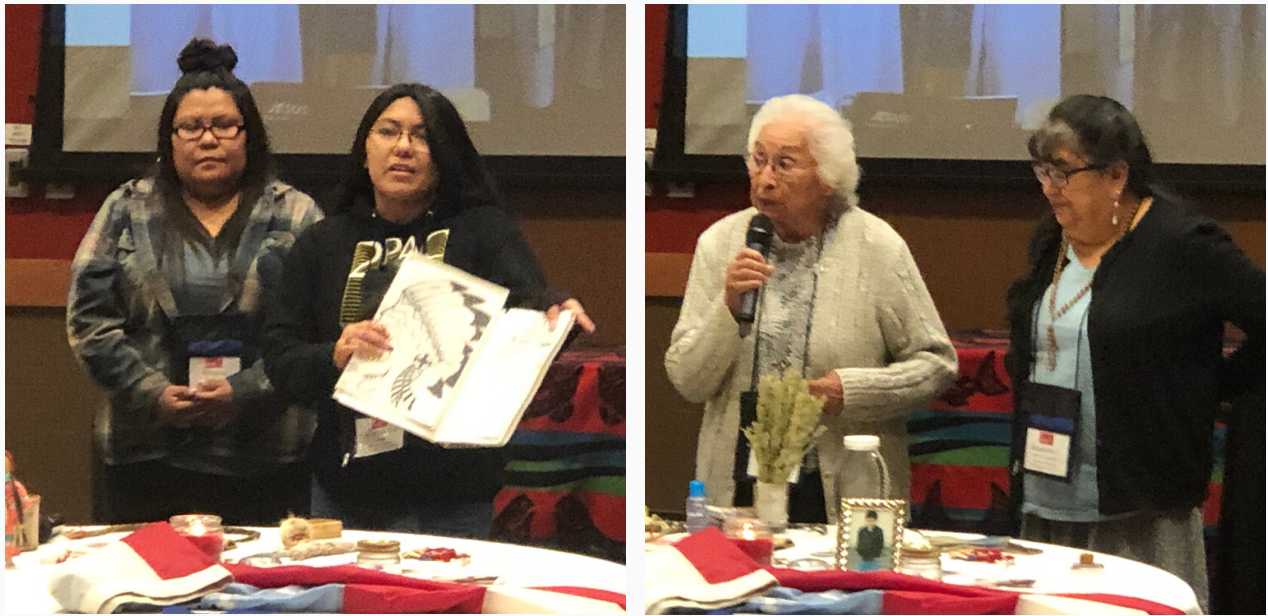
Every January leaders from all over the West and Midwest, Alaska, Hawaii and other states attend the annual Winter Talk gathering. They introduce themselves in more than a dozen Native languages and share stories that are

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*Becca, Pepper and Reynelda at Winter Talk*

familiar to everyone. An altar is assembled with sacred objects from every homeland and is blessed by a beloved elder. Each day is spent sitting in a circle around that altar as we pray together, hear inspiring talks and make plans for the coming year. Music and laughter abound, and meals are accompanied by lively conversation.

This year we were blessed to have a diverse group from St. Elizabeth's, all members of our Bishop's Committee. Forrest also serves on the national Advisory Board and is respected as a speaker, historian and spiritual leader. Becca Gardner has become known as a youth leader, an important role in all our communities. She shared her gratitude for the work she's been called to do and the connections she feels in the Episcopal Native community. As a high school senior in an adult role, Pepper Alanis was appreciated by the elders and received unexpected gifts at the end of the conference. What a blessing these young, emerging leaders are!

All of us were inspired by the people we met and the stories we heard. Women from remote villages in Alaska show such

faithfulness in keeping their churches alive. Leaders from Standing Rock brought a tattered Episcopal flag that had flown in the water protectors' camp, and they described how they'd built up their youth ministry program. Rev. Mary Crist (who'll be leading our Women's Retreat) gave a terrific talk on theological education, and numerous other speakers lifted our spirits. We all celebrated Rev. Brad Hauff, our national Missioner, whose engaging leadership has helped to double the size of the gathering. Paiute elder Reynelda James blessed us with sage and sacred water from

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Pyramid Lake, sending us out to continue serving our home communities.

Winter Talk reminded us what's always true in the church: that we're part of something much bigger than ourselves. No matter how isolated we may feel or what challenges we face, the Body of Christ is there to sustain us. We returned refreshed for our ministries and curious where the Spirit will lead us next.

*Michael*



*St. Elizabeth's at Winter Talk*

## Art Empowers

As we work to reorganize our arts programs for children and youth, Maria Alanis (one of the young artists) came up with a wonderful new name: Art Empowers. As you can see, she also created a beautiful logo incorporating a dreamcatcher. Soon Art Empowers will be an independent program under the nonprofit umbrella of Episcopal Community Services. After talking with Maria and others our Bishop's Committee drafted a mission statement for the program: To Empower the Youth of our Reservation Community through Creative Arts.

We look forward to continuing to provide the same popular, high-quality programs that have been such a blessing for the community over the past twelve years. Attendance at our Fall Series was at an all-time high, and the Winter/Spring Series will begin on Wednesday, March 4. We're thankful that the Diocese of Utah has given us a Chevy Suburban so we can transport more young people. If you know of anyone who'd like to come, please get in touch with SueAnn Cottonuts or Michael (823-1559).



*Maria with Art Empowers logo*

## Gratitude

Nobody likes to say goodbye to a dear friend, right? So the announcement of Bishop Hayashi's upcoming retirement in 2021 had a bittersweet feeling. Even before being consecrated he began a special friendship with St. Elizabeth's, and his presence and support have been blessings ever since. It seems like I'm always writing thank-you notes: most recently for help with our Women's Retreat, next summer's Mountains and Deserts meeting, and for the gift of a "new-to-us" Chevy Suburban to transport young people.



To Bishop Hayashi and his wife Amy, we send our gratitude, prayers and best wishes for wonderful new adventures in retirement!

## Remembrances

Two beloved women from St. Elizabeth's passed into eternal life since our last newsletter. Jane Thompson was a legend in the Roosevelt community, known for starting schools, working with juvenile justice and recovery programs, making jail visits and who knows what else. In her last days, while at home with her family in front of a cozy fire, she told Michael "I hate just sitting here when there's so much more to do." What a legacy she left for all of us to continue!



Lena Cotonuts was not able to be active in the community, having suffered a serious brain injury as an infant. But she was very much part of her family, who inspired all of us by their loving devotion to their daughter/sister/auntie. Lena leaves behind the strength of her Spirit and reminds us of the sacredness of life. May she and Jane rest in peace, and may those who love them be comforted in their grief.





## Photo Gallery



*Two rules for Youth Group: Be Safe and Have Fun!*



*A beautiful Christmas Eve service in Whiterocks!*



*Whiterocks Sunset*





## Women's Retreat

We're looking forward to a wonderful Women's Retreat at the Episcopal Church Center in Salt Lake City on the weekend of March 20-22. We're fortunate that Rev. Mary Crist will be our presenter. She works with the Episcopal Native community across the country and leads two Talking Circles for Native women in southern California. Thanks to the generosity of the Diocese of Utah there's no charge to participate, but the spaces are filling up quickly. If you or a friend are interested, let Michael know right away by texting or calling him at 823-1559.

## St. Elizabeth's Mission

Noochu (the people) of St. Elizabeth's welcome you to worship, share hospitality and grow in God's love to better serve the church and community.

