

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



The Spirit at Work

"Let's have another Holiday Meal," Becca said, as if saying so would make it happen. Last year, in the midst of Covid and before vaccinations, we knew we couldn't host a dinner, so we gave away pies instead. People were surprised and pleased by them, but it wasn't the same as the sit-down meals we'd had before.

As the Bishop's Committee (the local church board) discussed this year's possibilities, it became clear that Becca had a vision for what we could do. We're caught between the height of the pandemic and that day (someday) when it won't be dangerous to gather together. Her idea was to offer the meal to everyone in the reservation community, but only on a curbside, drive-through basis.

It worked like a charm, with Youth Group members in the parking lot, taking orders (turkey or ham? How



many meals?) and relaying them by walkie-talkie. A dozen cooks from the church had brought food, and inside the parish hall, crews were carving turkeys and slicing hams, making more gravy and stuffing, assembling the takeout boxes and cutting up pies and cake. Thanks to Becca's coordination, the team worked so smoothly that it never seemed rushed, giving her time to chat with the drivers as they came through.

The response was heartwarming, with about two hundred meals served to families from all over the reservation. All of them were thankful, and comments came in later that day from people who appreciated the gift of a home-cooked meal. "We decided to come help out at the last minute," one church member said, "and we're glad we did. It was fun being part of this!" Clearly the Spirit was at work, and with good leadership and more than twenty volunteers, our first drive-through Holiday Meal turned out very well.

Art Empowers' Fall Series

Recovering from the pandemic has turned out to be a longer process than any of us had imagined. With so many uncertainties, it's hard to know how to balance our concern for safety with the need we all have to get on with our lives. For that reason, our Bishop's Committee thought seriously before restarting our Art Empowers program.

Holding summer camp was a great way to begin, because almost all our time was spent outdoors. As the weather got cooler and the kids returned to school, we decided to take precautions and move inside. With all our staff vaccinated, using masks and lots of hand sanitizer and keeping social distance, we felt that beginning again was a good decision. We served food without having anyone wait in line, and the bus provided by the Ute Tribe made it possible for the kids to spread out. (A big THANK YOU to the Transit Department!)

As you can see from these photos, the young people had a wonderful time! They enjoy being together after school, and art projects are endlessly engaging. Becca Gardner and Sadie Santio are caring companions for the kids, and it was a delight to welcome back SueAnn Cottonuts.



Because of the colder weather and previous virus spikes in the winter, we're waiting until March to begin our next program series. We'll be back then, and we can't wait to see all the kids again.

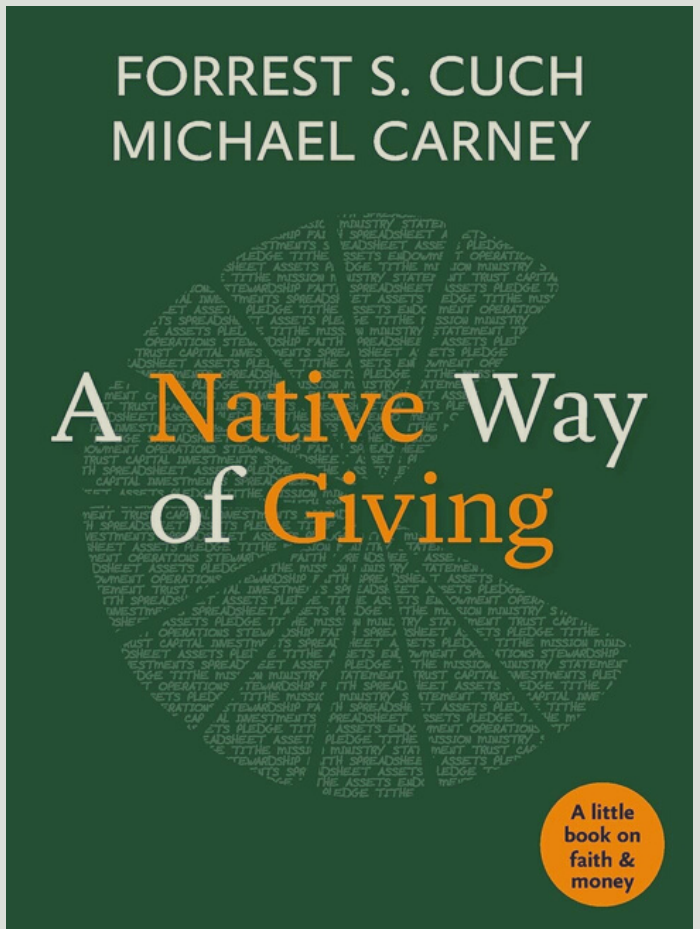


An Outbreak of Generosity

In our new book ***A Native Way of Giving***, Forrest Cuch and I describe a “life-giving cycle.” It arises from a foundation of gratitude: “When every day is a gift, the Creator a living presence, and creation a sacrament, gratitude is the most natural response.” (p. 21) From that flows generosity, which anthropologist Carlos Barrio calls “the number-one shared value” of Native people in North America. Living in a generous community, one in which people take care of each other, promotes a sense of abundance, starting the cycle all over again.

Recently we witnessed an outbreak of generosity in our Bishop's Committee. In this case, it started with abundance: the generous support we receive from the Diocese of Utah and from our members and friends, as well as our careful spending. Having some extra funds got the BC dreaming, but they started small, with making t-shirts to promote St. Elizabeth's. Then, instead of paving new areas of our parking lot, we sent a gift to the Episcopal Church in Navajoland, who do so much to serve their neighbors.

Giving money for someone else's daily needs can be empowering. As the BC felt the satisfaction of making that decision, Becca Gardner was bursting with energy. "I want to do more for the community. I want to attract people to our church!" Out came a stream of ideas: holding another Holiday Meal, collecting blankets for people living on the streets in Salt Lake City, starting a food pantry and a clothing closet. The other members nodded approvingly and wondered how we'd pull all that off.



As the meeting was breaking up, I asked Becca, if it were possible, would she like to do more work for the church? (She's currently paid five hours a week for leading the Youth Group.) I thought she'd want to think about it, but her answer was immediate: "I'd love to!" We agreed to a trial period in November and December, after which we'll lay out goals and make a proposal to the BC for 2022. Wouldn't supporting Becca's leadership and doing more to serve the needs of the wider community be wonderful expressions of our generosity?

Stay tuned to see how this develops.

Michael

Youth Group

Becca Gardner gets excited when she talks about the blanket drive. "It's an awesome feeling for the youth to experience this," she said. Collecting blankets from the whole reservation community (over seventy and still counting) makes this a really special project. Who are they for? "When I asked, they had different ideas," she said. "For kids, for families in need, for people living on the street." Forrest Cuch compared this to the tradition of honoring leaders by giving them Pendleton blankets, a gift both respectful and practical. "Our young people are so blessed by doing this," Becca said. "It will warm their hearts in a whole different way."

With a project like that underway, it's not surprising to see the energy growing in the youth group. New members are joining the faithful core, and their confidence level is rising. "When we went to Ute Plaza to hand out flyers for the Holiday Meal, at first they didn't know what to say," Becca recalls. "But soon they were inviting people to the dinner, and they all worked hard that day." Part of their confidence comes from keeping prayer journals and having Bible conversations, which Becca has made into games with M&M's for prizes.

Having helped to feed the community and collect gifts for strangers in Salt Lake City, the young people are looking forward to decorating the parish hall and having a Christmas party. We're all blessed by their positive energy and by Becca's growth as a leader!



Photo Gallery



Marsha Heron loves to bake!



Their cooking done, elders relax before the Holiday Meal.



Eagleplume and her new baby getting cozy.



Meal Giveaway



Seeley's creative response to hearing an announcement about the Holiday Meal.

Remembering a Dear Friend

Pat Drewry Sanger, a longtime resident of Park City and a dear friend of St. Elizabeth's, passed into eternal life on November 21. Her daughter Stephanie told us she died peacefully, with family members beside her and covered by a beautiful quilt. Her memorial service will be held next spring in Park City.

Pat worked for years as an Advanced Psychiatric Registered Nurse, serving traumatized young people in Virginia. She loved to unwind after work by walking on the beach, and as she did, the outlines of the Arts-Kids program took shape.

When she moved to Park City and visited Whiterocks, it became clear that the combination of verbal and artistic self-expression, exercise and healthy meals, caring adults and a supportive peer group was ideal for our local youth.

In recent years, Pat expressed appreciation for the ways our Art Empowers program carries out her



vision. Forrest Cuch and I were proud to honor her with a chapter in our book *A Native Way of Giving*, which her daughter read to Pat in her final days. We're deeply grateful for the life and legacy of our dear friend, Pat Sanger.

Michael



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.