



ST. ELIZABETH'S CHAPEL, SUDBURY, MASSACHUSETTS

Photo Warren Jagg

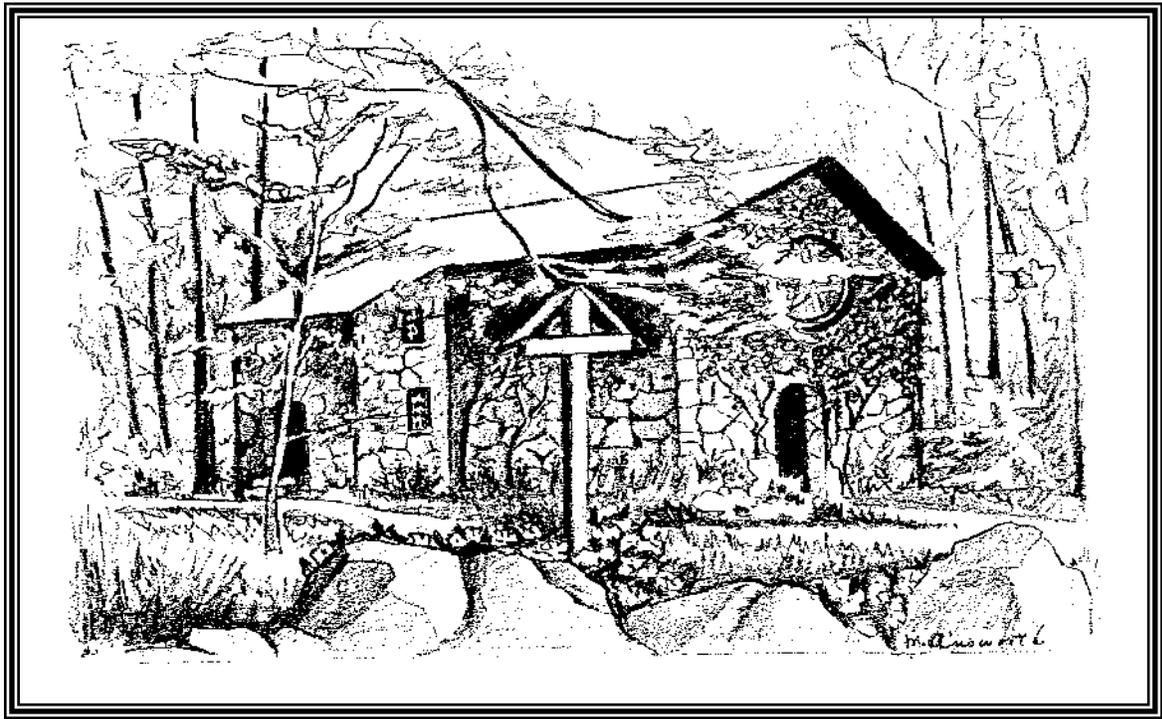
2011 Annual Report

St. Elizabeth's Episcopal Church

Sudbury, Massachusetts

Annual Meeting held Sunday, February 5, 2012

At 11:25 am in the Parish Hall



St. Elizabeth's Chapel

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Rector's Report 2011

2011 was a year of milestones for children and youth. Our youngest learners had a full year in the Transitional Atrium. On May 14th sixteen youth were confirmed at the deanery wide service of Confirmation held at St. Anne's in Lincoln. The next day the Level III Atrium children led the congregation in an instructed Eucharist. The following Sunday in the Rite 13 ceremony we celebrated and blessed the 7th and 8th graders on their journey into adulthood. In July, the 9th and 10th graders went on Pilgrimage, deepening their connections to God and each other. In August, high school youth (mostly 11th and 12 graders) and adult leaders spent a week living in a church in Charlestown and engaging daily in various kinds of volunteer work, mostly with the homeless.

2011 was a year of milestones for adults and for families. Babies were born to Lisa and Peter West, to Erin and Dave Kartunen, to Elizabeth Webb and Hokianto Haryanto, to Jennifer and Steve O'Rourke, and to Rebecca and Ernest Acevedo. By baptism, we welcomed into the household of God fourteen infants, children and youth. Marriages were solemnized for Maureen Hynes and Ted Brouse, for Eric Bergstrom and Jennifer Carrigan, and marriage vows renewed by Tim and Mari Weldon. The Neal family, the Newton family, the Van Leer family, the Appleby family, and the Garrity family laid to rest Madeleine, Liz, Hans, Craig, and Winifred.

2011 was Valerie Bailey Fischer's last year on staff at St. Elizabeth's. I am grateful for her work, particularly initiating small groups, specifically the Friday morning parents, infants, and toddlers group, the women's lunch group, the professional women's group, and the sacred text group, all of which gave parishioners options for more intimate interaction than typically occurs in worship or working on the same committee. 2011 was a milestone year for Valerie as well as she was called to her first position as Rector for St. Mark's Church in Teaneck, NJ.

In 2011, we took a different tact with respect to Christian formation for adults. In much of my experience, the programs of adult formation we have offered, by and large, engage only a few people. In an effort to reach a wider audience, Music Director, Mary Sue Willie, Educational Consultant, the Rev. Christine Visminas, and I have worked together to provide opportunities for formation within the framework of our Sunday morning worship. This has included the addition of artwork and icons with write-ups in the bulletin exploring their symbolism and significance to our faith. This has included changing up the liturgies with paperless service music, new prayer forms for the Creeds, the confession, the prayers of the people and the Eucharistic prayer. This method of formation is less didactic and more experiential. But given that it is a central tenet of Anglicanism that prayer shapes believing, how we worship forms us.

In our heart of hearts, human beings, consciously or not, seek the transcendent, union with the divine, an experience of the mystical, in the pursuit of meaning in the midst of what might otherwise be existential loneliness. More practically, we seek ways to deepen our faith lives that we might no longer be simply spectators sitting in the pews but actually feel like we are making a positive impact in the world, even if the venues of that world are mostly our homes, our schools, and our workplaces. Jesus calls us to be his disciples, and like the disciples he called

2000 years ago, we need to be taught, to be formed in the faith, so that we can better know and serve the One who blessed us into being and blesses us still.

In 2012, we will engage the congregation in an exploration of the kinds of adult formation outside of worship parishioners would find compelling. To that end and to support our programs of Christian formation for children and youth, we will fund a half-time position for a lay Director of Education and Youth beginning in July.

We are formed in the faith by worship, by education, and by action. Thus, 2011 was also a year of new initiatives to draw more of the congregation into hands-on outreach. Deepening a long-standing connection St. Elizabeth's has had with the Salvation Army Miracle Kitchen in Framingham, in 2011, the Outreach Committee made a concerted effort to encourage and invite different constituencies in the parish to try their hand at cooking and serving the evening meal on the second Tuesday of the month. Each month a different group took responsibility for serving, and could, if they desired, also cook some of the casseroles. So one month members of the Vestry took responsibility, one month members of the Buildings and Grounds Committee, one month the J2A or YAC youth and adult leaders, one month the Adult Choir, one month the Altar Guild, Flower Guild, and Bible study member, etc. This effort has resulted in a number of parishioners experiencing for the first time the heart changing work of serving the poor.

We took a similar tact by stepping up our involvement with Heifer International, visiting their farm in Rutland, MA and engaging in the Global Harvest "Fill the Ark" fundraiser in November. We are looking for ways to do more hands-on work with Ecclesia Ministries to the homeless of Boston. Again, our goal is formation in the faith by worship, education, and action.

God continues to bless St. Elizabeth's with excellent lay leadership, energy, and initiative. I am so moved by uninterrupted stream of the willing hands and hearts that make our church hum. And I am supremely grateful for the money parishioners give to support the programs, staff, and physical plant. Thank you so very much.

Respectfully submitted,

The Rev. Barbara S. Williamson

Wardens' Report

2011 was a year for building on the momentum from the prior year. You may recall that in 2010 the Vestry approved a new mission statement that encapsulated the four-word motto of the Diocese – Inviting, Forming, Serving, Sending. In last year's Annual Report, we duly noted that the task ahead of us was to keep our Mission at the forefront and to support it with everything we do at St. Elizabeth's.

Toward that end, one of our major objectives in 2011 was to broaden the scope of and the participation in Outreach. Looking briefly at just two of the items in the Outreach Committee report, there was a huge increase in the number of participants in the Miracle Kitchen, with volunteers expanding from a small, dedicated core of regulars to include just about every group and committee at St. E's. In addition, a new project – the Global Harvest Project – was launched with great success, including a site visit to Overlook Farm and the "Fill-the-Ark" fundraiser. It was particularly encouraging to see parishioners of all generations participating in so many of the Outreach events.

2011 was also a year to celebrate the accomplishments of our children and youth, ranging from confirmation (with an astonishing number of 16 being confirmed!) to Pilgrimage to a week of work and ministry with the homeless in Boston to the alternative worship service in May. Our classrooms remain overflowing.

Another focus for 2011 was on small group gatherings. Some groups were organized primarily for Christian formation, while others were organized primarily for fellowship. Each of the groups offered an opportunity to bring parishioners together in different, non-traditional ways. We are working to carry some of these groups forward in 2012.

In addition to these smaller gatherings, we enjoyed a number of our traditional larger fellowship gatherings, from the spring auction to the end-of-the-school-year picnic in June to the welcome-back picnic in September to the Dickens Dinner in December. Hurricane Irene unfortunately washed away our planned second annual parish retreat in late August.

2011 was also a year that saw more than the usual challenges to our physical plant. When we went to reopen the Chapel in the spring, we discovered that mice had caused serious damage to the organ, necessitating emergency (but successful) repairs. Among other projects, portions of the garage roof at the Rectory were replaced, and some much needed painting was completed along the front of the church.

Also in 2011, a newly revitalized Finance Committee assisted with the preparation of the annual budget and started to look toward longer term financial issues, such as building an endowment fund and starting an organized planned giving program.

In addition, we said a fond farewell in 2011 to Valerie Bailey Fischer, who so capably served as our Assistant Rector, and who now has been called to a parish of her own in New Jersey.

And finally, 2011 was a year of preparation for 2012. First and foremost, we have been preparing for Barbara's now imminent sabbatical, which will take her away from St. Elizabeth's until late May. For as much as Barbara will be missed, we wish her nothing but the best in her much deserved time of personal and spiritual renewal.

We have been preparing to welcome Rev. Gale Davis Morris as our interim pastor.

We have been preparing a parish-wide project, to be undertaken during Barbara's absence, in

which we will be looking at new approaches for adult and cross-generational formation and for ways to implement new ideas when she returns. A part-time education director is included in the budget, starting in the second half of 2012, to help us here.

We have been preparing to build on the tremendous success of our Outreach projects from this past year.

We have been preparing new initiatives, such as taking the necessary steps to open our building as a haven for parishioners who are without heat and electricity in the aftermath of storms such as Hurricane Irene in August and the snowstorm in late October. A task force has already begun working on this project.

We have been preparing to upgrade our communications efforts by tapping into the expertise of our parishioners to advise us on the use of Facebook and other social media options.

We have been preparing to upgrade our heating system and hot water pumps, as well as to make improvements at the Rectory. Most of these projects are designed primarily to conserve energy and further our green initiatives.

2012 promises to be an exciting year as we move forward with what we started in 2011. Thank you all for your dedication and for your contributions of time, talent and treasure, without which none of what we do at St. Elizabeth's would be possible.

Respectfully submitted,

Stuart Hamilton

Nancy Morgan

Committees & Activities

Acolytes

Altar Guild

Buildings & Grounds

Christian Formation

Adult Education

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

Rite 13

Journey to Adulthood

YAC

S.T.O.P.

Youth Mission Trip

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ACOLYTES

The Acolyte ministry at St. Elizabeth's has continued to grow in 2011 and has gained several new participants. Currently, there are approximately 20 acolytes in the program ranging in age from 10 to 45 years old. While we have not reached our ultimate goal of providing three acolytes every Sunday, we are usually able to provide a Crucifer and on major feast days an additional two Torch Bearers.

While we would love to provide three acolytes on a weekly basis, the continued enthusiasm of children and youth for our own Christian formation program remains one of our bigger challenges to attracting greater participation. Many acolyte candidates still would rather be in their atrium or classroom than serve in church! What a wonderful challenge to have!

Our goal in 2012 will be to continue to recruit new acolytes, especially from the Level III Atrium and possibly some new adult participants. If we can bring the program to a total participation of 25, we might be able, with some adult participation to offer both a Crucifer and Torch Bearers more frequently.

Acolyte training is made available for all newcomers to the program, whether as child, youth or adult, as well as refresher courses for experienced Acolytes. These sessions are scheduled on an as needed basis and at a mutually convenient time.

This fall we have greatly missed the oversight of our own "Dean of Acolytes", Vernon Clark. As he continues his recovery, we look forward to his return and the valuable insight he is able to offer.

We thank everyone for donating their time and talent to this important ministry. Each individual's commitment to the Acolyte program is truly valued. We are also grateful to those parents in the parish who have encouraged their children to participate.

Respectfully submitted,
Rick Watson and Susan Dewey

Acolytes

Altar Guild

ALTAR GUILD

The St Elizabeth's Altar Guild had a good year maintaining the church linens, shining the silver and preparing the altar each week. During the first half of the year we were feeling the strain of losing three members in 2010. After some reflection the members started inviting others to join our ministry. This is a wonderful, peaceful ministry in which members can embrace the richness of our faith and gain a new perspective into the weekly and special services. The current members are a very dedicated and supportive group of women.

As the year has progressed three new members have been trained or are in the process of training. No one is on their own until they feel comfortable with the process of setting God's table. We welcome Josie Baggott, Barbara Bell and Jane Newton. We hope others will follow over the course of the coming year.

At our annual meeting we spent some time clarifying some of the altar guild duties for new and current members. Clare Perry purchased a new baptismal table, stained and sealed it to be used for multiple baptisms. The table will fit in the aisle so more family members and the congregation can see the baptism being performed. The altar guild manual was updated with visuals of the various services to help the members when setting up special services.

The altar guild is always open to people wanting to learn and volunteer in this ministry. Please feel free to contact any of the members listed below for more information.

Respectively submitted:

Clare Perry, Chair

Ruth Griesel

Karen Hodder

Terry Rourke

Stevie Spina

Josie Baggott

Barbara Bell

Jane Newton

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

The past year presented a number of great opportunities and challenges for Buildings & Grounds at St. E's. Among the opportunities were new members of the committee, great days of fellowship focused on clean up and painting, and terrific teamwork to help take care of our buildings. Among the challenges have been getting must do projects done, and organizing the replacement of our heating system pumps.

As I began my first year on the Vestry as B&G representative it came to light the small organ in the chapel had been damaged by mice in the winter. While Mary Sue Willie organized the repair, it was important to arrange for pest protection going forward. After consulting several companies and receiving quotes from them, we decided on Locke Pest Control to address mice, bees, ants and any other pests we may have. If you see or are bothered by any unwelcome critters going forward, please let Peg or a Vestry member know.

We had great spring and fall cleanups this year, with a focus on fun. Special thanks to the Davies, the Hustons, Andy Sugg, Peter Gonze, Steve Kenney, and the members of the B&G committee and the Vestry (and their families) who gave of their time to help out, many both times! We had a fine time enjoying coffee and doughnuts in the fall, especially motivating to those under 10 (thanks Dylan!). We hope to make future clean ups as fun and painless as this year's.

In last summer, the deterioration of the paintwork on the front of the church became glaring, and investigations were made into scraping the bad spots for some touch up. But it was soon discovered that water damage from the cracked paint had led to deeper problems with extensive rot in some of the weathered trim and windowsills. A carpenter was able to help us out on short notice, and did a fine job in late October replacing all the rotted bits and the failed insulated windows around the entrance to the sanctuary. A small crew of volunteers then painted up the new trim before the cold weather set in. Special thanks to the scrape and paint crew!

Investigations into the proper sizing and configuration of our heating system hot water pumps concluded this year, and we moved into a formal RFP phase to obtain quotes from contractors, seek rebates, and determine a final cost. At the beginning of winter, bids were received, and in January, the Vestry voted to accept the lowest bid, which happened to be from our current heating system service company. A rebate from NStar for the upgrades is in the works, which may further lower the cost. The changes should both cut energy use and expense, and improve the performance of the system. Estimated savings on electricity are over \$1,000 per year.

The Rectory also needed attention this year with the replacement of the garage roof. As the year ended, additional work to the bathrooms to repair failing tile and update worn fixtures was identified as necessary, and arrangements are being made to quickly repair the problems and make basic upgrades.

Buildings & Grounds

We also welcomed several new faces onto the B&G committee to support our activities. Nancy Morgan is now the Warden representative, and Arlene Stevens and Tim White both joined as members. Dave Wallingford and Giff Perry continue their long involvement with the committee as well. Thanks to all of them for their contributions of time, insight, and skill in keeping St. E's safe, intact, and inviting.

Respectfully submitted:

Ian Springsteel

Dave Wallingford

Gifford Perry

ADULT EDUCATION

Adult Education

Adult Education offerings in 2011 continued to offer a rich, diverse smorgasbord, in part, because so many different people contributed in so many different ways, including in forums that fall outside of the strict definition of an Adult Education Class. In addition, we added a new dimension with respect to Christian formation for adults. In much of my experience, the programs of adult formation we have offered, by and large, engage only a few people. In an effort to reach a wider audience, Music Director, Mary Sue Willie, Educational Consultant, the Rev. Christine Visminas, and I have worked together to provide opportunities for formation within the framework of our Sunday morning worship. This has included the addition of artwork and icons with write-ups in the bulletin and newsletter exploring their symbolism and significance to our faith. In addition, we changed up the liturgies with paperless service music, new prayer forms for the Creeds, the confession, the prayers of the people and the Eucharistic prayer. This method of formation is less didactic and more experiential. But given that it is a central tenet of Anglicanism that prayer shapes believing, how we worship forms us.

What follows is a chronological synopsis of both the formal and informal 2011 Adult Education offerings, some ongoing, some offered in conjunction with other congregations.

Forum on the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

On January 16th, Charles V. Willie, Ph.D., the Charles W. Eliot Professor of Education Emeritus of Harvard University spoke during the sermon time and during a forum following the service focusing on the Contribution of Martin Luther King Jr.'s Dream to American Society, Then and Now.

Lenten Series

Echoing our Lenten liturgical theme of living water, on March 15 and 22, the Rev. Christine Visminas led an exploration of the Biblical images of water as we plumbed the depths of their meanings. Then the following three Tuesday evenings on March 29, April 5, and April 12, the Rev. Valerie Bailey Fischer led an exploration of our Anglican roots and theology through a series of feature films, including *Luther*, *A Man for All Seasons*, and *Elizabeth*.

St. E's Reading Group

Organized by Jim Newton, the group read one book per month. Beginning September 29, 2010, and ending May 25, 2011, the group met at St. E's the last Wednesday of each month, from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM. Each evening Jim introduced the book with an explanation of its selection and the impact he felt from reading it, and then opened up the time to informal discussion. Because St. E's parishioners are well-read, some months included more than one option.

The 2011 reading list included:

Christian Formation - Adults

January	<i>Guns, Germs & Steel: The Fates of Human Societies</i> – Jarod Diamond
February	<i>Last Night I Dreamed of Peace: The Diary of Dang Thuy Tram and/or War</i> – Sebastian Junger
March	<i>Father Joe: The Man who saved my Soul</i> – Tony Hendra or <i>The Road</i> – Cormac McCarthy
April	<i>The Long Walk: The True Story of a Trek to Freedom</i> – Slanomir Rawicz & Ronald Downing or <i>Miracle in the Andes: 72 Days on the Mountain and My Long Trek Home</i> – Nando Parrado
May	<i>Enrique's Journey: The Story of a Boy's Dangerous Odyssey to Reunite with his Mother</i> – Sonia Nazario

Parish Family Retreat

Planned for the last weekend in August, the retreat was cancelled due to the severe weather resulting from Hurricane Irene.

Advent Quiet Day

In December, the Rev. Chris Visminas led a group to the Russian Icon Museum in Clinton where they explored the devotional and theological differences between how the West and the Orthodox view of the Nativity and Second Coming of Christ. Adults and children toured together for an hour. Then adults were given an hour of quiet time while Chris gave the youth an additional, interactive tour. The adults re-gathered to debrief the silent period for about 30 to 45 minutes. Then all had lunch together at a restaurant in Clinton.

Interfaith Offerings to which St. E's Contributed

Soulful Sundown

On the second Friday of the month, January through April, St. E's parishioner, Jonas Barciauskas, and his wife, the Rev. Katie Lee Crane, Minister of First Parish Unitarian Universalist Church in Sudbury, led a movie and discussion series open to members of both congregations as well as the wider community. Movies shown and discussed included *Thirteen Conversations about One Thing*, *Doubt*, *Dead Man Walking*, and *Whistle Down the Wind*.

Interfaith Shabbat/Sabbath Series

Held in the winter of 2011, and sponsored by Congregation Beth El of the Sudbury River Valley, this was a three-part series exploring the mystical traditions in Judaism, Christianity (seen through the eyes of the Episcopal Church), and Islam.

Deanery Wide Offering

The Episcopal parishes of Metro West joined forces to offer a series of classes for adults who wish to be confirmed, received into the church, or who simply want to know more.

There are 14 classes divided into 3 or 4 week series. The course uses the "[Your Faith, Your Life](#)" curriculum from Church Publishing. The book carefully unpacks the Episcopal Church's language of worship, theology, church structure, and sacraments, so that newcomers will have the vocabulary and framework to share their beliefs and practices, explore the Bible, understand prayer and discern their own ministry within the church. The course features videos, visuals, discussion, personal reflection, and spiritual practices.

The class meetings take place on Wednesday evenings from 7.30 to 9.00 pm as follows:

- Set 1 (2011)** Oct 5, 12, 19 (covering mostly the Bible)
- Set 2** Nov 2, 9, 12 (covering mostly Church history, concentrating on Episcopal Church)
- Set 3 (2012)** Feb 29, Mar 7, 14, 21 (covering mostly worship and church structure)
- Set 4** Apr 11, 18, 25, May 2 (covering mostly ministry and faith life)

Continuing Programs

Centering Prayer

The Centering Prayer Group formed in January of 2010 continued through June of 2011 meeting on Tuesday evenings at 7:30. Centering Prayer is a form of silent meditation with deep historical roots in the Christian tradition practiced by people from across a wide spectrum of denominations.

St. Elizabeth's Episcopal & St. John Lutheran Men's Group

In its fourth year, this group of men from St. John Lutheran and St. E's generally meet on the third Saturday of the month in the morning from 9 to 10:30, alternating locations. The gatherings provide a great opportunity to share with a group of supportive men stories and reflections about church life and to discuss topics of faith and the role it plays in daily life.

The group met eight times during 2011, for discussion and reflection. Some of the topics are listed below

- January Invited speaker Rev. Gordon Schultz, former interim Pastor at St. John Lutheran, spoke on meditation. @ St. Elizabeth's
- February Invited speaker Rev. Christopher Hoyer, Pastor of St. John Lutheran, spoke on the Psalms @ St. John
- March Discussion topic: "The Fall and Free Will" @ St. Elizabeth's
- April Discussion topic: "Is Christianity nothing more than a product of Evolution?" @ St. John Lutheran
- October Invited speaker: Prof. Raoul Smith, Research Fellow at the Museum of Russian Icons and Editor of the "*Journal of Icon Studies*" spoke on icons and the Russian Icon Museum in Clinton, MA @ St. John Lutheran. Women invited.
- November Visit to the Russian Icon Museum with Prof. Smith. Women invited.

The Men's Group is coordinated by Jonas Barciauskas and Walter Morgan of St. Elizabeth's and Royce Fuller and Pete Rhoades of St. John. Attendance varied between 6-20 people attending.

Bible Study (Tuesdays 9:45-10:45 AM)

Led by one of the clergy, eight or so parishioners gather in the conference room for devotional time and to study Scripture. In 2011, we continued a study of the Gospel of Matthew using *The Gospel of Matthew: God With Us* by Victoria Smit, part of the Kerygma program. As a rule, we move slowly, unpacking the themes, the allusions, the meanings, the theology, and the faith implications of a given passage, keeping in mind the historical and literary contexts.

Healing Ministry: Theory and Practice (Thursdays 3:30-5:00 PM)

In Lent of 2007, under the leadership of the Rev. Barbara Williamson, a group of parishioners started studying Christian healing. The group is still meeting weekly for prayer and study and has grown in size. In 2011, the group read *Healing as a Parish Ministry* and *An American Awakening*.

Did You Know?

Written by at times by Suzie Kornblum and at times by the Rev. Christine Visminas, *Did You Know?* is a monthly column in the Mantle that seeks to make Christian theology and traditions, the Episcopal Church, in general, and St. Elizabeth's parish, specifically, more accessible to newcomers or even longer standing members from traditions outside of the Episcopal Church. Topics can range from how to properly address Barbara as a priest to the doctrine of the Incarnation.

Internet Treasure Hunt

The Internet is full of wonderful things: ideas, pictures, information. Exploring it can be a lot of fun (icanhascheezburger.com for one). It is also full of interesting things about Christianity. So to combine fun and Christianity, we're instituting the **Internet Treasure Hunt (ITH)** in which anyone—including families or other groups—can search the web to answer a series of questions and submit them to Chris Visminas, chris@bauxite.mine.nu, who decides the winner. The questions are designed so that just looking up the Wikipedia article may be a first step, but some searching is needed for all the answers.

Submitted by The Rev. Barbara Williamson with contributions from Jonas Barciauskas, The Rev. Christine Visminas, The Rev. Valerie Bailey Fischer, Jim Newton, and Congregation Beth El of the Sudbury River Valley.

COGS Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

The COGS program continues to be quite strong under the dedicated leadership of catechists for the Transitional Atrium and Levels I, II, and III. The program also benefited from the leadership of Sylvia Sepulveda, one of the original founders of the COGS at St. Elizabeth's, who served as the coordinator for 2010-2011. Sylvia brought a wealth of experience and knowledge which she generously shared with the atrium leaders, and everyone is extremely grateful for the time and energy she once again gave to the COGS program.

At the end of the 2010-2011 year, Katie Walker decided to retire from Level II and Donna Holdman from Level III. We are blessed to have had them as part of the COGS program for many years, and a simple "thank you" seems inadequate for the time and dedication they have offered the children of St. Elizabeth's.

We were very fortunate to have several members of the congregation join the COGS program for the 2011-2012 year—Susan Dewey, Mara Huston, Meg Striepe, Samantha Truex, and Derek Zurn. New catechists are always welcome and are, in fact, needed in order to ensure that we are able to offer the COGS program to our children. Incorporating a new catechist takes about two years from invitation to certification. Often parishioners would like to learn more about the program before making a commitment to become a catechist. Some learn more about the program by serving as aides, others through a relatively new position called assistant catechist. This role, which includes making presentations, is great for people who want to increase their participation in the COGS program but are unable at the same time to take the year long or intensive-one week catechist training.

Other changes to the program in 2011-2012 included Kris Wile moving from Level I to Level III, and, in November, Susan Berry answered the call in the *Mantle* to serve as coordinator of the program.

The Transitional Atrium continues to offer the youngest COGS children a program tailored to them and a COGS experience that is especially appreciated by their parents. Through working with developmentally appropriate materials the children are exploring the quiet rhythms of the COGS program, developing their relationships with God, and learning about Jesus and His love for them. There are currently 6 children in this atrium.

In May, the Level III group once again offered an instructed Eucharist to the congregation. It is a wonderful opportunity for members of the congregation to get a sense of what these children are learning in their atriums and also provides many of the adult members of the congregation with information about the Eucharist that they may never have learned in their Sunday School experience.

Christian Formation- Children

A special thank you goes to Kris Wile and Ruth Griesel for coordinating the Liturgy of Light last spring. Although this fell during the April vacation week and on a rainy late afternoon, it was well attended and a moving experience for those who came. Thank you also to all the aides and parents who helped in the atriums, and a tremendous thank you to the catechists, assistant catechists, and aides coordinators for 2010-2011 and 2011-2012:

Transitional Atrium: Beth Santomenna, Clare Perry, Susan Dewey

Level I: Ruth Griesel, Kris Wile, Suzie Kornblum, Derek Zurn

Level II: Kihm Sanders, Katie Walker, Chris Howard, Samantha Truex, Mara Huston, Meg Striepe

Level III: Lisa Kenney, Marcy Wilkins, Donna Holdman, Kris Wile

Aides Coordinators: Marie Briasco, Cathy Briasco.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Berry

Journey to Adulthood

The Journey to Adulthood experience incorporates much learning and laughter, but it takes our young people seriously and gives them real work to do. The program is based on the key concept that “Manhood and Womanhood are gifts from God, but Adulthood must be earned.” It encourages our teens to explore the four areas of Self, Spirituality, Sexuality and Society, and learn to connect their faith to all areas of life. It is the hope of all of us that this program fosters an environment of wholeness and authenticity and helps teens develop a life-changing relationship with the God who created them. Given the wonderful leaders who have offered their time and talent to work with this amazing group of young people we are wrapping up the second of our two year program.

Below are some of the highlights of what has been happening with our three Journey to Adulthood classes; Rite 13, J2A and YAC:

Rite 13, (2011/2013 Leaders Win Treese, Cheryl Franke and Deborah Comer):

Our Rite 13 class, formed in September of '11, and the leaders and kids have climbed Tippling Rock, participated in the Crop Walk for Hunger, and spent time in the class discussing how God provides for us in the world. The leaders and kids have also focused their efforts on reaching out beyond the classroom walls and were successful in a church-wide collection of food items for local food pantries. They also look forward to continuing their studies in Self, Society, Sexuality, and Spirituality.

J2A, (2011/2013 Leaders Dave Kartunen, Linda Cass, Ildi Morris and Rich Tinsley):

The J2A class came together in September of '11 and started their two year exploration of Self, Society Sexuality and Spirituality. Excitement, interest and discussion about a 2013 Pilgrimage has resulted in the class starting to look at selecting a destination. The class continues to hold fund raisers with more scheduled as the year progresses. In addition, they will be exploring our Christian faith in March and April of next year as the kids consider Confirmation in the Episcopal Church.

YAC, (2011/2013 Leaders Barbara Williams and Colleen Ciccarello):

The last two years of the Journey to Adulthood program are referred to as YAC, which stands for **YOUNG ADULTS IN CHURCH**. YAC students are encouraged to accept more adult responsibilities and to contribute their time, talent and treasure in ways that support the ongoing work of the church. Teens write a personal credo of beliefs and rely on their trusted group of peers as they explore their faith more deeply and struggle with the details of transitioning from teenager to young adult in today's world.

After an amazing ASP trip in the summer of 2010, the YACer's have again taken the initiative to change up there meeting time, so they can have more time with each other and to take a more active role in the life of the church. They continue to gather, pray and focus on their goals for their ASP trip this summer.

Respectfully submitted,
Jay Holdman

Rite 13, J2A & YAC

S.T.O.P.

STOP

The S.T.O.P. program (Students Together Opposing Prejudice) is sponsored jointly by Congregation Beth El, Our Lady of Fatima, Saint Elizabeth Episcopal Church, First Parish Church and the Islamic Center of Wayland. It is facilitated by high-school aged leaders, who are alumni of the program. Now in its 22nd year, the nationally recognized S.T.O.P. program asks the questions, “Have you ever been treated unfairly because of your religion, ethnic background, race, gender, or some other factor over which you have no control? Have you ever been angry or felt helpless when this happened to someone else? Is there anything one kid can do that would actually make a positive difference? If you had an opportunity to change things so that this did not happen again, would you accept the challenge?”

St Elizabeth’s 7th and 8th graders once again have a wonderful opportunity to participate in the S.T.O.P. program as part of the Justice units in the Rite 13 and Journey to Adulthood curriculum. The sessions run for seven Wednesday nights from 6:45-8:15pm, January – March. Sessions are facilitated by current high-school students who are graduates of this two year program (shout out to Erin Santomenna, Greg Holdman, Ben Lepordo, Andrew Kenney, and Sam Sugg.) Teens from nearby towns and schools get to know each other, understand each other, learn about all forms of prejudice, stereotyping and discrimination and what it does to us and the people we care about. They become keenly aware of stereotypes in the media and in schools, on the playing fields, in their friends’ homes and even their own homes. They learn about and create real-world solutions through movies, stories, role-playing, and skits in a challenging yet light-hearted environment. In 2012, St E’s is represented at STOP by 9 youth in grades 7 through 12.

Joyfully submitted,

Lisa Barnes Sugg



Youth Mission Trip 2011

From July 31-August 6th, Rev. Barbara Williamson., Debbie Flagg, Andy Sugg, Eric Kimble, Ben Sugg, Sam Sugg, Kelley White, Ryan Kenney, James Wagner, Madison Herel, Sara Ledbetter, John Kodera, Jose Darius, Erin Santomenna, John Newton, and Chris St. George participated in our 2011 City Mission trip.

The fearless group -- which spent the week headquartered in the basement of The First Church in Charlestown -- undertook a variety of broadening experiences. These included feeding the homeless on the Boston Common as part of Common Cathedral (after making sandwiches for 150 the day before) and preparing and serving food the next day for more than 100 homeless men and women at the Episcopal Cathedral. Throughout the week the group also listened to the stories of former addicts, with our St. E's youth proving to be amazing ambassadors who showed incredible respect and interest in the people they met and served. Thanks to Jim Newton, the group took a glass blowing course at Diablo Glass School in Roxbury with local youth instructors -- and made some impressive paper weights! They also created artwork side-by-side with the homeless (and then sold some of it on Newbury Street!) and sorted mountains of clothes at Cradles to Crayons. The week ended with everyone working with underprivileged youth at an elementary school in Dorchester that culminated with a killer game of dodge ball!

Along with all the mission work, the youth and adults had plenty of opportunity to bond during nightly reflection time, playing Frisbee and football next to the Bunker Hill Monument and other downtime activities. Finally, Ben, Ryan and James each tried to tackle a nearly two pound burger with all the fixings at a local restaurant. Needless to say, none of them was successful.

What a fulfilling and enriching trip!

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Flagg
Eric Kimble
Andy Sugg



Youth Mission Trip

Coffee Hostess Ministry

COFFEE HOSTESS MINISTRY

Sunday morning coffee hour would not happen without the dedication of time and effort on the part of ten parishioners who provide you with lovely treats and Fair Trade coffee. Snacks and juice are also provided for the children by a parent. This is an important ministry on several levels and our thanks and praise go to our wonderful volunteers who create hospitality each week for all of us.

Respectfully submitted,
Betsy Wallingford & Co.

Jill Day, Susan Berry, Angela Crocker, Gratia and Brett Morgan, Jeremy Perisho, Addie Krebs, Carolyn Bacon, Janice Darias, and Barbara Bell

COMMUNICATIONS REPORT

The Communications Committee is responsible for facilitating the sharing of information across multiple mediums with Saint Elizabeth's parishioners and the Sudbury Community.

We do this with a variety of content published in:

- Our newsletter, the *Mantle*
- Our web site, www.st-elizabeths.org
- Articles in the Sudbury *Town Crier*
- The Parish hall bulletin board
- Banners for display outside the church

Saint Elizabeth's newsletter, the *Mantle*, serves as the primary means of communicating what is happening at St. E's. We published our planned ten monthly *Mantles* along with our summer issue. The *Mantle* provides well designed, colorful content for all members of the Parish. Many parishioners choose to receive the *Mantle* by email, which has contributed to saving postage and providing environmental benefits. Previous *Mantles* are posted in the archives area on the St. E's web site.

Saint Elizabeth's web site at www.st-elizabeths.org continues to grow and provide dynamic content. The "Mark Your Calendars" web page highlights upcoming events, and provided pictures that allow parishioners to see what some of the events would look like. The web site is designed for both parish members and the community to learn about what is happening in our church.

We are especially proud that several new families who joined St E's this year are reported to have learned about us through the web site. In addition to the web-based online church school registration form, this year we added online registration forms for newcomers.

Over a dozen articles were published in the Religion section of the Sudbury Town Crier this year, including Church School registration, Choir rehearsals, music programs, picnics, CROP walk, and holiday services.

The bulletin board in the Parish hall is used to display the content contributed to the "Mark Your Calendars" in the web site.

To welcome the community to visit our Church, the Communications Committee posted custom banners for our Christmas and Easter services displayed on the corner of Morse and Concord roads.

Communications

The photographs we use for the Mantle, St E's Web Site and Parish Bulletin Board from our archive are quite outdated. We are seeking a volunteer St E's Photographer and Archivist with the assignment to collect one year's events and place them in an online archive for use in communications.

The Communications Committee would like to thank the many parishioners and church leadership for their contributions of content. We welcome written content for the Mantle, web site, bulletin board, and Sudbury Town Crier. We also encourage other parishioners to join us in spreading the great word and fun times of Saint Elizabeth's.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Coffin

John Howard

Lisa Ventre

The Fellowship Committee

From the spring and fall picnics to the Dickens Dinner and the Winter Weekend, Fellowship activities not only contribute to the rich sense of community found at St. Elizabeth's but support the healthy spiritual life that we enjoy as a congregation.

The White Mountains in New Hampshire provided the setting for our Winter Weekend event last January. Some 50 children and adults filled the Cranmore Inn in North Conway for a weekend of skiing, snow shoeing, tubing and shopping in what has become one of the most popular Fellowship activities of the year.

Nearly 200 parishioners turned out for the summer picnic in June while a beautiful mid-September day provided the background for the fall picnic as we kicked off the start of 2011-2012 Church School year.

The Parish Hall was transformed into a hub of activity a few months later with another popular event – the Dickens Dinner. Thanks to the efforts of dinner chair Joel Gardiner, Fellowship Committee members and other volunteers, the dinner once again attracted a lively group of party goers. From the one-liners of new master of ceremony Walter Morgan and Mary Sue Wilie's clever and humorous musical numbers, to Susan Newlin and Larry Jobson's alleluia video - the evening was one memorable one.

Organizing and carrying off these and other activities this past year required the involvement of many people. A thank you to the members of the Fellowship Committee: Harry and Mary Ainsworth, Arlene Stevens, Joel Gardiner, Susan Newlin, Larry Jobson, Linda Trail, Barbara Bell and David and Cecilia Small for the many hours that you put into making the Fellowship program such a success last year.

For more information on how you can become involved or to make suggestions for future activities please contact the parish administrator or any Committee member.

Ray Considine, Chair

Fellowship

Finance Committee

2011 Finance Committee annual report

In 2011, St. Elizabeth's reconstituted a formal finance committee to assist and advise the treasurer and the vestry on the financial issues of the parish. Although we have had a finance committee in the past, it has served as needed to review particular matters with the treasurer. Previously the committee has been chaired by the treasurer. We now have a separate finance committee chair, an important step that enables the committee to function independently, with a longer term focus, and relieves the treasurer of the burden of organizing and convening meetings.

During the year, the finance committee helped with the preparation of the 2012 budget, setting the stewardship goal, and assessing the appropriate rental amount for the rectory. In addition, we began developing materials for communicating with the parish about the permanent endowment. Those materials will be available to everyone in 2012. We have also begun working more closely with the Building & Grounds Committee to coordinate the planning for repairs and maintenance. This includes starting to develop a long-term perspective on maintenance costs and how to ensure that the necessary funds are available.

The finance committee is also responsible for managing the investment of the permanent endowment fund. Although the endowment is new and therefore small today, the committee sees it as an important part of the financial future for St. Elizabeth's.

In the future, the finance committee will review other aspects of the financial operations, including current insurance coverage, ensuring that there is sufficient funding for necessary repairs and maintenance for the building and grounds, and supporting a capital campaign if and when the parish chooses to undertake one.

The Finance Committee and the Treasurer welcome volunteers. If you have experience and interest in financial matters and would like to help St. E's, please contact the committee as described below. Involvement can include assisting with occasional tasks, working on special projects, joining the committee, or other possible roles.

Likewise, if you have any questions about the finance committee, or if there are ways that the committee can help support your ministry in the parish, please contact the chair, Win Treese, at treese@acm.org.

Members of the Finance Committee:

John Baggott, Steve Kenney, Cheryl Kimmens-Franke, Walter Morgan, Win Treese (chair)

Ex Officio members of the Finance Committee: Susan Goswami (assistant treasurer), Stuart Hamilton (warden), Nancy Kimble (stewardship chair), Nancy Morgan (warden), Darlene Murphy (treasurer), The Rev. Barbara Williamson (rector)

Flower Guild

Each Sunday throughout the year, with the exception of Lent, our altar is adorned with a floral arrangement created by one of the Flower Guild members. When flowers are in memory of someone or in celebration of an event, it is so indicated in the Sunday bulletin. When there is no dedication they are "Given to the Glory of God". An amount of \$40 is requested of the donor. In lieu of a donor the cost of the flowers is covered by the Flower Guild budget (which exists solely by the generosity of parishioners). At Christmas and Easter parishioners have the opportunity to make contributions for the special floral adornments of those occasions., thereby enhancing our worship space.

Thanks to all for your support...and keep those dedications coming!

Your Flower Guild Members:

Joanne Deshmuk, Laura Hacker, Karen Hodder, Brett and Gratia Morgan, Betsy Wallingford

Respectfully submitted,
Betsy Wallingford

Flower Guild

Music Report

We began 2011 celebrating the Feast of the Epiphany on January 2, 2011 with Georgie Johnson singing “The Three Kings” by Peter Cornelius and supported by the Adult Choir. The usual exodus of singers took place in January leaving a “faithful remnant” to sing through the January Sundays bolstered by our amazing Youth Choir which sang every Sunday during Communion.

Barbara Williamson, Valerie Bailey Fischer and your Music Director attended a conference in New York City titled “Music That Makes Community”. Inspired by that experience we introduced “paperless music” singing the Hymn of Praise “Arise, shine for your Light has come” and the Sanctus, “Holy, holy, holy Lord” for the balance of the Epiphany season. We sang these pieces ‘by ear’ led by the clergy, music director and Carol Davies (our unofficial assistant conductor). This proved to be a perfect means to celebrate the “light” of the Epiphany season.

The Annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper was again a great success with lots of help from the men and women of the Parish, assisting with set up, clean up and most of all; flipping and serving the pancakes! The Youth Choir bookended the fantastic Talent Show with songs from “Fiddler on the Roof”.

In the season of Lent we continued to use ‘simplified – paperless music’ and followed the theme of “Life-giving Living Water”.

Once again our young dancers demonstrated The Liturgy of the Palms led by choreographer, Megan Powley. The Adult Choir sang and played Hand Chimes (borrowed from First Parish in Concord) while singing the ancient version of “All Glory, Laud and Honor” before the service evolved into Passion Sunday beginning our observance of Holy Week.

The choirs outdid themselves on Easter Sunday inspired and enhanced by our resident Brass players and beautiful violin music. From Easter on through Pentecost the choirs maintained a full complement of singers providing exciting music.

Summer saw a variety of guest organists and was a time of planning and preparation for the coming academic year. Unfortunately, Hurricane Irene forced the cancellation of the Parish Retreat at the Harris Camp and also the services at St. E’s at the end of August.

Both choirs returned to sing on Sunday, September 18th with new members and renewed energy. The Annual Choir Pot-Luck Dinner was held at the home of Jane Graham which was a great time for us to ‘catch-up’ and welcome new members.

In an effort to ensure that all four parts in the Adult Choir are covered each Sunday; Mary Sue contacted area High School Choral Directors in an effort to find section leaders for the Bass and Tenor sections. We are fortunate to have with us: Ori Ravid (bass), a senior at Lincoln-Sudbury and John Knobel (tenor), a junior at Concord-Carlisle now singing with our Adult Choir. They have added a great deal to the quality of our singing and allowed us to try more challenging literature.

Members from St. Elizabeth’s Choir sang with the Interfaith Thanksgiving Choir held at the Presbyterian Church the Sunday afternoon before Thanksgiving.

We discovered that there were not enough Hymnals (1982 and LEVAS) to provide everyone in the congregation with hymnbooks. As a short term solution we decided that the hymnals in the Chapel could help alleviate this problem. Jay Holdman was asked to enlist some of the teenagers to help move the hymnals. First, however, Jay had to bring his chain-saw to clear the path from trees and branches felled by the hurricane. At the last minute, Jay enlisted his contemporaries in bringing the bags of hymnals to the church and they then placed them in the hymnracks where they were needed.

Our Advent worship booklet designed and edited by the Rev. Chris Visminas and Barbara Williamson gave us a fresh approach to the season. The choirs enjoyed singing new music during the season of Advent.

Finally, The Christmas Eve services were splendid. At the 3 pm Pageant Service, Liam Huston played a medley of carols on the flute as the Prelude and Caroline Watson played the “Carol of the Bells” on the piano as the Postlude. The Youth Choir sang beautifully – some still in pageant costumes. And, the pageant was the best yet. The late service of Carols and Eucharist sparkled with the Brass (Thomas Small, trumpet; Margaret Small, French Horn and Tim Howard, Trombone). Bonnie Brown, our Parish Treasure, played violin in the Carol section, for the Prelude and during the service. Margaret Small and Graham Daley were soprano soloists with the Adult Choir singing exquisitely.

Those who have sung in the Adult Choir this past year are: Barbara Bell, Gin Bell, Susan Berry, Graham Daley, Carol Davies, Debbie Flagg, Mandy Fleming, Susanne Gilliam, Jane Graham, Art Huston, Georgie Johnson, John Knobel, Will Lambert, Nancy Morgan, Ori Ravid, Linda Trail and Chuck Willie. [Joining the Adult Choir on Christmas Eve were Alex and Samantha Briasco-Stewart and Erica and Nina Treese.] The Youth Choir singers are: Nicola Bacon, Jack Boyle, Andrew Briasco-Stewart, Clarissa Briasco-Stewart, Jackson Ciccarello, Peter Ciccarello, Caroline Collins, Freddy Collins, Kate Crocker, Dylan Huston, Liam Huston, Stephanie DeJesus McNeill, Taylor Murray, Derek Von Goeler, Hope Weldon, Caroline Watson and Sarah Watson. Without these loyal choir members there would be no choirs and so we thank them for their making music with us *To the Glory of God!*

Countless thanks to Maggie Watson for her faithful maintenance of the Youth Choir Folders. She has been assisted by Colleen Ciccarello and Susanne Gilliam. Linda Trail has been steadfast as Librarian for the Adult Choir all year. These volunteers keep things organized and running smoothly. Without them the job of Music Director would be nigh unto impossible. We are ever grateful for the instrumentalists who play with us regularly: The resident Brass Ensemble, Samantha Briasco-Stewart on Oboe and Bonnie Brown on Violin. Bonnie also arranged and directed the St. E’s String Group in a rousing version of “Go Down Moses”. The pleasure of working with all of these marvelous volunteers is a great joy.

Most important is the support and encouragement of fellow staff members, especially Barbara Williamson and Peg Scarlata, and of Valerie Bailey Fischer until her departure.

Respectfully submitted, Mary Sue Willie, Director of Music and Organist

NEWCOMERS COMMITTEE

2011 was a year of both activity and transition for the Newcomers Committee. After several years chairing the committee, Karyn Grant stepped down from her position. We are so thankful for all of Karyn's work and excellent leadership over the past few years.

This past fall, the Newcomers Committee developed and began execution of a plan focused on three key objectives:

- Encouraging people to visit St. E's
- Inviting visitors to become members of St. E's
- Ensuring that new members feel integrated into the St. E's community

With respect to encouraging people to visit St. E's, the committee developed welcome booklets for new residents of Sudbury, is now regularly mailing these booklets to these new residents, and sends similar booklets to new residents in the surrounding towns without Episcopal churches (namely, Stow, Maynard, Marlborough, and Bolton). The committee also appreciates the diligent efforts of the Communications Committee to encourage people to visit St. E's, through maintenance of the St. E's website, postings and articles in the Sudbury *Town Crier*, and the display of signs on parish property.

With respect to inviting visitors to become members of St. E's, first and foremost the committee would like to thank everyone in the parish for greeting visitors when they see them in the pews or at coffee hour. Truly, no single committee can assume the entire responsibility of welcoming visitors – this is God's work for everyone in the parish, and our parish does a wonderful job with it! In addition, the Newcomers Committee (with the much appreciated diligent support of Barbara and Peg) maintains communication and information about visitors to the parish, and follows up with visitors, recognizing that each visitor is unique so the approach to welcoming each visitor is different. As a part of this effort, and when appropriate, the Newcomers Committee ensures that a folder of information is provided to newcomers to the parish, and reviews the information in the folder with them.

With respect to ensuring that new members feel integrated into the St. E's community, the committee performs several tasks. First, in conjunction with Barbara and Peg, the committee ensures that new members do not "fall through the cracks," and members of the committee reach out to new members from time to time as deemed appropriate to be sure that new members' needs are being met, that they know about upcoming parish events, and that any questions are answered. The committee also greeted churchgoers and distributed informative "Welcome to St. Elizabeth's" pamphlets on Christmas Eve to them, as some churchgoers on Christmas Eve are not active parishioners and may be interested in opportunities at our parish to become more active.

The efforts and warmth of the entire parish and the Newcomers Committee, and of course the vitality of St. E's and the opportunities that St. E's offers, have facilitated the continued growth and activity of our parish and its work in Christ.

Respectfully Submitted,
Scott Fisher, Chair
Janice Darias

Kristen Collins
Susan Goswami

Angela Crocker
Andy Sugg

Nursery

Our nursery is but one of the gems in St Elizabeth's sparkling crown, a safe and happy place for infants and toddlers who are not yet ready for the transitional Atrium of COGS (Catechesis of the Good Shepherd.) Our precious newborns and toddlers, members and visitors alike, gather weekly in our nursery room on the ground floor. Sometimes an adult or sibling stays in the room to ease the transition, sometimes not, but either way, children are always under the loving care and watchful eye of two trained child-care workers. Often it is the same two young women week in and week out, which is a blessing for everyone as having a consistently good experience helps to build our little ones trust and self-confidence.

Joyfully submitted,
Lisa Barnes Sugg

Nursery

OUTREACH COMMITTEE REPORT

The Outreach Program changed course somewhat in 2011 in an attempt to achieve greater involvement of more parishioners in our Outreach projects. The first change was that Harry Ainsworth stepped down as convener after many faithful years at the helm, and Larry Jobson volunteered to replace him as chairman. Harry is still very much involved along with many other regulars and some newcomers. With the encouragement of the Wardens and the Rector, the Committee's second change was to consolidate and expand our Outreach projects into four "Core Outreach Practices". The table below describes these four core outreach practices and their respective practice-team managers:

Core Practice	Practice Leaders	Practice Activity and Parish Involvement
Miracle Kitchen	Stevie Spina & Ruth Griesel	Each month at the Salvation Army, St. E's volunteers (either in teams or as individuals) serve meals that are prepared by many parishioners all under the direction of seven St. E's kitchen coordinators.
Sudbury Reach-Out	Lucie St George & Mari Weldon	Delivery of 25 Spring Baskets all of which were prepared by St E's adults and YAC youth, and donation and delivery of many Christmas Gifts for two Sudbury families in need highlighted this practice.
Global Harvest	Kihm Sanders, Carol Davies & Larry Jobson	A partnership between St E's and Heifer International to donate farm animals and animal husbandry to third-world villages, plus the Crop Walk were highlights of this year.
Ecclesia Ministry Support	Still Looking For Leaders	Collection and donation of gifts as a part of the Giving Tree and participation in Common Cathedral activities are the cornerstones for this practice

It is our goal to grow these Core Outreach Practices as cornerstone St E's service practices and grow regular parishioner involvement within these practices as the practices become well entrenched in the St E's culture. The highlights in the following bullets suggest that we're already making great progress toward our goal:

The Miracle Kitchen Practice involves the monthly preparation and serving of close to 100 meals at the Framingham Salvation Army. The highlight for this year was the development and full-staffing of a year-long server-volunteer calendar. This calendar of server-volunteers has grown the Miracle Kitchen server ranks from a core of dedicated people who served almost every month to a group of over 50 volunteers (from just about every St E's group/committee). Further, the requests from entire families to volunteer as a serving team have grown tremendously in just a few short months. Ruth Griesel and Stevie Spina have been the Miracle Kitchen Practice leaders for many years. Now they have seven coordinators and 12 monthly serving teams as reliable supporters. Further, the Miracle Kitchen wishes to acknowledge the continuing generosity of the broader parishioner base that volunteers to cook the ten casseroles that are served each and every month.

The Sudbury Reach-Out Practice delivered 25 spring baskets to Sudbury residents that were identified by the town social worker as needing our help. Mari Weldon and Lucie St George did a great job coordinating the effort and the 25 parishioner families that prepared the baskets did a wonderful job. Final gift-wrapping activity was performed by the YAC kids and numerous families participated in the delivery of the baskets. During this past Christmas the Giving Tree was a huge success as two Sudbury families received many gifts from our most generous parishioners. Harry Ainsworth and Joel Gardner were in the classic position of trying to figure out which Christmas-Tree lights did and didn't work and it must have been hours before they completed their Giving-Tree decorating task. Separately, St E's youth and parishioners, as part of a total of 422 walkers from congregations, schools, and community organizations within 11 area towns, raised nearly \$1000 which will go toward helping local and national hunger-relief organizations. A special thank you goes to our youth who crafted banners and held them high along the Crop-Walk route in Concord.

The Global Harvest Practice established an important start of a Heifer International/St E's partnership by (1) sponsoring a site visit to Overlook Farm in Rutland that was attended by 35 parishioners, and (2) by running the "Fill-The-Ark" fundraiser that collected more than \$1800 and had at least 60 parishioner families involved in the donation/education activities. The \$1550 of the \$1800 dollars was matched by the Outreach Committee's budget contribution for a total donation of \$3100. The kids voted on the types of animals that they wanted Heifer to donate on our behalf to a third-world village. The results yielded the following list of animals that St E's was able to donate: 2 water buffalo, 2 llama, 2 sheep, 2 goats, 2 flock of ducks, 1 camel, 2 trio of rabbits, 1 Heifer, 2 flock of Chicks, and 2 pigs. Kihm Sanders, Carol Davies, and Larry Jobson spearheaded this effort and Carol was terrific in leading the parish in numerous stanzas of the "Arky-Arky" song. She also made a terrific scale model of Noah's Ark in which the kids placed their donations.

The Ecclesia Ministry Practice continued its support for the Common Cathedral by collecting winter clothing for Boston's neediest individuals as a part of the Giving Tree activity.

Although our Outreach Program instituted the aforementioned new Core Outreach practices in 2011, we also continued our program of directed giving to organizations that selectively help address local, national, and international needs. This year the Outreach Committee made a commitment to narrow the focus of our directed giving. We reduced the number of charities to which we directed donations from the past years but increased the amounts of our donations for some of the charities. The table on the following page summarizes our donation allocations.

Outreach Committee

Charity Name	Charity Role	Donation Amount
Heifer International	Heifer International works with communities throughout the world to end hunger and poverty and care for the earth. By giving families a hand-up, not just a hand-out, Heifer hopes to empower people to turn lives of hunger and poverty into self-reliance and hope. With gifts of livestock and training, Heifer projects are helping entire villages to improve their nutrition and generate income in sustainable ways.	\$3100.
Ecclesia Ministries	Ecclesia Ministries provides a Christian community for the un-housed and housed people in the Boston area who are in need of food, clothing, direction, and companionship. They “give voice to the voiceless”. They respect the dignity of every human being and see the face of Christ in ourselves and those who join in outside	800.
The Bridge House in Framingham	The Bridge House provides help to men (18 and over) in their recovery from the effects of alcohol and drug abuse. Men enter the program from prison, county jails, courts, detox centers and the streets. They offer hope and a path to reconciliation.	\$300.
Salvation Army in Framingham	The Salvation Army provides meals and community support for those in need in this case at the Framingham Salvation Army facility.	\$500.
The Society of Saint John the Evangelist(SSJE)*	SSJE is a community of Brothers dedicated to preaching, spiritual direction, and hospitality. Individual Brothers work in a variety of local and regional ministries—with students, prisoners, soldiers, the homeless, and persons affected by HIV and AIDS. The Brothers also lead retreats locally in the Monastery Chapel (Cambridge) and the Guesthouse (Newburyport) as well as in parishes and dioceses throughout North America. One of the Brothers, Thomas Shaw, SSJE, is the Bishop of Massachusetts.	\$300.*
American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem (AFEDJ)	AFEDJ promotes and raises program and infrastructure funds for humanitarian work of the Diocese of Jerusalem and its institutions so it may better serve the needs of all	\$300
S.T.O.P	S.T.O.P. provides organizational and counseling support for students and parents involved in trying to eradicate prejudice(s).	\$100
Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (COGS)	COGS is the national organization that provides curriculum structure and materials for our St E’s COGS program.	\$200
F.I.S.H.	FISH provides transportation services to people incapable of getting themselves to medical-care related treatment appointments.	\$100

* Over-and-above the Outreach donation, the Vestry has approved an additional gift of \$1000/year for five years for SSJE facility improvements.

The Outreach Committee is greatly appreciative of the following:

- Our committee members: Harry Ainsworth, Cliff Card, Carol Davies, Ruth Griesel, Larry Jobson, Annette Molnar, Kihm Sanders, Stevie Spina, Lucie St George, and Mari Weldon.
- The backers of our “To-Be” Outreach Vision: Rector - Barbara Williamson and Wardens – Stuart Hamilton and Nancy Morgan.
- Our parishioners that formed our Community-of-Practice membership and did much of the work for each of our Core Outreach Practices including stellar work in support of the Miracle Kitchen, Sudbury Reach-Out, The Global Harvest, and Ecclesia Ministries Practices.

The more than 75 parishioner families who have begun to be active participants in 2011 Outreach Projects.

Submitted on Behalf of the Outreach Committee by,

Larry Jobson, Outreach Chairman

Outreach Committee

Stewardship

Stewardship at St. Elizabeth's -- Changing Lives One Pledge at a Time!

No doubt, you've all seen enough of this catchphrase to last a lifetime. But it bears repeating. By making a monetary commitment to God and our church community, you have shown your support for the many life-changing initiatives undertaken by parishioners here at St. Elizabeth's. Thank you!

The message of Changing Lives was introduced last May with the first of many Testimonials delivered by parishioners. It was followed up with a brochure, which was included in the summer financial statements that were mailed out in July. In early September, for the third year in a row, the vestry approved a statement showing their public commitment to stepping up their contributions for stewardship, setting a great example for the rest of the parish. Then continuing for six more weeks in the fall various members of the parish shared with us their heartwarming stories of how St. Elizabeth's has had a profound impact on their lives. Each testimonial revealed a glimpse of the Holy Spirit working in and through us to transform our lives and those of others. And all of this is made possible by your contributions.

As of January 3, 2012, we have received 105 pledges for a total of \$354,966. While we have not yet reached our goal of \$386,000, it has been a record-breaking year for Stewardship in several ways.

First, and most importantly, the number of pledge cards returned is the highest it has been in four years. 105 families took the time to fill out a card and return it. That represents 84% of the 125 cards mailed. Our goal for cards returned is always 100%, even if a family indicates that they are unable to make a pledge at this time. While it is helpful to have this information by the end of November, early enough to plan for the 2012 budget, it is never too late to return your pledge card. We will continue to accept your pledges with gratitude! Please contact Peg in the office if you need a new card.

Second, 13 of the cards returned were from families or individuals who had not pledged in 2011. Thank you to those parishioners for taking this important step in your spiritual journey by pledging your commitment to the St. Elizabeth's community.

Third, the total amount pledged this year is over \$43,000 more than the amount pledged as of this date in 2011 -- a remarkable 14% increase.

Finally, it is impossible to place a value on the commitment of time, treasure and talent provided by the parishioners of St. Elizabeth's. Your contributions are truly priceless!

I'd like to thank the members of the stewardship committee listed below, the wardens, the vestry, Barbara Williamson, and above all, Peg Scarlata, for their help and support with the work of stewardship.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Kimble (Chair)

Stewardship committee:

Jonas Barciauskas

Cheryl Kimmens-Franke

Scott Fisher

John McNeill

Jay Holdman

Maggie Watson

Stewardship

2011 Stewardship Campaign Summary as January 3, 2011

	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007
Pledge Participation Goal	125	130	130	130	125	130
Pledge Participation Actual	105	97	99	98	109	95
Pledge participation %	84%	75%	76%	74%	87%	73%
Pledge income goal	\$386,000	\$377,000	\$362,000	\$308,000	\$300,000	\$300,000
Amount pledged	\$354,966	\$315,000	\$324,000	\$274,997	\$277,770	\$262,995
Pledge income %	92%	84%	90%	89%	93%	88%
Mean pledge	\$3,380	\$3,247	\$3,274	\$2,806	\$2,536	\$2,629
Median pledge	\$1800	\$2,000	\$1,800	\$1,750	\$1,680	\$1,500
Pledge distribution						
<\$1,000	22	22	20	23	31	30
\$1,000 to \$2,999	47	44	50	47	54	44
\$3,000 to \$4,999	19	17	15	15	13	12
>\$5,000+	17	14	14	13	14	16

Stewardship