

## St. E's Youth Confirmed 2015



# 2015 Annual Report

St. Elizabeth's Episcopal Church

Sudbury, Massachusetts

Annual Meeting held Sunday, February 7, 2016

At 11:25 am in the Parish Hall





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**W A R R A N T**  
For the Annual Parish Meeting  
St. Elizabeth's Episcopal Church  
Sunday, February 7, 2016  
Convening at 11:25 AM in the Parish Hall

**Order of Business**

11:25 Call to Order  
Opening Prayer  
Declaration of a Quorum by Vestry Clerk Kiersten Varner  
Election of nominees  
Looking back at 2015  
Reflections from Youth Vestry member, Jacob Fisher  
Thank you to off-going Vestry members and Delegates  
2016 Budget presentation by Cheryl Franke  
Rector's Report  
Assistant Rector's Report  
Looking ahead to 2016  
Q & A  
Adjourn with a prayer

\* \* \* \* \*

**Elections**

The following persons have been proposed by the Nominating Committee to stand for election at the Annual Meeting:

**Vestry**

|                     |                 |             |
|---------------------|-----------------|-------------|
| Co-Warden           | Janice Darias   | 2-year term |
| Treasurer           | Cheryl Franke   | 1-year term |
| Assoc. Treasurer    | Stevie Spina    | 1-year term |
| Bldg & Grounds Rep. | Dave Mitchell   | 1-year term |
| Clerk               | Kiersten Varner | 1-year term |
| Vestrypersons       | Eric Kimble     | 3-year term |
|                     | Marie Briasco   | 3-year term |
|                     | Paul Grous      | 3-year term |

**Appointed Youth Vestry**

|                |             |
|----------------|-------------|
| Anna Cass      | 1-year term |
| Davis Kornblum | 1-year term |

**Delegates (all 1-year terms)**

|                       |               |
|-----------------------|---------------|
| Convention Delegates: | Michael Comer |
|                       | Lisa Jenzeh   |
| Alternates:           | Steve Kenney  |
|                       | Walter Morgan |

**Warrant**

## Rector's Report 2015

God has continued to bless St. Elizabeth's over the years, and 2015 was no exception. In addition to sustaining and even improving upon initiatives begun in the past, new ministries came into being in 2015. The successes are bittersweet, however, given the losses individual households have endured, whether because of unemployment, illness, death, family discord, or the closing of the Church of the Holy Spirit in Wayland. And because we are the body of Christ, when one member hurts, we all hurt. Particularly in the aftermath of "Snowmageddon", families found that they had been able to do little more than cope with the basics until the spring thaw, so that as the ice melted, pastoral needs, which had been overshadowed by being in survival mode, came to light.

The good news is that a prior year's initiative, Stephen Ministry, has broadened the reach of clergy pastoral care, thus serving to better to support those who are experiencing difficult times. And be assured: not all pastoral care is focused on the harder side of life. Jack and I both had the pleasure of preparing couples for marriage and parents for their children's baptisms. In addition, in 2015,

Twenty of our young people were confirmed.

The children of the Level III Atrium led the congregation through an Instructed Eucharist, annotating each part of the liturgy and illuminating the Gospel by their preaching.

We celebrated the Rite 13 ceremony recognizing, supporting, and blessing 26 seventh and eighth graders and marking the beginning of their journey into adulthood.

The J2A youth (9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> graders) profoundly deepened their friendships and spiritual lives on pilgrimage.

Ten high school youth and two adult leaders spent a summer week living at a church in Brighton and working in Boston at various non-profit ministries mostly focused on un-housed men and women.

Many of the initiatives launched in 2015 result directly from the excellent leadership of Assistant Rector, Jacqueline Clark. These include creative liturgical touches to Ash Wednesday, Holy Week and Easter, family friendly worship, summer weekday Eucharist and cookouts, and All Saints' Sunday. Likewise, Jack directly supports new and improved programs of Adult Education and Outreach Ministries. Refer to the Assistant Rector's report and the reports of Adult Education, the Outreach Committee and Liturgy for more details.

The excellent and ongoing design work to enlarge and enhance the worship space is led by Steve Robak and is fully covered in the Report of the Design and Consensus Committee, so I need not say again here what has already been so well outlined elsewhere in this document.

As we entertain the options for joint endeavors with St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Dorchester, we will want and need to engage in a process of anti-bias work. Moreover, anti-bias work is among the top priorities outlined by our new Presiding Bishop, Michael Curry, and by our Diocesan Bishop, Alan Gates. In American society, there continue to be at best unfortunate missteps and at worst outright grievous injustices perpetrated at the expense of our brothers and sisters of color. I believe that with the help of resources available to us we can begin to build bridges across difference both real and perceived, and in so doing, prepare ourselves to be better partners in ministry with the people of St. Mary's, B-SAFE, and the Blackstone School. Jack and I will be working on developing a program with assistance of experienced professionals in the diocese

who have the appropriate expertise to help us tackle such a sensitive undertaking.

One of the charisms of St. Elizabeth's is fellowship. Many members of the committee that has overseen fellowship events moved away in recent years, so 2015 was a year of rebuilding as new adults stepped up to lead or help with our standard fellowship offerings. However, the Fellowship Committee itself has not been reconstituted in its historical form. Rather teams have coalesced to manage specific events like the picnics, the ski weekend, or the Dickens Dinner. In addition, a fundraising element for youth mission trips has been folded in to the Dickens Dinner as well as a new activity, Trivia Night, ably hosted by Mari Weldon.

With so much going on at St. E's, it is no surprise that new individuals and families scope out our community virtually every Sunday, even during the summer. Some find a fit; some continue to seek a church home elsewhere. We try our best to offer a hospitable space, giving seekers both the latitude and the information they need to sort out which faith community God is calling them to join. You will find a full report of Newcomer Ministries elsewhere in the Annual Report. However, I feel it is important for me to point out in my remarks that this year, the typical influx of new members was different. It included several families and individuals who had for years been members of the Church of the Holy Spirit in Wayland, adults, youth and children who were grieving the heartbreaking closure of their beloved church home. CHS families come to St. Elizabeth's as fully formed and mature Christians in the Episcopal tradition. Many have served in high-level leadership positions at both the parish and diocesan level. In addition, they have brought to St. Elizabeth's beautiful furnishings and accouterments of worship along with a passion for outreach, interfaith work, fellowship and formation. We are deeply blessed by the CHS parishioners who have felt called to share their considerable gifts at St. Elizabeth's.

With so much about St. Elizabeth's to share, effective communications must be a top priority. In 2015, we evaluated our various modes of disseminating information—the Mantle Newsletter, the website, Sunday verbal and bulletin announcements, email blasts, articles in Gateway Newspapers, and social media. While strengthening communications continues to be a work in progress as various instruments come into or go out of use, we have made a few changes, which are covered in the Communications Committee Report and in the Assistant Rector's report. Additional fine-tuning will occur in 2016.

Clearly we have a lot of great things going on at St. Elizabeth's, and very few of them would happen without the generous gifts of time, talent and treasure of the members of the congregation. For me to name everyone who plays an integral part in all of St. E's ministries would fill several more pages. Hopefully, instead you will read the reports that follow and thereby catch a glimpse of the faithfulness that keeps St. E's humming, all supported by the unflagging dedication, sterling character, and professional expertise of Jack Clark, Mary Sue Willie, and Peg Scarlata, all of whom in countless ways have a hand in all the ministries that God sees fit to inspire here. Many hands make light work, that is, we share the load together. But also, many hands make [the] Light [of Christ] work, that is, as we work together as the body of Christ, the Light of Christ shines in and through St. Elizabeth's, blessing us that we may be a blessing. Thanks be to God.

Yours in Christ,

Barbara

## Assistant Rector's Report

I've now been at St. Elizabeth's for a little over two years. In addition to the work of celebrating the Eucharist (and the occasional wedding, baptism, or funeral), offering pastoral care, and preaching, I spend my time working to support six different program areas: outreach, liturgy, small groups, adult formation, Stephen Ministry, and the Appalachia Service Project Mission Trip. There are exciting things happening in all of these areas, which you can read more about in the various reports. In addition, I've taken responsibility for creating the weekly "St. E-News" email blast to promote the many events and initiatives at St. Elizabeth's. We're planning to move to an e-mail service such as Constant Contact, iContact, or Mail Chimp later this year.

But more important than any of these responsibilities is the relationships. Possibly the most important thing that our Stephen Ministers learn in their 50 hours of training is the importance of process rather than results. Stephen Ministry teaches that "God is the caregiver; we are the caregivers." It is not within our power to heal another person, but it is within God's power. So we work to simply embody God's love and care for one another, and to trust God to do the healing. One of our Stephen Ministers recently brought in a quote from Thomas Merton that says,

"Do not depend on the hope of results. You may have to face the fact that your work will be apparently worthless and even achieve no result at all, if not perhaps results opposite to what you expect. As you get used to this idea, you start more and more to concentrate not on the results, but on the value, the rightness, the truth of the work itself. You gradually struggle less and less for an idea and more and more for specific people. In the end, it is the reality of personal relationship that saves everything."

This does not mean giving up on striving for excellence, or letting go of diligence about responsibilities. But what matters most, what matters ultimately, is the relationships. This is what I hope to be about, and what I will be focusing on this next year.

I remain deeply grateful to be part of such a warm, vibrant community full of kind, thoughtful, generous people. On weeks when I have the privilege of celebrating the Eucharist, I have an almost visceral sense of God's love and delight in each of you, and in the community that we are together. I love being here with all of you. I feel honored to be one of your priests. Thank you for the sustained generosity that makes the assistant rector position possible, and for all of the ways that you give of yourselves to the work of our church.

Respectfully submitted,

Jacqueline Clark



## Warden's Report

As we begin 2016, we are thriving. Worship, spiritual development, fellowship, Christian education, outreach and many more are all happening because we make them happen with God's help. We are thankful for the financial support from our membership and the leadership of Barbara, Jack and Mary Sue, and the continued service of our Parish Administrator, Peg Scarlata. Any challenges we face are largely due to the pursuit of our ambitions, and the growth they attract.

In addition to broad and generous support of our annual operating plan, the support from our *TogetherNow* Comprehensive Campaign has provided critical funding for various objectives that are making and will continue to make significant impacts on parish life for years to come. Some of these achievements are highlighted below, and more detail can be found in the individual department reports. The *TogetherNow* Campaign kicked off in 2013, and consists of pledges by parishioners over a 5-year period, aimed toward achieving several key objectives. Hence, we are over half way through the process.

**Endowment(s):** We have implemented a formal process to oversee the investment of endowment funds with the Trustees of Donations. The process, which is managed by our finance committee, creates a pathway to safely, wisely and transparently accept and invest endowment gifts.

At this time we are managing two endowments: a smaller *general parish endowment*, the initial funding of which was made possible by the *TogetherNow* campaign. This first-ever permanent endowment provides a vehicle for future giving. In addition, one very generous family, requesting anonymity, has given us an endowment for the *Cram Chapel*. This gift is sufficiently large enough to provide for the maintenance and protection of the chapel and memorial churchyard in perpetuity.

**Assistant Rector:** The Reverend Jacqueline Clark has completed the second full year of her incredible ministry in worship, parish life and outreach. She is jumping into 2016 with both feet. This position was made possible by the *TogetherNow* campaign which "kick started" the position with initial funding. Strong progress having been made so far, our ambition it to be able to fully absorb the assistant rector position within our annual operating budget as we grow.

**Rectory:** We have completed the first full year of rental at market-rates, not possible until the completion of significant repairs and updates in 2014. Rents are now contributing over \$30,000 to our annual operating budget, until it fulfills its primary purpose of housing clergy in the future. This achievement was made possible thanks to funding from the Comprehensive Campaign and the efforts and stewardship of numerous parishioners.

**Sanctuary improvement:** Initial architectural designs for the "enhancement and expansion" of our worship space have been presented to the parish for discussion and further project planning. This ambitious project was also made possible by our own generous funding of the *TogetherNow* Campaign, and was the largest financial objective outlined in the Campaign. Special thanks goes to Steve Robak and his firm of

# Warden's Report

J Calnan & Associates for their donation of expertise and resources. More to come in 2016!

**Youth and Christian Education:** 21 Youth participated in City Reach and Pilgrimage to Oregon, 100 children in Catechesis of the Good Shepard and Journey to Adulthood.

**Outreach:** Among the many outreach projects, Saint E's continued newer participation in the Blackstone School in the South End, B-Safe and Ecclesia Ministries Thanksgiving dinner on Boston Common.

**Fellowship:** 2015 witnessed a sea of change as a number of beloved and long-time fellowship leaders moved away. It was a pleasure to see so many new leaders and participants step up to ensure that we continue some of the great fellowship traditions such as parish picnics, Dickens dinner, winter weekend and adding new events like Trivia Night (thanks to Mari Weldon). This change truly is an opportunity for new ideas and new faces.

Finally, we are so thankful for the hard work of our vestry. We are fortunate to have so many talented individuals make the commitment to participate on this very important committee. Each year presents its share of challenges and opportunities. With prayerful deliberation and hard work, decisions get made, budgets are negotiated and approved, and we move forward. The finance committee has been particularly helpful in providing direction, and we actually used the 5-year planning guide to better understand the longer term financial impact of our decision making.

Perhaps the most gratifying aspect of serving on the vestry is getting to know a cross section of fellow parishioners whom we would normally not spend time with. The many personalities, the joyful banter – it is all a blessing.

May the coming year be one of community, growth, and joy for our life together!

Respectfully submitted,

Walter Morgan and Michael Comer Co-Wardens

## Continuing Vestry

|               |                                |                     |
|---------------|--------------------------------|---------------------|
| Co-Warden:    | Michael Comer                  | (1 year remaining)  |
| Vestry Person | Angela Crocker                 | (1 year remaining)  |
|               | Eric Becker                    | (2 years remaining) |
|               | Samantha Truex                 | (2 years remaining) |
|               | (Janice Darias – as Co-Warden) |                     |

## New Vestry

|                         |                 |               |
|-------------------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Co-Warden               | Michael Comer   | (1 year term) |
| Co-Warden               | Janice Darias   | (2 year term) |
| Treasurer               | Cheryl Franke   | (1 year term) |
| Assistant Treasurer     | Stevie Spina    | (1 year term) |
| Building & Grounds Rep. | Dave Mitchell   | (1 year term) |
| Clerk                   | Kiersten Varner | (1 year term) |
| Vestry Person           | Angela Crocker  | (1 year term) |
|                         | Sam Truex       | (2 year term) |
|                         | Eric Becker     | (2 year term) |
|                         | Eric Kimble     | (3 year term) |
|                         | Marie Briasco   | (3 year term) |
|                         | Paul Grous      | (3 year term) |

|              |                |               |
|--------------|----------------|---------------|
| Youth Vestry | Anna Cass      | (1-year term) |
|              | Davis Kornblum | (1 year term) |

|                       |               |
|-----------------------|---------------|
| Convention Delegates: | Michael Comer |
|                       | Lisa Jenzeh   |

|             |               |
|-------------|---------------|
| Alternates: | Steve Kinney  |
|             | Walter Morgan |

## Deanery Representatives

Win Treese  
Scott Fisher  
Carol Dicker

## Nominating Committee:

Walter Morgan (chair)  
Win Treese  
Steve Kenney  
Mari Weldon  
Nancy Kimble  
John Howard

## Treasurer's Report

### Executive Summary:

2015 was a strong financial year for St. Elizabeth's. In all areas of operations the church was at or ahead of budget. The church ended the year with a surplus from Operations and cash in the bank of \$698,710. Of this cash balance \$594,392 is restricted leaving free cash of \$104,318. Of the \$104,318, \$60,000 is earmarked for specific reasons by donors, leaving free operating cash of \$44,318 which represents a significant jump over the free cash of \$13,181 in 2014. Details of the financials of the parish are included as follows:

### Income Statement:

#### Operating Income:

The Operating Income of the church is comprised of a number of significant parts including pledges, facility income, unpledged giving from members, plate contributions and occasionally Diocesan contributions. For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2015 St. Elizabeth's hit or exceeded the mark in most budget areas:

Pledges – The parish ended the year \$3,913 ahead of budget for pledge income on a total budgeted income of \$390,000.

Additionally we were ahead of budget for prior year pledges of \$5,905 against a budget of \$3,500. This represented parishioners who caught up on 2014 pledges in 2015. Very appreciated and thank you!

Plate and unpledged income were up over budget by \$4,387 representing increases in new parishioners and events during the church year.

#### Operating Expenses:

Utility costs were slightly higher than budget by \$746, a good result given prior year heating problems.

Snow removal and lawn care were significantly over budget \$2,423 and \$2,750 respectively. This was offset by lower than budget costs for Rectory repair and building maintenance resulting in an overall net break even on repair, maintenance and campus costs.

#### Office Supplies and Costs:

Office costs were significantly over budget this year as a direct result of aging technology which caused significant issues for the staff and clergy.

In the summer of 2014 the internet and email system of the church failed resulting in significant loss of time and working capabilities. During 2015 the telephone and internet costs were \$2,963 over budget resulting from underestimating the costs related to the new Comcast system. These costs were offset by a gain in budget of \$1,977 from unused

hardware and software consulting and maintenance. Office costs were also under budget in 2015 resulting in a break even overall for office costs, telephone and internet.

## Staff Costs:

Staff costs were in line with budget for 2015. Costs for the Assistant Rector are recorded in the Operating Budget, but the costs are then allocated against the Comprehensive Campaign fund as outlined in the fundraising principles of the campaign.

## Christian Education, Worship, Music and Liturgy

Costs largely in line with budget.

## Fund Activities:

St. Elizabeth's Church maintains a series of Funds which are intended to segregate monies contributed for "special circumstances" outside of the normal operating budget. A fund is created if it is necessary to collect restricted monies (such as endowment funds or earmarked bequests) or special purpose monies that will be spent only for the purpose collected.

During 2015 the following significant cash contributions were also received into the Fund accounts of the church:

**Together Now Fund:** \$180,493 (for a total over two years of \$330,174)

**Rectors Discretionary Fund:** \$25,000

**Restricted Gift Fund:** \$10,000 for upgrades to the sound system and \$25,000 to the restricted gift fund for Clergy Costs

**ASP/City Mission/Pilgrimage:** \$26,991

Significant uses of Funds during 2015 (Other than Together Now outlined separately) were as follows:

**ASP/City Mission/Pilgrimage:** \$19,608 cost of Pilgrimage.

## Balance Sheet:

The parish continued to strengthen its balance sheet by paying down debt from the loans taken out to fund expansion and roof repairs. Loan balances were reduced by \$20,790. Interest paid on these loans was \$3,988 for a total cash outlay to fund debt service of \$24,778.

Cash at the end of the year is \$565,169 of which \$551,988 is restricted.

## Together Now Comprehensive Campaign:

### Revenue:

For the entire campaign have received \$513,967 net proceeds from Diocese

### Outflows: (In total 2013 through 2015)–

- Support for Assistant Rector spend of \$156,026
- Support for Stephen's Ministry spend of \$2,868
- Support for Rectory renovations \$56,223
- Establish endowment fund \$20,000
- Begin Church Enhancement project \$29,922

## 2016 Budget

The 2016 budget represents an operating surplus of \$6,510. Pledges for 2016 finalized at \$419,000 the single largest pledge achievement in our church history! In 2016 the Assistant Rector will be funded at a rate of 50% by the Together Now campaign.

The Rectory is now fully rented and the expectation is that this will continue throughout 2016.

Salaries for staff this year were in line with current recommendations and the Clergy Compensation was set at Diocesan Guidelines. Additionally the Parish Administrator was given a cost of living increase after no salary increase in 2015. The Vestry and Finance Committee continue to be mindful of the balance between rewarding our outstanding church employees and the pressures of the budget.

Although the budget is projected to be a surplus of \$6,510, after allocation to the Capital Maintenance Fund and pay down of debt, the cash drain on Free Cash will be approximately (\$29,500). It is our hope that we can turn this around next year as was done in 2015.

Currently, the accounting team serving the parish includes two officers, Treasurer (Cheryl K Franke), and Assistant Treasurer (Stevie Spina). Additionally the team receives valuable assistance from Peg Scarlata who handles pledge records, and the Finance Committee who has been invaluable this year in assisting with budgeting and long range financial planning.

The ushers in service each Sunday are also an integral part of the financial team as they collect and count checks and cash each week.

I remain available to any parishioner who has a question or concern around the parish finances. Please let me know if there are any questions that can be answered.

Thank you!

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl Kimmens Franke

**St. Elizabeth's Episcopal Church**  
**Budget vs. Actuals: Fiscal Year 2015 - FY15 P&L**  
**January - December 2015**

|  | <b>Total</b>         |                       |
|--|----------------------|-----------------------|
|  | <u>Actual 2015</u>   | <u>Budget 2016</u>    |
| <b>Income</b>                            |                      |                       |
| 4100.01 Pledges - Current Year           | \$ 393,913.31        | \$ 419,000.00         |
| 4100.02 Pledges - Prior Year             | \$ 9,405.01          | \$ 3,500.00           |
| 4200.01 Unpledged Contributions          | \$ 19,975.34         | \$ 18,000.00          |
| 4200.02 Special Contributions            | \$ 35.00             |                       |
| 4200.03 Plate                            | \$ 10,876.79         | \$ 8,500.00           |
| 4200.05 Other Misc Income                | \$ 250.00            | \$ 3,000.00           |
| 4200.09 Facility Use Income              | \$ 35,600.00         | \$ 31,900.00          |
| 4200.06 Gain/Loss on Sales of Securities | \$ (1,360.31)        | \$ -                  |
| 4200.07 Dividends and Interest           | \$ 3.94              | \$ -                  |
| 4200.08 Tai Chi Donations                | \$ 206.50            | \$ -                  |
| 4200.12 Church School Registrations      | \$ 2,500.00          | \$ 2,000.00           |
| 4400 .00 Comprehensive Campaign          | \$ 60,088.00         | \$ 42,640.00          |
| 4400.01 Allocate Proceeds to Funds       |                      |                       |
| <b>Total Income</b>                      | <u>\$ 531,493.58</u> | <u>\$ 528,540.00</u>  |
| <b>Expenses</b>                          |                      |                       |
| Total 5100.00 Utilities                  | \$ 13,104.19         | \$ 13,400.00          |
| 5200.00 Diocesan Assessment              | \$ 42,669.00         | \$ 51,670.00          |
| Total 5300.00 Debt Service               | \$ 3,988.00          | \$ 3,996.00           |
| Total 5400.00 Repair & Maintenance       | \$ 56,038.87         | \$ 60,810.00          |
| Total 5500.00 Office Expenses            | \$ 17,600.03         | \$ 18,850.00          |
| Total 5600.00 Payroll                    | \$ 341,273.44        | \$ 352,653.98         |
| Total 5700.00 Christian Education        | \$ 1,593.69          | \$ 2,500.00           |
| Total 5800.00 Music Program              | \$ 2,577.84          | \$ 4,600.00           |
| <b>Total Expenses</b>                    | <u>\$ 487,745.09</u> | <u>\$ 522,029.98</u>  |
| <b>Net Operating Income</b>              | <u>\$ 43,748.49</u>  | <u>\$ 6,510.02</u>    |
| <b>Other Expenses</b>                    |                      |                       |
| <b>Net Other Income</b>                  | <u>\$ -</u>          | <u>\$ 0.00</u>        |
| <b>Net Income</b>                        | <u>\$ 43,748.49</u>  | <u>\$ 6,510.02</u>    |
| Allocation to Capital Reserves           | \$ 10,000.00         | \$ 15,000.00          |
| Budgeted Debt Paydown                    | \$ 20,790.00         | \$ 21,000.00          |
| <b>Net Allocation to Reserves</b>        | <u>\$ 12,958.49</u>  | <u>\$ (29,489.98)</u> |

# Treasurer's Report

# Treasurer's Report

St. Elizabeth's Episcopal Church  
 Statement of Cash Flows  
 January - December 2015

|   | <u>Total</u>         |
|---|----------------------|
| <b>OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>   |                      |
| Net Income  | \$ 42,847.74         |
| Adjustments to reconcile Net Income to Net Cash provided by operations: |                      |
| 2100.63 Accounts Payable  | \$ 4,299.20          |
| 1200.03 Prepaid pledges   | \$ 3,108.14          |
| 2100.62 403(b) withholding payable                                      | \$ 241.04            |
| Net cash provided by operating activities                               | <u>\$ 52,496.12</u>  |
| <b>FINANCING ACTIVITIES</b>   |                      |
| Paydown of Debt   | \$ (20,790.11)       |
| Fund Movements  |                      |
| General Fund Balance  | \$ 4,339.06          |
| Together Now Campaign   | \$ 71,182.43         |
| Fair Trade Coffee Fund  | \$ 130.43            |
| Memorial Churchyard Fund  | \$ (13,547.13)       |
| Restricted Gift Fund  | \$ 28,386.31         |
| Softball Fund   | \$ (430.00)          |
| ASP   | \$ 3,023.24          |
| J2A Pilgrimage Fund   | \$ (2,386.54)        |
| Rector's Discretionary Fund   | \$ 394.41            |
| Unrestricted Gift Fund  | \$ (10,839.06)       |
| General Endowment Fund  | \$ 19,183.74         |
| Net cash provided by financing activities                               | <u>\$ 81,048.82</u>  |
| Net cash increase for period  | \$ 133,539.94        |
| Cash at beginning of period   | \$ 363,169.88        |
| Cash at end of period   | <u>\$ 698,709.82</u> |



St. Elizabeth's Episcopal Church  
Balance Sheet  
As of December 31, 2015

|   | Total                |
|---|----------------------|
| <b>ASSETS</b>   |                      |
| <b>Current Assets</b>   |                      |
| <b>Bank Accounts</b>  |                      |
| 1100.01 Cash and cash equivalents - unrestricted              |                      |
| 1100.02 Fidelity Money Market                                 | 213,719.68           |
| 1100.03 Middlesex Bank Checking                               | 134,696.36           |
| <b>Total 1100.01 Cash and cash equivalents - unrestricted</b> | <b>\$ 348,416.04</b> |
| 1100.05 Cash-temporarily restricted                           |                      |
| 1100.07 Cash-Rector's Discretionary Acct                      | 21,235.87            |
| 1100.08 Tenant Deposit Account                                | 2,900.80             |
| 1100.09 Chapel Endowment                                      | 306,971.37           |
| 1100.10 General Endowment                                     | 19,185.74            |
| <b>Total 1100.05 Cash-temporarily restricted</b>              | <b>\$ 350,293.78</b> |
| <b>Total Bank Accounts</b>                                    | <b>\$ 698,709.82</b> |
| <b>Total Current Assets</b>                                   | <b>\$ 698,709.82</b> |
| <b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>   | <b>\$ 698,709.82</b> |
| <b>LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</b>                                 |                      |
| <b>Liabilities</b>  |                      |
| <b>Current Liabilities</b>                                    |                      |
| <b>Accounts Payable</b>                                       |                      |
| 2100.63 Accounts Payable                                      | 5,369.35             |
| <b>Total Accounts Payable</b>                                 | <b>\$ 5,369.35</b>   |
| <b>Other Current Liabilities</b>                              |                      |
| 1200.03 Prepaid pledges                                       | 13,472.89            |
| <b>Total Other Current Liabilities</b>                        | <b>\$ 13,472.89</b>  |
| <b>Total Current Liabilities</b>                              | <b>\$ 18,842.24</b>  |
| <b>Long-Term Liabilities</b>                                  |                      |
| <b>2000.01 Loans</b>  |                      |
| 2000.02 Parishioner Loan 2                                    | 3,678.60             |
| 2000.05 Stokes Fund 2005 Loan                                 | 5,413.38             |
| 2000.06 Stokes Fund 2009 Loan                                 | 67,637.10            |
| <b>Total 2000.01 Loans</b>                                    | <b>\$ 76,729.08</b>  |
| <b>Total Long-Term Liabilities</b>                            | <b>\$ 76,729.08</b>  |
| <b>Total Liabilities</b>                                      | <b>\$ 95,571.32</b>  |
| <b>Equity</b>   |                      |
| 3000.01 General Fund Balance                                  | -102,950.31          |
| 3100.01 Together Now Campaign                                 | 244,397.73           |
| 3100.03 Fair Trade Coffee Fund                                | 150.45               |
| 3100.07 Memorial Churchyard Fund                              | 321,394.01           |
| 3100.11 Restricted Gift Fund                                  | 50,854.46            |
| 3100.12 Softball Fund   | -2,200.00            |
| 3100.14 ASP (formerly Youth Mission)                          | 9,114.66             |
| 3100.17 Rector's Discretionary Fund                           | 20,344.02            |
| 3100.21 General Endowment Fund                                | 19,185.74            |
| <b>Net Income</b>   | <b>42,847.74</b>     |
| <b>Total Equity</b>   | <b>\$ 603,138.50</b> |
| <b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</b>                           | <b>\$ 698,709.82</b> |

# Treasurer's Report

# Committees & Activities

Acolytes

Altar Guild

Buildings & Grounds

Christian Formation

Adult Education

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

Journey to Adulthood

S.T.O.P.

Youth Mission Trip

Coffee Hosting Ministry

Communications

Design Committee

Finance Committee

Flower Guild

Liturgy

Music Ministry

Newcomers Committee

Nursery

Outreach Committee

Pastoral Care

Stephen Ministry

Eucharistic Ministers

Healing Ministry

Small Groups

Stewardship

## ACOLYTES

Many thanks to the youth and adults who continue to participate in this ministry. While the Acolyte program competes for students who are very committed to the COGS and Journey to Adulthood programs that happen simultaneously, we are blessed with a dedicated group who genuinely enjoy this ministry. In addition to the Readers and Eucharistic Ministers who filled in as Crucifer on a number of occasions last year, we are grateful to the following individuals who served as acolyte in 2015:

Andrew Briasco-Stewart

Emily Dewey

Jacob Fisher

Emily Fisher

Kathryn Kimble

Alex Kornblum

Davis Kornblum

Ben Lepordo

Sam Lepordo

Hannah Lepordo

John McNeill

Brooke Perisho

AnnaMelora St George

Kiersten Varner

Chris Wilkins

Andrew Wilkins

We welcome any and all newcomers to this ministry and will continue to conduct training sessions on Sundays after mass as new acolytes volunteer. It remains one of the best ways to participate in the service short of pursuing ordination. (which is a good idea too!)

Respectfully submitted,

Rick Watson and Susan Dewey

Acolytes

## ALTAR GUILD

The St. Elizabeth's Altar Guild made a few changes this year that the congregation may or may not have noticed. Due to the closing of the Church of the Holy Spirit in Wayland, St. Elizabeth's had the opportunity to receive altar guild items from the sacristy of the Church of the Holy Spirit. This has allowed us to enhance our altar each week with silver chalices and a variety of linens. Most importantly it allows us to now have gluten free wafers in separate containers and a gluten free chalice. We have been trying our best to accommodate our gluten free parishioners for some time, and having separate vessels has been our goal.

Other items acquired that help to enhance our space include a set of candlesticks placed on the back altar, a new processional cross, falls for the pulpit and prayer table and miscellaneous candles and linens. For all these items we greatly appreciate the Church of the Holy Spirit Altar Guild.

During our annual meeting in the fall we covered some housekeeping items which include the keeping of linens and the polishing and maintenance of our silver and brass pieces. The altar guild continues to work with Barbara and Jack in making the Family Friendly services run in a smooth manner keeping in mind the involvement of small children. Barbara also went over the new Celtic service and what it entails for the altar guild.

If anyone is interested in joining the altar guild or has any questions please feel free to contact any of the people below. We are always looking for new parishioners to become involved in this ministry. We all find it very rewarding and at times therapeutic.

Respectfully submitted:

Clare Perry, Chair

Josie Baggott

Kristin Fisher

Ruth Griesel

Karen Hodder

Jane Newton

Terry Rourke

Stevie Spina

Linda Trail

## Buildings & Grounds Report

Parishioners, Vestry, and Leadership of St. Elizabeth's:

The Buildings & Grounds Committee manages and cares for the physical plant of St. Elizabeth's through a combination of standing vendor relationships, independent contractor relationships, and volunteer efforts. The duties of the committee include organizing the fall and spring clean up efforts, general grounds maintenance, maintaining all permits and inspections, hiring carpenters, plumbers, and other specialists when needed, and completing other repair and improvement tasks directly. The goals of the committee each and every year are to maintain our buildings & grounds cost-effectively for the safe and comfortable enjoyment of all our parishioners and visitors.

The Buildings & Grounds Committee focused primarily on maintenance and minor cosmetic updates in 2015. This effort included:

- Replacement of the auto-shutoff faucets in the restrooms with ADA-compliant twist faucets
- Repair of the driveway lighting (high voltage starter and ballast replacement)
- Repair of water damage in the atriums (seam taping, plaster, ceiling tiles, paint)
- Painting of various areas (hallways, the Assistant Rector's Office)
- Installing a whiteboard wall in the MPR
- Snowblower maintenance (belt replacement)
- Spring and fall cleanup activities
- Cleanout/organization of the furnace room
- Various elevator maintenance activities
- Various heating system repairs

The rectory remains rented by tenants who take very good care of the structure. The improvements made during 2014 have held up well.

As usual, B&G also organized two clean up events for the grounds of the church, and hired some additional assistance from landscaping companies to do targeted work (chapel clean-up and mulch distribution), both around the main church building and up by the Chapel.

The Spring and Fall cleanups were great successes. Thank you to all who turned out to lend a helping hand to keep our grounds looking great (**too many to call out by name!**)

2016 planned activities should include:

- Targeted trim replacement and select painting of the exterior structure, aligned with any changes being made by the upcoming capital improvements

Minor repairs to the rectory (replace front door light fixture, replace basement exit screen door)

A warm thank you to all our Buildings and Grounds team members, including **Art Franke, Giff Perry, Eric Becker, Dave Wallingford, Harry Ainsworth, Ian Springsteel, Steve Kenney, Tim White, Walter Morgan, and Nancy Morgan.**

The B&G mourns the passing of cherished team member, engineer extraordinaire, and all around friend Harry Ainsworth. His enthusiasm and expertise is missed.

**Parish and leaders of St. E's** – in many cases the B&G team is not always aware of items that need attention. Please do not hesitate to reach out to us if you notice something that needs repair, replacement, or improvement. Our goal is to maintain and continuously improve our facilities to provide a functional, safe, and aesthetically pleasing environment for the community, and your feedback helps us deliver on that goal.

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Mitchell

## Adult Formation

### Study Groups:

#### Morning Bible Study

Our longstanding morning bible study continues on Tuesdays at 10:00am. We draw from about 12 members. We delve deeply into short passages, listening together for what the text means and what it has to do with our daily lives. This year, we've been working our way through the book of Exodus, which includes the story of Moses's birth, the escape from Egypt, the complaints of the Israelites (and God's provision), and the covenant between God and the people at Mount Sinai. We finished our study with a presentation from Rabbi Lisa Eiduson from Congregation B'nai Torah, and are in the process of moving on to the books of Ruth and Esther. All are welcome to join us any time!

#### Evening Bible Study

The evening bible study is in the middle of a successful second year. In the Spring we completed our study of the book of Joshua. One of the highlights of the spring was the visit of a member of Congregation Beth El - Gary Bean. Gary shared his perspective on the Book of Joshua and his thoughts helped to enrich our conversation and understanding. During the Fall, the group started discussing each of Jesus's Parables. Many in the group also read in parallel the book "Short Stories by Jesus" by Amy-Jill Levine that provided historical context and insights into common interpretations of the Parables. We are looking forward to studying a new topic this spring and welcome new members to the group at any meeting!

--Andrew and Elle Heier

#### Book Group

Once a month the St. Elizabeth's Book Group meets to discuss a variety of books. Our focus has been to feature books that will touch on social justice issues, creating engaging, challenging and interesting conversation. Below is a list of the books we featured in 2015.

- January – A Prayer for Owen Meany by John Irving
- February - A Stranger in the Kingdom by Howard Frank Mosher
- April - Boys in the Boat by Daniel James Brown.
- May - The Invention of Wings by Sue Monk Kidd
- June – Oreo by Dr. Charles Willie
- September/October – The Road to Character – David Brooks
- November – All the Light We Cannot See – Anthony Doerr
- December - Caleb's Crossing by Geraldine Brooks

For 2016 we will continue our new schedule of meeting on Sunday afternoons following the Sunday Service. The dates may change depending on consensus of the group. We welcome new members and invite you to join us as you are able.

Looking ahead-- Books for 2016 (dates to be determined at the meeting prior):  
January – Claude Steele's 'Whistling Vivaldi'

# Christian Formation - Adults

February - Buddhaland Brooklyn by Richard Morais  
March – The Orphan Train by Christina Baker Kline  
April - Nightingale, Kristin Hannah,  
May – The Jihad of Jesus, Dave Andrews  
June - Being Mortal by Atul Gawande  
September - One Summer: America 1927 by Bill Brysen  
--Nancy Morgan

## **Other Opportunities:**

### **Multi-faith Bible Study**

Instead of our usual Lenten Series, we participated in a Multi-faith Bible Study organized by Sudbury Clergy, including Barbara. Participating congregations included St. John's Lutheran, Congregation Beth El, Sudbury United Methodist Church, the Islamic Center in Wayland, and St. Elizabeth's. We met at a different house of worship on five Wednesdays to study different passages of Genesis, beginning with reflections by clergy and then broadening to small group conversation. The discussion was very rich, and participants formed community with one another over those five weeks. We intend to continue this in the future.

### **Lenten Quiet Day**

In March, we organized two Lenten Quiet Days using materials developed by catechists in the COGS program. Using a theme of "Belovedness," the materials invited meditation on scripture with reflection questions, music, and art materials. 6 of us participated in these retreats.

### **Lenten Sermon-Talk Backs**

During Lent, we experimented both with sermons that included time for personal reflection and/or discussion, and with opportunities after the service to discuss the texts and sermon with the preacher.

### **Unplug the Christmas Machine**

On October 24<sup>th</sup>, Barbara led a workshop on reducing holiday stress and planning a more meaningful Christmas season.

### **Advent Quiet Day**

In December, we organized a group to attend an Advent Quiet Day with Martin L. Smith, a beloved Anglican thinker and writer, at Parish of the Epiphany in Winchester. The day included 3 reflections from Martin, followed by time for silent personal reflection. Eight of us participated.

**If you have ideas for programs you would like to see in 2016, please let me know!**

Respectfully submitted,

Jack



## Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

The COGS program continues to be supported by the dedicated leadership of catechists and assistant catechists for the Transitional Atrium (TA) and Levels 1, 2, and 3. In the fall of 2015, with only one child in the Transitional Atrium, the TA was combined with Level 1.

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. 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 to take the catechist training.

Special programs in 2014-2015 included a Sunday in the fall when adults were invited to start the morning in the atria. The children in Levels 1 and 2 were in the church and the Level 3 children had a service in the Chapel. Jack in the church and Barbara in the Chapel led liturgies that included explaining parts of the service to the children and adults who remained. In the spring, the Level 3 children led the congregation in an instructed Eucharist, once again, a wonderful service. Traditionally, this celebration of the Eucharist marks the end of the COGS program for our fifth and sixth graders.

Due to the unusual amount of snow, the Liturgy of Light was held in the church instead of the Chapel. As always it was a moving service led by the Level 2 children. A special thank you to Joanne Minassian for coordinating the many parts and people that make this service possible.

At the end of the 2014-2015 year, Cathy and Marie Briasco “retired” as aides coordinators after many years making sure there were aides in the atria and filling in as the last minute as needed. Thank you Cathy and Marie!

Thank you, also, to all the aides who helped in the atria and to Angela Crocker for making sure that the materials needed are available and in good condition.

Finally, the COGS program would not be possible without the wonderful and dedicated group of catechists and assistant catechists who accompany our children on their spiritual journeys. Thank you for your loving dedication!

Transitional Atrium: Susan Dewey, Sarah Duffy  
Level I: Ruth Griesel, Suzie Kornblum, Susan DeMichele  
Level II: Kihm Sanders, Mara Huston, Derek Zurn  
Level III: Lisa Kenney, Kris Wile, Angela Crocker  
Aides Coordinators: Cathy Briasco, Marie Briasco  
Materials Coordinator: Angela Crocker

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Berry

## Journey to Adulthood

The Journey to Adulthood 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. We have been blessed with wonderful leaders who have offered their time and talent to work with this amazing group of young people. As you will see below, the second year of the two-year cycle was completed in June and a new group began in September.

Here are some highlights:

### Rite 13

The first two years (Grades 6-7 or 7-8) of the Journey to Adulthood program celebrate the individuality of each young teen and their creative potential, while exploring Biblical stories of God and God's people. The lessons are centered around the themes of self, society, sexuality, spirituality, and prayer. The Rite-13 liturgy (Celebration of Manhood and Womanhood) is the community expression of this and serves as a rite of passage from childhood towards adulthood. (Leaderresources.org)

### **2013/2015 Leaders: Janice Darias, Michael Comer, Steve Kenney, Lucie St. George**

This cohort of Rite 13 finished its term in June 2015. During 2015, the children continued learning from the Rite 13 curriculum. In addition to lessons, Rite 13-ers continued to enthusiastically embrace outreach activities, including cooking for and serving at the Miracle Kitchen, and helping with the spring baskets. We celebrated this amazing group of young people in the Rite 13 Ceremony, welcoming them to young womanhood and manhood on May 17, 2015.

### **2015/2017 Leaders: Christine Howard, Ian Springsteel, Bob Kilkenny, Deb Comer**

This cohort of Rite 13 began in September 2015 and will continue until June 2017. During 2015, the children and leaders have been getting to know each other as well as starting to learn from the Rite 13 curriculum. Each lesson includes an opening prayer, scripture, activities to help to understand the topic more deeply, closing prayer, and, of course, snack. The Rite 13 group has been planning activities like apple picking and hiking. So far, they have heard the pilgrimage presentation and the Bishop, hiked Tippling Rock, and had some great classes. They are off to a great start!

### J2A

The second two years (grades 8-9 or 9-10) of the Journey to Adulthood program are spent in the J2A class, which culminates in both confirmation and pilgrimage. J2A “helps teens create and understand the importance of Christian community as they develop critical thinking and other skills they will need in adulthood.”

**2013/2015 Leaders Jane and Jim Newton, Mike Perisho, Kristen Collins, Graham Daley**  
Confirmation classes started in January and 20 students were confirmed in the spring after a retreat to the Barbara C. Harris Camp and Conference Center in March.

The class of 2015 (11 youth and 5 adults) participated in a fantastic pilgrimage experience in Oregon in July 2015. The activities included whitewater rafting, a high ropes challenge course, labyrinth lesson and meditation, worshiping with a local congregation, cleaning up a beach, a hike in a waterfall park, and lots and lots of journaling, prayer, song, and “Wonder Moments.” We were forever changed and bonded by the experience, and are very grateful.

The 2015 J2A Pilgrims held a lock-in in the Fall where they prepared a presentation about their pilgrimage experience for the congregation on Sunday, October 18.

**2015/2017 Leaders: Meg Striepe, Craig Stafford, Eileen Levoy**

The new leadership team has started this cohort very strongly. They have been working with the curriculum to get to know each other and set some norms about how their group will operate. Their lessons are centered around the major Journey to Adulthood themes and begin and end with prayer and centeredness. The team is planning a lock-in to help forge bonds in the new group and will spend much of 2016 working toward forming plans for their pilgrimage.

**YAC**

The last two years (11th and 12th grade) 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 responsibility as they explore their faith more deeply and struggle with the details of transitioning from teenager to young adult in today’s world.

**2015/2017 Leaders: Gayle Namchuk and Matt Chafe**

This new cohort of YAC has started off with a bang. They held a lock-in December and had have been getting to know each other and defining what their time together will look like. The group has done some guided meditation and bible study, as well as cooked for the soup kitchen. Many of them will be participating in ASP 2016. We look forward to see how they grow.

Respectfully submitted,

Graham Daley

## S.T.O.P.

**S.T.O.P** is an education initiative established in 1991. The program was designed and implemented by representatives of three faith organizations in Sudbury, Massachusetts with the support and assistance of the Anti-Defamation League's Making a Difference Program.

This program is a seven week curriculum, aimed at Junior High School students and facilitated by Senior High school students.

Through the use of games, activities and facilitated peer discussions, participants learn how to recognize and respond to stereotypes, prejudice and discrimination.

### Goals of The S.T.O.P. Program:

- To heighten participant's awareness concerning issues of prejudice and discrimination
- To give students the strategies to confront prejudice and discrimination
- To develop and affirm leadership skills in participating teens

## Pilgrimage Annual Report

In July 2015, eleven youth and five adults went on a pilgrimage to Oregon. We used Wonder Voyage, a pilgrimage tour company, to plan and execute our trip. We stayed in a catholic youth center in a small town and took daily trips, which challenged us in body, mind and soul. We came closer to God and each other, and grew tremendously. The best report of our trip is in the form of a sermon Jim Newton gave upon our return. It is included here. We are so grateful to the parish for your support of this work.

### 2015 PILGRIMAGE REFLECTIONS BY JIM NEWTON

Good morning. I would like to begin with a little audience participation. Please bounce up and down while patting your head. That is an inside joke that developed between our two Zodiac boats while rafting on the Deshutes River on the eastern side of the Cascade mountain range on our 5th day of Pilgrimage to Oregon. The first boat had traversed a class 4 rapid, dropping 5 feet into a wall of water that collapsed the bow of the Zodiac pouring water throughout the boat and then spitting us out into an eddy to recover our senses and come down from the exhilaration of the event. All occupants of our boat were left intact and secure. The occupants of the second boat were not as fortunate. They entered the drop at a slight angle. As they slammed into the wall of water at the bottom of the drop two Pilgrims were thrown from the boat; one male and one female. Class 4 rapids do not appear to differentiate by gender, age or any other human characteristic. The boat was violently thrown up onto a shallow spot in the river and held fast. The two Pilgrims were plucked out of the river and helped back into the stranded boat by Big Mike Perisho. Both were very animated and unharmed. It was shocking how rapid, violent and scary the event was. Within moments all occupants of the marooned boat were checked for safety. Once affirmed, the trash talking began. Our boat was adrift in an eddy. Michael, our guide, jumped into the Deschutes with a towrope to free the stranded Zodiac. While pulling the boat off the shoal with the rope, the occupants were instructed to bounce up and down to facilitate the extraction. Patting your head is the non-verbal sign that a person in the water is "OK". The occupant of a boat will signal someone in the water "are you OK?". The person in the water responds "OK". Combining the bouncing with patting one's head recalls not only the rafting event but also is a metaphor for the J2A Program, the Pilgrimage and living a Christian life; fun, exciting and deadly serious.

The 2015 St. Elizabeth's Journey to Adulthood (J2A) Pilgrimage began Sunday, July 26 and continued through late Saturday, August 1. 11 youth members, 5 adults leaders and 1 Wonder Voyage guide traveled to Mt. Angel, Oregon located half way between Portland and Salem in the heart of the Willamette Valley. We used the Father Bernard's Youth Center as our base of operation, sleeping in a dorm, preparing our own meals while taking day trips throughout northwest Oregon. The Youth Center is the repurposed Mt. Angel College on the grounds of the Mt. Angel Benedictine Convent affiliated with the Mt. Angel Abbey located on a nearby promontory surrounded by fields of blackberries, blueberries, hops and corn with Mt. Hood looming on the horizon.

# YOUTH MISSION TRIP

We traveled everywhere in 2 vans. The "Jam Van" was driven by Mike Perisho and was a 12 passenger step van that rocked (literally) with sing-alongs led by Graham. The other vehicle was a standard minivan driven by me. It was named the "Lame Van". I never understood the nomenclature given I showed no visible signs of limping at any time during our trip.

Our day trips included: a labyrinth walk conducted by Joan Williamson, a high ropes course at the Tilikum Christian Camp; a Rite 1 Eucharist at St. Timothy's Episcopal Church in Salem; a 7 mile hike at Silver Falls State Park; evening Vespers at the Mt. Angel Abbey which included a personal discussion with a Benedictine Monk named Brother Gregory; a journey to the Pacific Coast which included viewing the stellar sea lion cave; a service project which involved picking up nails, bits of plastic and other trash on a state park beach; exploration at Devil's Punch Bowl at low tide and dinner at Mo's in Newport; a long drive over the Cascade Mountains to Maupin for a 14 mile rafting trip down the Deschutes River; dinner at the Oasis Cafe in Maupin followed by a 2-1/2 hour drive back to Mt. Angel; walking the Stations of the Cross at the Grotto Catholic Shrine in Portland; site seeing and souvenir shopping in downtown Portland punctuated with a visit to Powell's bookstore.

Ample time was set aside each day for journaling. Each evening we held a meeting around a fire pit for Christian formation and sharing "wonder moments" of the day, highlighted with singing and guitar playing led by Graham. Chronicling our daily events does not do justice to the depth of experience or breadth of spirituality created. Activities were designed to take Pilgrims outside their comfort zones and to breakdown self-imposed limitations. To produce conditions and spaces to allow Christ to more fully enter our lives. To create memories to draw upon and spiritual tools to be used to bring us closer to God in our daily lives. Topics of Christian formation included:

**Christian Community:** How is it different from other communities? Why is community important to living a Christian life?

**Bearing Witness:** How important is it to be present and listen to others in times of joy and in times of sorrow? To celebrate successes and mourn failures and losses? **Thin Places:** The Celtic spiritual tradition of times when one feels closer to God not distracted by daily life or material worries.

Meaningful spiritual events were far too numerous to list. Describing several will hopefully provide an appreciation of how significant the Pilgrimage was to each participant while maintaining confidentiality. One station at the high ropes course was a giant swing. Participants suit-up in a full body harness and are clipped by a carabiner to two steel cables suspended about 30 feet in the air. The swing was positioned on a steep hill increasing the distance to the creek below to about 50 feet as you swung out. We were attached to a rope used to pull the participant back up the hill. When ready the participant would release the pull rope allowing the free swing out over the creek. To "enhance" the experience, the harness held you as you were in a leaning position. When you released, you dropped free fall 12 to 15 feet before the cables took hold and swung you out into space. The drop, coupled with the angle of the fall made the experience "special". The Tilikum Camp counselor asked who wanted to go first. My initial fear produced a person-

al response of "I don't think so." Mercifully, one of the youth volunteered. She strapped in, screamed as she dropped (as everyone did), swung to a stop then lied (as everyone did) saying "I was not scared. That was great." That night at evening gathering she disclosed that she had been reluctant to try new things in her life. She felt this reluctance was holding her back. She wanted to use the Pilgrimage as a venue to overcome this self imposed reluctance to broaden and deepen her life experiences. She successfully began this new approach to life at the Tilikum giant swing. A "Thin Place" happened in the Jam Van on the return trip to Mt. Angel from Newport on the coast. The 2-1/2 hour drive provided sufficient time for "Karaoke" style sing along to tunes on the radio. As darkness fell, the mood turned reflective. The Jam Van was a comfortable space housing a Christian community of youth forged by the camaraderie of joyous song, exciting exploration and scary activities. This non-judgmental atmosphere allowed the youth to tell their life stories. Pain, frustration and anger punctuated the story of one youth member. Another youth verified similar feelings caused by totally unrelated circumstances. The relief created by the release of emotions was palpable to all in the Jam Van. The bonds of isolation were broken. The space within the Jam Van became very thin. At our final circle gathering, one of the youth admitted they could not remember when they were last truly happy. While on Pilgrimage they said they found that happiness. It is unknown what caused this cathartic change. Perhaps calming solitude from walking the labyrinth; exhilaration from shared adventure experiences; the love felt from the Christian community formed on Pilgrimage; the satisfaction derived from bearing witness to others as they express joys and sorrows and success and failures. Hopefully the youth will employ these techniques as tools to recreate and sustain their happiness. Adults were not immune to "moments" during Pilgrimage. One adult expressed sorrow and disappointment in an emotional and tearful admission of the lack of parental love. Struggling for composure, the adult was comforted by one of the youth members. With heart felt sincerity and wisdom well beyond their years, the youth member said "It's ok. It will be OK." This exchange could not have been a more powerful and poignant illustration of Christian community and the importance of bearing witness in times of need. As the Pilgrimage progressed, Thin Places occurred more often. A memorable Thin Place for me was at the Grotto. We had walked a forested trail viewing 14 images of the Crucifixion depicted on bronze plaques set in giant stones. A number of us gathered on park style benches arranged in front of a 100 foot black basalt rock wall. Carved out of the rock was the Grotto that houses a life size, gleaming alabaster white replica of Michelangelo's Pieta. One of the youth provocatively announced they were not moved by the Stations of the Cross. I admitted I was more impressed with the single year's growth of the Rhododendrons along the paths. I confirmed that every religious event is not going to produce an "Ah Ha" moment and that is OK. That candid admission opened the flood gates of spiritual, religious, theological questions. The questions all boiled down to what do you believe. My thoughts flashed to the National Public Radio show "Car Talk" when Tom and Ray, the Malachi brothers, say "while the board of directors of NPR cringe when we say it "this is NPR." I could envision Barbara and Jack cringing at what I was about to say. But I had waited two years for the youth to come to me to ask my thoughts. Anyone involved with youth this age knows it is like hunting deer. You have to wait for them to come to you. Because you will never catch them running through the woods. I took a deep breath and asked the youth if they had read the book or seen the movie "The Life of Pi". Most had. Spoiler alert. Pi admits to the Japanese

# YOUTH MISSION TRIP

newsmen that horrific events occurred while on the lifeboat. The murder of his mother by a crewman; his killing the crewman; his facing his own fear of death in the form of the Bengal tiger. Pi was unable to comprehend why these events occurred. He could not accept that reality. He created the mythology of the story to go on with his life. To prosper in the face of the unknowns. I embrace Christ as my personal savior because I cannot understand nor comprehend the mysteries of this world. Why my father never gave me the love I so desired and deserved, what causes man's inhumanity to man or how to absorb the limitless beauty of shafts of sunlight pouring through the forest canopy of Douglas Fir 130 feet in the air. With Christ in my heart, I am able to mourn my losses and failures while celebrating joyous events and successes. Everything else is just pomp and ceremony. If religious traditions and practice enhance God's love then practice them. If traditions and practices impede your relationship with God than reject them. The youth listened in silence. We were in a very Thin Place.

The last evening's gathering was held in the Father Bernard's youth center. There were tear filled admissions. Some Pilgrims were eloquent, some struggled verbally. When it was my turn to speak, I told the Pilgrims my take away from the trip. I said you youth members are powerful engines of faith. You matter. Your actions matter. Adults look to you as leaders of the future. I said you will fail; you will feel pain; you will want to give up. I asked them to hold Christ in their hearts. If so you will not be alone. You will never be alone. It was a very Thin Place for those two hours. None of us wanted the moment to end.

On behalf of all those who participated in the J2A program during the past 2 years, especially those who were on Pilgrimage, I thank the parish members for support. Your financial contributions allowed the trip to be a reality. Your prayers were felt on a daily basis. When you are faced with the inevitable challenges of life I hope you will hold Christ in your heart and remember the words of our youth member to the struggling adult leader ... "It's Ok. It will be OK."

Respectfully submitted,

Graham Daley



## COFFEE HOSTING MINISTRY

The gatherings in the Parish Hall following the Sunday 10 o'clock service are integral to the vibrancy of our community. Thanks to the dedication of the 11 members of the coffee hosting ministry we can enjoy fellowship, a cup of Fair Trade coffee and some lovely snacks. There is also a table for children with juice, fruit and nut-free goodies.

We rotate the responsibility of this offering, taking turns which are as infrequent as our numbers allow. Reimbursement is provided by the CH ministry fund. New members are encouraged to join at any time. The more the better!

Respectfully submitted,  
Betsy Wallingford, Chair  
Carolyn Bacon  
Kristin Collins  
Janice Darias  
Susan DeMichele  
Kristin Fisher  
Jemi Howell  
Addie Krebs  
Kristine Mitchell  
Diana Pease  
Edith Ristau

Coffee Host Ministry

## Communications Report

The Communications Committee facilitates 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:

*The Mantle*, Our newsletter  
st-elizabeths.org, our web site  
Media submissions, such as articles in the Sudbury Town Crier  
Social Media  
Email updates

Saint Elizabeth's newsletter, *The Mantle*, serves as one of the primary means of communicating news, upcoming events, articles, as well as updates from the rector, music director, wardens and vestry. We published 11 issues of *The Mantle* in 2015. *The Mantle* is emailed to parishioners and printed and mailed to a small number of people on request.



With the increasing use of and reliance on social media, including a weekly news email from Jack, the St. E's vestry has decided to reduce the number of issues to six, with issues to be published in January, March, May, September, October, and December to cover major events and activities. In 2015, the editorial staff consisted of a single compiler/editor with editorial assistance from Peg and Barbara. We are very pleased to announce the addition of 2 and possibly 3 volunteers to the team in 2016. All previous Mantles from 2007 to the present are posted in the archives area on the St. E's web site. Input into the content and design of *The Mantle* is always very much appreciated. Contact us if interested.

Our website, [st-elizabeths.org](http://st-elizabeths.org), provides content to parishioners and visitors. Contact [webmaster@st-elizabeths.org](mailto:webmaster@st-elizabeths.org) if you have content you'd like posted.

Periodic articles and announcements continue in the Sudbury Town Crier. Recently the Communications Committee added the Wayland Town Crier to our community newspaper announcements to further welcome members from Wayland to St E's, especially with the closure of Wayland's Church of the Holy Spirit.

Like St. E's on Facebook... 

The official St. E's page is: <https://www.facebook.com/StElizabethsSudbury>. It's a public page and major news and events are posted. Click the Like button on our page!

A group of parishioners created the popular and active St. E's Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/st.elizabeths.sudbury/>. This group is private and posts are only visible to members of the group, which has recently crossed the 100 member mark! Join the group today!

Did you know that St. Elizabeth's can notify you via txt alert or email in the event church services/activities need to be canceled due to bad weather? Subscribe to our Bad Weather Alerts at <http://st-elizabeths.org/alerts>.



The Communications Committee would like to thank the many parishioners and church leadership for their contributions of content throughout the year. We also encourage other parishioners to join us in spreading the great word and fun times of Saint Elizabeth's

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Coffin  
Paul Grous  
John Howard

The screenshot shows the website for Saint Elizabeth's Episcopal Church. The header features the church's name and address (One Morse Road, Sudbury MA 01776) on the left, a photo of the church building in the center, and Sunday service times (8 am Holy Eucharist, 10 am Holy Eucharist) on the right. A navigation menu includes Home, About Us, Staff, Education, Calendar, Outreach, and Archives. The main content area has a 'Welcome!' heading, a photo of a priest, and text describing the church as a warm and welcoming community. It lists worship services, church school, and youth programs. Contact information is provided at the bottom.

# Communications Committee

# Design Committee

## Design Committee

The Design Committee was excited to present its recommended path forward to the Vestry and parish at large this past fall. Two open houses to solicit parishioner feedback are planned for January 20 and 24, 2016. As part of the Comprehensive Campaign, the committee was tasked 18 months ago with identifying and working with an architect to design an improvement and expansion of our sanctuary space. With feedback from the parish, we will drive for a final decision over the next month or two and begin formal plans for the renovation project. At that time, the Design Committee will formally pass off to the Nuts and Bolts Committee, which will be in charge of the actual renovation. Thank you to all of the hard-working committee members, thank you to the parish at large for critical feedback, and of course, thank you to all of the donors, without whom this project wouldn't exist. We hope you are as excited as we are; the concept drawings with their light, mobile seating, and expansion, all really touched our hearts, as we hope they did yours.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Robak and Michael Comer

## Finance Committee

The Finance Committee had a busy year, meeting monthly to move several projects to completion, undertake new initiatives focused on energy and financial sustainability, and advise the vestry on budgeting and financial matters.

Early in the year, FinCom voted to recommend, and the vestry subsequently approved, the selection of Trustees of Donations (TOD) to manage the new endowment fund and a restricted gift fund to support the memorial churchyard and chapel. TOD has an impressive long-term record of investment performance achieved for the 144 parishes whose endowments and other funds it oversees. The St. E's endowment fund received its initial funding as a result of the Comprehensive Campaign, and will receive additional contributions as Campaign pledges are received in future years, as well as bequests and other gifts from parishioners.

Much of the committee's effort during the year focused on refining a 5 year financial model built by Michael Comer to allow the Finance Committee to "look into the future" by making assumptions for future pledging income and operating costs. The model was shared with the vestry to help inform conversations about pledging goals in the years ahead that will be necessary to allow the parish to fully fund its operations. One outcome of this exercise has been FinCom's decision to investigate the merits of refinancing outstanding Diocesan loans made to the parish in 2005 to help complete our earlier building project.

During the summer, Bob Dawson met with representatives of St. Andrew's in Framingham which offered St. E's the opportunity to purchase solar energy credits made available as a result of St. Andrew's production excess of solar energy. After further discussion and diligence, FinCom recommended and the vestry approved St. Elizabeth's participation in the energy credit program, which should save several hundred dollars per year in energy costs, while supporting sustainable energy use.

The Finance Committee welcomes interested parishioners to join the committee (no experience necessary!), or just join a meeting. Meeting dates and times are posted on the parish calendar.

We thank the regular and Ex-Officio members of FinCom for their thoughtful and active participation this year!

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Kenney, Co-Chair

Trey Stowell, Co-Chair

Members of the Finance Committee: Bob Dawson, Erica Treese, and Ex-Officio members Barbara Williamson, Jack Clark, Cheryl Franke, Stevie Spina, Michael Comer, and Water Morgan.

# Finance Committee

## Flower Guild

Every Sunday there are beautiful floral arrangements gracing our altar. The seven members of the Guild alternate the responsibility of purchasing the flowers and creating their own designs. The church reimburses the costs from the Flower Guild Fund. Altar flowers can be dedicated by parishioners for a special event or person and it is hoped that this will happen more frequently than in the past. The donation requested is \$40, and the dedication is according to the wishes of the donor and appears in the Sunday bulletin. On Easter and Christmas the sanctuary is enhanced with special floral materials, enabled by the generosity of parishioners. The Flower Guild would welcome new members who need only to love flowers and enjoy working with them, which is how most of us on the Guild began! Please think about it!

Respectfully submitted,  
Betsy Wallingford, chair  
Marie Briasco and Nina Treese  
Laura Hacker  
Karen Hodder  
Anna Cass  
Louise Bendel

# Liturgy 2015

2015 was another year full of creative worship, thanks to the Creative Worship Team. The team has continued to grow, bringing new energy and ideas. We now have 13 members, including John McNeill, Clare Perry, Mandy Fleming, Jim Newton, Jane Newton, Jeremy Perisho, Annette Molnar, Scott Fisher, Kiersten Varner, Edith Ristau, Mary Sue Willie, Barbara and me. Janice Darias also joined our team, but is stepping back in light of her new role as co-warden. At our meetings, we reflect deeply on the liturgical seasons, our experiences of worship, and the liturgy itself, and then consider how our worship might help us enter into any given season. This included a retreat at the church in June, during which we created our own Eucharist from the ground up. In addition to liturgy planning, this group does the time consuming work of hanging and taking down the fabric we use to mark different liturgical season in the sanctuary. The Creative Worship Team worked on the following services and seasons this year:

**Lent:** The Creative Worship Team identified a theme of covenant in the lectionary readings for Lent in 2015. We decided to focus on this theme in preaching, and to invite others to reflect on it through sermons with time for personal reflection and/or conversation. In keeping with this theme, we held our reimagined Ash Wednesday service for the second time. The service focused on Lent as a time when God is calling us back. Worshipers were invited to write whatever was getting in their way of their relationship with God on index cards and to burn them in roaring fire, as a symbolic way of putting it in God's hands and being unburdened. Then, the whole congregation was wrapped in purple fabric as a symbolic way of being forgiven, our sins covered, and welcomed back in. The purple fabric was then draped throughout the sanctuary for the season of Lent.

**Easter Sunday:** We began our conversation about Easter reflecting on the contrast between Easter and Lent, and we decided to bring that contrast into the service. The congregation gathered in the dark, with everything stripped. We began by ringing the triangle that marked the death of Jesus at the end of our Palm Sunday service. Then, slowly, the church moved from darkness into light, and the experience of resurrection was powerfully brought to life. The services ended with the choir's fabulous and joyful rendition of the Hallelujah Chorus.

**All Saints' Day:** We provided colorful paper "prayer flags" and invited members of the congregation to use them to remember loved ones who have died. These were hung around the altar as a "cloud of witnesses" from All Saints' Day until Advent.

We also continued some new services from last year:

**Palm Sunday:** We implemented an alternative liturgy that places the passion reading, punctuated by percussion music, at the very end of the service.

**July Cookout Eucharists:** On Wednesday evenings, we hosted Cookout Eucharists. We had a short, simple Eucharist with a conversational sermon in the “backyard,” followed by dinner. The church provided grilled meats, buns, and condiments, and others were invited to bring salads, side dishes, or desserts.

In addition to the work of the Creative Worship Team, staff and volunteers also worked on liturgy. New this year was:

**Celtic Eucharists (and yoga!).** Barbara designed and led this quiet, candlelit, contemplative service of Eucharist featuring beautiful Celtic prayers on 7 Sundays in November and December at 5pm. Parishioner Julie McKay also offered yoga classes on 6 of these Sundays at 4pm. Some folks came just for yoga, some came just for the service, and some came for both. It was an oasis of peace and restoration on Sunday afternoons. By popular demand, we will be offering both Yoga and Celtic Eucharists again during Lent.

Staff and volunteers also continued these new services from last year:

**Children’s Ash Wednesday Service:** Kihm Sanders, Mara Huston, Derek Zurn and I prepared and led this interactive service. Children moved through 5 different stations that helped us remember our baptisms before receiving ashes.

**Backpack Blessing:** On the same day that we collected school supplies for our first grade classroom at the Blackstone School, we also invited students of all ages to bring their backpacks or other symbols of their learning. We blessed the backpacks and supplies, students, and teachers and school staff.

**The Longest Night:** Coming just before Christmas, on the longest night of the year, this service focuses on Christ’s coming as bringing light to a world and a people experiencing pain, loss, grief, suffering, and struggle. It is designed to acknowledge these painful realities and to offer healing and hope. This service is especially for those of us for whom the holidays are a reminder of what they have lost or never had; for those of us who are despairing of all that is broken in the world right now; and for those of us who are just not feeling the holidays and wanting the space to be as they are.

If you’re interested or curious about liturgy, we invite you to join us at our Creative Worship Team meetings. And if you have feedback about liturgy, please let us know!

Respectfully submitted,

Jacqueline Clark



## Music Report

Our 2015 Sunday services opened with the Second Sunday of Christmas followed by the Season of Epiphany and our singing of the 'paperless music'. It is sung a cappella led by Carol Davies (our assistant music director), Mary Sue and helped by the Clergy. We decided to forego the "King's Cakes" due to food allergies and so did not observe the Feast of the Epiphany.

Since Shrove Tuesday came in school vacation week, we cancelled the Pancake Supper and Talent Show because there were no sign ups and the Youth Choir (which usually anchors the show), were out of town, also.

Ash Wednesday was once again a very significant service with the choir singing the "Hosea" introit, all singing Tiaze mantras and our own Bishop Gayle Harris singing "Steal Away".

Our traditional Palm Sunday service began with Meagan Powley (choreographer) leading our young dancers as they strewed 'cloaks and palms' while the Adult Choir sang the medieval version of All glory Laud and Honor accompanied by hand chimes and drum. Then the Passion Gospel was read dramatically accompanied by timpani, cymbal, triangle, and tambourine throughout and ending with the triangle striking and the people leaving in silence. Maundy Thursday followed the usual format of foot-washing and stripping of the Altar.

Then Easter Sunday morning people entered a dark nave with no flowers and the altar still bare. The triangle struck three times to pick up from the end of the Palm Sunday Gospel. With the Paschal Candle carried in and the choir watching it move down the Narthex to the front of the church; Bonnie Brown played solemn music followed by the Youth Choir singing "Now the Green Blade Riseth", followed by a drum roll and the organ introducing "Jesus Christ is Risen Today". Meanwhile, members of the Altar Guild and Creative Worship Team carried in the candles, altar furnishings and lilies as the black drape was released to show the white drapes underneath attached to the cross. An altogether joy filled service.

St. Elizabeths Adult Choir sang with other choirs in our Deanery in the Ascension Day service at Trinity Church Concord. Mary Sue, Robert Barney and Tish Kilgore played and conducted. St. E's had the best choir presence!

Seeing the need for 'kettle drums', we found some fine instruments online and in Cambridge. With the generous support from choir members and parishioners, we were able to purchase them. Carol and Steve Davies brought them out to our choir loft and installed them where we have been able to use them regularly.

After a summer with a few soloists, the choirs resumed in mid-September. The choir numbers are still small and we were only able to find a Tenor section leader leaving one or two faithful bass singers. The choir invited any singers in all parts to join and experience the joy and fun of singing with us. The Youth Choir has begun with several new and younger members – a good sign.

Several of our former Section Leaders joined us for the last Sunday in Advent and Christmas Eve as well as the Sundays following. Christmas Eve was glorious with Clarissa Briasco-Stewart accompanying a new anthem (found and conducted by Carol Davies) on the 'cello. Ori Ravid, John Knobel, Kenter Davies, Nadave DeSharone and Sam Jones (our current Tenor section leader) along with the Briasco family singers, Tom Small, Tim Howard, Adam Howard and Hunter McKay added thrilling sound to this service.

# Music Ministry

Now we must recognize and thank Maggie Watson for over seven years of faithful assistance with the Youth Choir. She has prepared and filled their music binders each week, wrangled them from the church school to get into vestments and then assisted them with singing their communion anthems. Finally, returning to rehearse with them following the service and keeping track of their attendance and encouraging each of the singers. Our hats are off to you, Maggie! We love and appreciate you and all the work you have done.

Susanne Gilliam has stepped into the role of assisting with the Youth choir and is assuming more and more of the responsibilities. Linda Trail is keeping track of the Adult Choir music and organizing a new filing system. Again, Carol Davies steps in when needed to conduct and advise.

Bonnie Brown has lent her lovely solo violin playing to allow the choir to take communion and then plays with the hymns and the youth choir anthems.

All this to the Glory of God.

Respectfully submitted,

*Mary Sue Willie* ~ Director of Music

## Newcomers Committee Report

2015 was an active and successful year for the Newcomers Committee, and for St. Elizabeth's in general with respect to our newcomers!

As in previous years, the Newcomers Committee 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, perhaps the single biggest effort along these lines stemmed from a sad event – the closing of nearby Church of the Holy Spirit (CHS) in Wayland. In recent years, the fantastic people of CHS had found it more and more difficult to sustain their parish as their numbers dwindled, so they closed their doors, holding their last service on June 28. However, through the St. E's Newcomers Committee and several other St. E's efforts, our parishioners and clergy warmly invited the former CHS members to visit us at our services and other parish events. Many of the recent CHS members accepted our invitations, they thoroughly enjoyed their experiences with us, and they have decided that St. E's is the right place for them to continue their life in Christ (or they are still heavily considering St. E's).

Perhaps the most touching moments in the integration of former CHS members occurred at the 10:00 service on October 4, when Bishop Gates visited St. E's. At that service, Barbara individually recognized everyone from CHS, she invited them to introduce many of the physical objects that St. E's was receiving from CHS as the Bishop blessed those objects, and then she blessed everyone together (both longstanding St. E's members and former CHS members). When she expressed her gratitude for the presence of the former CHS members, the entire parish erupted in spontaneous applause. It is through both large-scale special moments like this and smaller private moments that our newcomers (from wherever they come) feel so welcomed!

2015 was a successful year in inviting visitors to become members of the parish. Of the 16 families that first visited St. E's in 2015 and that provided their contact information to us as they considered joining our parish, seven have joined (or have committed to join) St. E's and another six are still heavily considering joining. We truly have a special community in Christ where people feel welcome!

The flagship event each year in welcoming visitors (and new members) to the parish is the Newcomers Brunch, which is organized by the Newcomers Committee but which wouldn't be possible without the attendance of other parishioners. We held two Newcomers Brunches in 2015, one on May 3 and another on November 15. Both were very well attended, not only by many visitors and new members, but also by many of our enthusiastic parishioners who enjoy welcoming folks to our parish. Furthermore, the brunches clearly helped to convey the wonderful warmth of our parish, as every newcomer who attended those brunches has either joined the parish or still is actively considering joining.

# Newcomers Committee

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, Jack, 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 Newcomers Committee (with the much appreciated diligent support of Barbara, Jack, and Peg) also 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.

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. Thank you all for greeting visitors when you see them in the pews or at coffee hour. 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!

Respectfully submitted,  
Scott Fisher, Chair  
Deborah Comer  
Angela Crocker  
Ellie Harris  
Kihm Sanders

## Nursery

The nursery has been staffed regularly this year by the Wolin girls, Kelly and Courtney. Occasionally, they have brought friends as well, with the Comers filling in on off Sundays. Attendance has been lighter than in the past, with 1-2 children regularly. Calling all parishioners: please let newcomers know about this convenient, free service provided by the church.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Comer

# Nursery

## Outreach Annual Report

### Outreach Annual Report

The Outreach Committee undertook a variety of projects this past year of which some have been part of St. Elizabeth's for many years and others new with hopefully many years of spiritual fulfillment to come. David Varner continued leading and was joined by Carol Davies for the latter half of the year. In September, Craig Stafford and Cheryl Franke moved on to focus their contribution to our parish in other areas. The Reverend Jacqueline Clark did a remarkable job working with the Leadership Team. Individuals take responsibility for coordinating various projects. The committee meets bi-monthly as a whole and works to support those projects and consider new initiatives. 2015's projects included the following:

#### Miracle Kitchen – Salvation Army in Framingham

We had another successful year of coordinating, cooking, and serving at the soup kitchen at the Salvation Army on the second Tuesday of every month. We have six coordinators who faithfully organize and execute the serving of dinner to between 40 to 60 clients of the Salvation Army. We would like to thank Josie Baggott for her service as a coordinator for many years. Jane and Jim Newton will be taking her place in 2016. We also have a number of groups/committees from St. Elizabeth's who volunteer to serve at soup kitchen, as well as a group of parishioners who prepare a casserole each month.

St. Elizabeth's has been cooking and serving dinner at the Salvation Army for over 30 years.

-Stevie Spina & Ruth Griesel

#### Blackstone School Partnership

"Make a difference". This usually trite statement takes on real meaning when applied to the St. Stephen's B-Safe (Summer) and B-Ready secondary school support) programs partially funded by the diocese and initiated and administered by St. Stephen's mission church in South End Boston. Cooperating with a Boston Schools' experimental school's program, B-Ready has "adopted" Blackstone School for contributing resources and volunteers to enhance education. St. Elizabeth's joined this initiative by "adopting" a first grade class after 8 parishioners visited a classroom during library time in May of 2014. For the end of the 2014-2015 school year, members of St. E's decorated cards and wrapped copies of a book to be given to each of the first graders in our adopted class. Then once again in the fall we collected school supplies for the Blackstone school and the Giving Tree included tags for money to donate two iPads to the kindergarten classes, their greatest need. In addition, two St. Elizabeth's volunteers continue to read books to classrooms of students each week during 'library time.'

-Susan Berry

## **Mother's Day Walk for Peace**

For the 3rd year, members of St Elizabeth's joined 10,000 walkers in the 19th annual Louis D Brown Peace Institute Mother's Day Walk for Peace. We shared a bus with Trinity Church in Concord to transport many walkers to Dorchester on May 10th. It was a flat 3.6 mile walk giving us an opportunity to talk and listen to other people who care and are affected by gun violence. The Louis D Brown Peace Institute provides violence prevention education to the Boston Public School system and community as well as provides support to families directly affected by gun violence. Several of the walkers gave financial contributions to the peace institute.

-Mara Huston

## **B-Safe Program**

This year St. Elizabeth's expanded its role in the diocesan B-Safe (Summer Camp) program at St. Augustine's/St. Martin's in lower Roxbury by partnering with St. Peter's Weston in providing and serving a week's worth of lunches to 100 youthful campers, their counselors and student organizers as well as co-hosting a field trip to the Wayland Town Beach for a cook-out and recreational activities. Approximately 40 individuals from 30 households served in ways such as purchasing food and supplies, preparing it, taking it into Boston to serve it and interact with the campers and counselors, as well as staffing the grills, setting the tables and distributing the food at the cook-out. There was lots of interaction with the campers at the cook-out. Some who could not directly participate donated funds for food and the busses for the trip out from Boston. All who participated felt rewarded, including some parishioners participating in Outreach activities for the first time.

-Lisa Kenney & Jim Peters

## **Spring Baskets and Giving Tree**

The Sudbury Reach-Out Practice, led by Lucie St George, Kristin Fisher, and Eric Becker orchestrated: (1) the assembly and delivery of 28 spring baskets to Sudbury residents and (2) the collection and delivery of a huge number of Christmas presents (as a part of the Christmas Giving Tree) to two families at Longfellow Glen in Sudbury. The Ecclesia Ministry Practice, led by Lucie St George and Kristin Fisher continued its support for the Common Cathedral by collecting gift cards to Dunkin Donuts and winter clothing for Boston's neediest individuals as a part of the Giving Tree activity. The Blackstone School iPad drive, led by Lucie St. George and Kristin Fisher successfully raised the funds to purchase 2 iPads for the Kindergarten classrooms.

Again this year, the Rite 13 class of "Ambassadors" was instrumental in helping with the Spring baskets, Giving Tree, the Ecclesia Ministry clothing and gift card collection and the Blackstone School iPad funding drive.

-Lucie St. George

## **Ecclesia Thanksgiving on the Common**

St. Elizabeth's took on the tradition started at Church of the Holy Spirit, Wayland many years ago to host Thanksgiving on the Common with Ecclesia Ministries. On November 22, 2015, 30 families prepared, delivered and served a hot Thanksgiving dinner on a cold, rainy afternoon. The staff of Ecclesia were so grateful. Everything was delicious! For those of us who served and worshipped on Boston Common, we all shared a special time together. We learned that whether we are housed or unhoused, employed or unemployed, live in the city or suburbs, we all share the same love of good food, have the same concerns for the health and well-being of family and friends, and mourn the loss of loved ones. We are all the children of God.

-Matt Chafe

## **Sister Relationship with St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Dorchester**

In addition to the many projects listed above, St. Elizabeth's began exploring the possibility of something new-- of building relationships based on reciprocity and mutuality with people in Boston. One of the beautiful things about being part of the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts is that it connects us with people we would otherwise never encounter. We are bound by a shared faith and a shared liturgy. We are all in communion, in relationship, with one another across a wide spectrum of experience. So in November 2015, we began to explore the possibility of a sister relationship with St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Dorchester. Barbara, Jack and I have relationships with the Rev. Edwin Johnson, their priest, who is a young, energetic, visionary leader. The first event was a joint Sunday service at St. Mary's in Dorchester attended by many parishioners of both congregations. The children listened to Padre Edwin teach a lesson based on the battle between David and Goliath before the service and after the service we broke bread together with our new friends from St. Mary's at a scrumptious potluck luncheon. As this relationship grows, we might worship together, hear their steel drum band, receive Brazilian dance lessons from Padre Edwin, or hold joint fellowship, youth group, or outreach activities. We would be spiritual companions, seeing what we have to offer each other, what we have to learn from one another, and what we might do together. Our commonalities are far greater than our differences.

-David Varner



## Pastoral Care

# Pastoral Care

### Stephen Ministry

In 2014, we began the process of implementing the Stephen Series system of lay caring ministry, developed by Stephen Ministries, a not-for-profit religious and educational organization based in St. Louis, Missouri. Following an application and interview process six parishioners were welcomed into the 50-hour training, which prepares the trainees to care for others, covering such areas as how to listen effectively, how to deal with feelings, how to use traditional Christian resources in caring, how to maintain confidentiality, how to be present with people experiencing crises. A Christ-centered approach to caring and the need to care for the whole person is stressed throughout the training.

The 50-hour training course concluded in February and the six St. E's Stephen Ministers were commissioned in March to become an integral part of the caring ministry at St. Elizabeth's. These Stephen Ministers now provide confidential, one-to-one Christian care for people experiencing challenges in their lives, such as serious illness, hospitalization, loss of a loved one, loneliness, divorce, unemployment, birth of a child, and many other life events for which a person could benefit from effective caring ministry.

Stephen Ministry does not supplant the pastoral care clergy offer; it augments it. A Stephen Minister is matched with a willing care receiver, and then meets weekly, one on one with that care receiver, for a year. Stephen Ministry not only multiplies the amount of caring ministry that goes on in the congregation. It deepens the level of participation by laypeople in the healing ministry of Jesus Christ, a healing ministry of presence. Stephen Ministry has the power to transform the lives of the care givers and the care receivers and through them to transform the life of the whole congregation.

We have been assisted in establishing Stephen Ministry at St. E's by Sudbury United Methodist Church which has employed this system of lay caring ministry for 20 years. The SUMC Stephen Leaders advised us and joined us in training our six Stephen Ministers in addition to three Stephen Ministers from their church. That fruitful collaboration continued beyond training to include occasional joint supervision sessions and continuing education. We are supremely grateful for their help not only as advisors and fellow trainers, but also by offering their available Stephen Ministers to care for members of St. Elizabeth's who were ready to establish a caring relationship before our Stephen Ministers finished training.

Stephen Leaders include the Rev. Jack Clark, Stuart Pease, and the Rev. Barbara Williamson. We hope to raise up and train two additional Stephen Leaders. Stephen Ministers include Ruth Griesel, Steve Kenney, Nancy Morgan, Jim Newton, Jim Peters and Kris Wile.

### Eucharistic Visitors

Eucharistic [Visitors](#) (EVs) are lay people who have been trained to give the Holy Eucharist

# Pastoral Care

to parishioners who are unable to attend church services. Eucharistic visitors must be licensed by the diocese, which offers day-long training for those called to this ministry and who are endorsed by the rector. These sessions are led by a clergy person and an experienced Eucharistic Visitor and are offered four times a year around the diocese.

Generally, EVs are scheduled to visit a homebound or hospitalized parishioner once a month. The timing is based completely on the mutual convenience of the EV and the parishioner to be visited.

St. E's Eucharistic Visitors in 2015 included Steve Davies and Jim Peters. While the clergy also visit and take communion to the hospitalized or homebound, the Eucharistic Visitors make sure that parishioners who cannot get to church are included in the sacramental life of the congregation at least monthly.

The clergy welcome additional EVs. Please be in touch with the Rector to express your interest.

## Healing Ministry

In this ministry we focus on prayerful compassion and in healing. We are conscious that healing is part of God's will for all of humankind. Healing impacts mind, body and spirit. Healing has many meanings, which include mental/emotional/spiritual acceptance, reconciliation when relationships are damaged, remission in the case of progressive disease, and/or a cure in the sense of removal of some specific illness or cause.

We gather weekly on Wednesday afternoons for intercessory prayer on behalf of the people on the parish prayer list. Our guidance follows the Gospel teachings: "Ask and it will be given to you..." [Matt. 7:7 and Luke.11:9] and "For where two or three gather in my name, I am in the midst of them." [Matt. 18:20] In addition to prayer, we study and discuss books and other materials on prayer, healing, compassion, and guidance in traveling the road with our fellow parishioners in need.

On Sundays at the 10 AM service we offer Laying on of Hands. Trained healing ministers assist the clergy in this sacramental act, bringing Christ's healing light to those in need.

Parishioners participating in the various functions overlap but in summary we have:

| Weekly Prayer and Study | Laying on of Hands |
|-------------------------|--------------------|
| Mary Ainsworth          | Mandy Fleming      |
| Barbara Bell            | Jane Graham        |
| Mandy Fleming           | Jim Peters         |
| Jim Peters              | Stuart Pease       |

We have solid leadership and training for all endeavors. We welcome new parishioners interested in the ministry.

Respectfully submitted,

The Rev. Barbara Williamson

## Small Groups

Small Groups are a community within the community; a place to get connected within the congregation, to build relationships, to share our stories, and to have fun. For more information, talk to the contact person listed for each group. Our current small groups include:

### Ladies' Night

Ladies' Nights are informal gatherings open to all the women in our congregation. This year we tried something new, a Craft Night in the parish hall and Painting Night at Palattes in Natick as well as a few get-togethers hosted at parishioner's homes attended by a dozen or so ladies each time with light appetizers and desserts and casual conversations. It's a great way to get to know other women in our St Elizabeth church community in a casual setting. We are always open to suggestions! Let us know if you have any ideas!

--Kristine Robak, Kiersten Varner & Ildi Morris

### Men's Group

The St. E's men's group is an informal gathering of parishioners aimed to share a bit of fellowship away from the hectic pace of our daily lives and responsibilities. We typically meet on the first Wednesday of the month at 8pm at a local restaurant. In the past year, we have enjoyed relaxing conversation, competed and won at trivia night, volunteered at the Miracle Kitchen in Framingham, lost to the Women's Group at the ASP Trivia fundraiser, and incorporated a Lenten reflection during one of our regular monthly gatherings. If you would like to get to know your fellow parishioners or just want to reclaim your trivia dominance please participate. All men are welcome.

--Jim DeMichele and David Varner

### Loaf and Ladle

Loaf and Ladle is a small group for members who are 55 and up. Every other month, we transform the parish hall into a movie theatre and 15-20 of us meet for a film screening, a potluck lunch of soup, bread and dessert, and discussion. Films this year have included Babette's Feast, Rain Man, Woman in Gold, The Life of Pi, The Book Thief, and To Kill a Mockingbird. We'd love to have you join us!

--Jack Clark

## Stewardship

### Season of Generosity and Stewardship

Planning for this year's Stewardship campaign began in August, when the Stewardship team met with Jack and Barbara and decided to continue with last year's theme of the "Season of Generosity." One aspect of the Scripture we reflected on at this meeting was "Always and Everywhere" – words from the Great Thanksgiving prayer in the Eucharist, that remind us God is with us through good and bad times, and the link between the trust that comes from acknowledging God's presence and our generosity that flows from gratitude for our relationship with God.

The season of generosity theme informed the services in the month of October, with Ingathering Sunday falling on All Saints' Day, November 1<sup>st</sup>. This year we decided not to bring in an outside speaker for the Stewardship conversation, and instead opted for a Dialog Sermon on the preceding Sunday, October 25<sup>th</sup>. In preparation, John McNeill attended a diocesan workshop "God the Giver" in September, which provided many resources for parishioners acting as a "lay witness" to tell their story of stewardship.

We celebrated Ingathering Sunday on November 1 when we gratefully received many pledge cards. As of January 15, 2016, we have received **96** pledge cards for a total of **\$419,000**, which represents *101% of our original pledging goal!* This is an increase of roughly \$21,000 over last year's pledges. Thank you to all for your tremendous generosity!

We are grateful to the 96 individuals and families who filled in the pledge card and returned it, either on November 1, subsequent Sundays, or by mail. This represents approximately 91% of the goal of 105 pledges. This is up from last year's receipt of 92 pledge cards, and an improvement over last year's return rate of 84%. Our hope and goal is to have every card returned, even if a family or parishioner notes on the card that a pledge is not possible at this time – it is never too late to submit a pledge card, and the closer we can get to our goal of 100%, the better is our sense of common purpose in the community of St. Elizabeth's.

We are especially grateful to the parishioners who resumed or began pledging this year. Thank you for taking this important step in your spiritual journey. We are also grateful for those who have expressed their generosity in choosing to give gifts of time and talent.

This year's Season of Generosity/Stewardship Committee was blessed with many dedicated members who performed a myriad of important tasks. There were writers of Mantle articles, bulletin articles, and pledge letters; writers of thank you notes to acknowledge each pledge received; and those who made follow-up calls and emails to complete the Stewardship process. Thank you to all those who helped.

This report would not be complete without acknowledgement and gratitude for the work of our Parish Administrator, Peg Scarlata. From databases and letters to mailings, bulletins, and spreadsheets, Peg's meticulous attention to detail and dedication ensured the success of the project. We are grateful for her generosity.

Finally, we would like to thank Barbara, Jack, the Wardens, and the Vestry for their continued support of the concept of the Season of Generosity as the focus of the Stewardship Campaign.

Respectfully submitted,  
 Jeremy Perisho and John McNeill, co-chairs

2016 Stewardship Campaign Summary, as of January 12, 2016

|                             | 2016      | 2015      | 2014      | 2013      | 2012      | 2011      | 2010      | 2009      |
|-----------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Pledge Participation Goal   | 105       | 110       | 110       | 110       | 125       | 130       | 130       | 130       |
| Pledge Participation Actual | 96        | 92        | 100       | 106       | 105       | 97        | 99        | 98        |
| Pledge Participation %      | 91%       | 84%       | 92%       | 96%       | 84%       | 75%       | 76%       | 74%       |
|                             |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |
| Pledge Income Goal          | \$415,000 | \$400,000 | \$401,400 | \$396,000 | \$377,000 | \$362,000 | \$308,000 | \$300,000 |
| Pledge Income Actual        | \$419,000 | \$397,379 | \$367,411 | \$385,179 | \$354,966 | \$315,000 | \$324,000 | \$274,977 |
| Pledge Income %             | 101%      | 99%       | 92%       | 96%       | 84%       | 75%       | 76%       | 74%       |
|                             |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |
| Mean pledge                 | \$4,365   | \$4,319   | \$3,950   | \$3,634   | \$3,380   | \$3,247   | \$3,274   | \$2,806   |
| Median Pledge               | \$2,500   | \$2,400   | \$2,200   | \$2,000   | \$1,800   | \$2,000   | \$1,800   | \$1,750   |
|                             |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |
| Pledge Distribution         |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |
| Up to \$1,000               | 21        | 15        | 18        | 25        | 22        | 22        | 20        | 23        |
| \$1,000 to \$2,999          | 36        | 37        | 36        | 43        | 47        | 44        | 50        | 47        |
| \$3,000 to \$4,999          | 17        | 17        | 20        | 19        | 19        | 17        | 15        | 15        |
| \$5,000 to \$6,999          | 11        | 10        | 6         | 19        | 17        | 14        | 14        | 13        |
| \$7,000 to \$9,999          | 2         | 2         | 2         |           |           |           |           |           |
| \$10,000 to \$19,999        | 6         | 11        | 11        |           |           |           |           |           |
| \$20,000 and up             | 3         |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |

# Stewardship