

# The Mantle

St. Elizabeth's Episcopal Church  
Sudbury, Massachusetts

Feb 2007

**A**t this writing the communities that are touched by the tragedy at Lincoln Sudbury Regional High School on the morning of January 19<sup>th</sup> are barely beginning to apprehend the implications of the event. We have been shaken to our shoes. There are feelings of shock, anxiety, grief, regret, anger, guilt, fear, and relief. Our young people will likely exhibit the typical side effects of an event of this nature: unusual difficulty concentrating, sleeping, organizing, and making decisions. Adults may also experience emotional fatigue, re-opened wounds of other losses, and hypervigilance to name a few. This event is not to be trivialized or swept under the rugs of our emotional lives. It has sent shock waves throughout community that will be with us for years to come.

The Sudbury clergy's offer to be a presence was accepted by Dr. Ritchie and on the Monday following that fateful Friday, many of us spent the morning at L/S simply hanging around, available to students and staff on an as needed basis. I saw, greeted, and spoke with most of St. E's high school youth. I was grateful to have been welcomed into "their space," and to know that

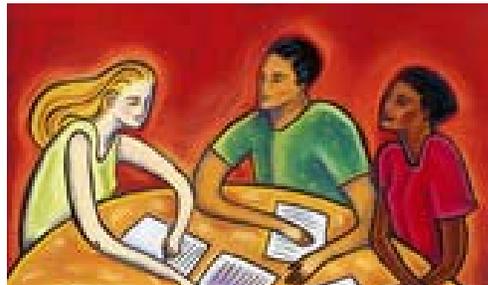
my presence reassured them.

At the same time, I couldn't help but notice the students of color. Some are METCO students from Jamaica Plain, Roxbury, Dorchester and other neighborhoods in the city. Some are residents of Lincoln and Sudbury. I wondered about how they have been affected by this shocking event. I wished we had thought

to invite clergy of students who live in Boston to be at L/S that day. Those students are more likely to be exposed to violence than students who live in Sudbury or Lincoln. As a society we seem to accept violence as part of the city's landscape. Violence against people of color in the city does not get the kind of press that has been focused on L/S. Yet our faith mandates concern for all of God's children. Moreover, before the names and faces of James Alenson and John "Jack" Odgren became public, the thought on many minds was "Oh, God, please don't let it be a METCO student," or "I wonder if it was a METCO kid," an instant and almost involuntary association

of violence with people of color.

When the assailant was identified as afflicted with Asperger's syndrome, many questioned the wisdom of mainstreaming special needs students. Parents of special needs students now justifiably fear that their children will be targets of ostracism, fear and loathing.



This tragedy has exposed our vulnerability. We can do our best, but some events are not preventable in a free society. This tragedy has exposed

our assumptions. Regardless of how far we think we have come, we have a long way to go to build trust with and welcome those we perceive as "the other" whether of a different race, ethnicity, or ability.

I hope and pray that we seek God's assistance not only as we attend to our grief and our concerns for our children's safety, but also as we work to be better allies to all those we perceive as "the other," making our schools and our community a safe place for them too.

*Barbara*

# Vestry Notes by Susan Berry, Co-Warden

**A**s I come to the end of my term, I find myself reflecting on the experience of serving on the Vestry for two years and as Warden for two more and am moved to share some of the lessons I take with me. I have been awed and inspired by the many glimpses we get as Vestry members and Wardens of all that members of this congregation do to respond to the call to “love God with all our hearts and our neighbors as ourselves.” At various times we hear about the work of perhaps every committee, group or individual who by small acts or work of many hours, days or months participate in this congregation’s care for its members and the world.

The makeup of each Vestry has been a bit different but over my four year tenure, I have been most impressed with how seriously and, each in their own way, prayerfully all members of the vestry consider how best to fulfill the duties assigned – to carefully steward the resources, physical and monetary of St. Elizabeth’s and offer their understand-

ing of how we might best go about doing the work St. E’s is called to do.

It has been a special privilege to work with Karl Loos, Mike Wilson, and Peter Gonze as co-wardens. Each brought (and in Peter’s case, brings) to the tasks his own special gifts and has demonstrated a dedication that makes it clear that St. Elizabeth’s and the faith that brings them here touches them profoundly, as I have come to know is true for so many of you.

To observe “up close” all that Barbara brings to the leadership of our congregation has been a special blessing. I find her to be especially gifted at supporting us in our faith journeys, no matter where we are, how far we have come or how far we have to go. I believe her gift of accepting each as we are and in our many differences, helps us live out our baptismal covenant to do all in our power to sup-

port each other in our life in Christ.

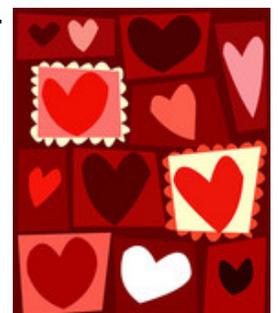
Perhaps the hardest lesson for me to learn and the one I have to be reminded of again and again, is that there are times when I need to let go and have faith. I believe

that we are in some way “the hands of God” and need to act so learning to do all I can and then let go is particularly hard for me – in that aspect of the faith journey, I am at the beginning of the path! However, I leave the

Vestry believing that, although there may be monetary pressures to address and undoubtedly unknown difficulties to face, we as a congregation are blessed in our leadership and our membership. I am profoundly grateful for these years on the Vestry and thank you for the opportunities for deeper understanding and faith that they have given me.



*“I have been awed and inspired by the many glimpses we get as Vestry members and Wardens of all that members of this congregation do to respond to the call to “love God with all our hearts and our neighbors as ourselves”.”*



# Warden's Words

by Peter Gonze, Co-Warden

A quick look in the rear view mirror of 2006 and a long look at the road ahead in 2007, would be an accurate description of the January Vestry meeting.

On the financial front, pledge collections were very strong in December, totaling over \$36,000. Added to this were unpledged income and proceeds from the year-end appeal that totaled close to \$10,000. The selfless generosity is a blessing and supports the good works of our St. E's community.

These very welcome contributions went a long way towards significantly reducing the deficits reported at the end of November. The general fund ended up with a deficit of roughly \$9000, which was anticipated in the budget. Having completed our first full year in the newly renovated building, we now have benchmark data on the real costs of operations. This combined with the significant principle and interest payments re-

maining on the loans are the most significant expense items in our budget. Although there is very little discretionary spending in the Budget, fiscal restraint and responsibility will continue to be a focus for 2007.

Significantly, at year-end the balance sheet reports \$45,000 of prepaid pledges for 2007. So we begin the year on solid footing! However, even with rigorous rationalization on each line item, our 2007 budget anticipates a small deficit, of approximately \$3,000.

There continues to be further evaluation and study of options regarding the Cell Tower on St. E's property. Consideration of possible alternative means of access, that would not encumber the Rectory property, are being evaluated.

In the Rector's Report, Barbara provided the Vestry with an informative overview of the Youth Group programs with a focus on Pilgrimage and City Mission. Also, English as Second Language classes will be-

gin soon at St. E's. This new initiative is about to get underway and is funded through a grant from Diocese. Finally, it is anticipated that sometime in the spring, the family living in the Rectory that the RIM cluster has been sponsoring will be moving out of Sudbury.



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The meeting ended with some reflections and observations from our dedicated Warden, Susan Berry. Susan's many contributions of time, talent and insightful leadership have been an inspiration to me, and to us all on the Vestry. Thank you, Susan!

# Adult Education

## Confirmation Classes for Adults

Want to learn more of the basics? A team of laity and clergy will lead classes for adults preparing to be confirmed at the deanery wide confirmation on June 2nd.

Classes will be held on ten various Sunday morning from **9:10 to 9:55 AM beginning February 4th.**

Anyone interested in learning more about the Episcopal Church whether or not you intend to be confirmed or received is welcome. We will meet in the conference room. The cost of the text is \$10.

## 2007 Lenten Series: Praying in the Wilderness

The word wilderness can describe a physical terrain, or it can refer to an inner, personal experience. When Dante wrote the beginning verses to his Divine Comedy - "In the middle of life's journey, I came to myself within a dark wood where the straight way was lost," he was describing both a real and symbolic wilderness - one in which he was both physically and spiritually lost. This year's Lenten Series will explore scripture, and historical and modern spiritual texts which describe wilderness as a desolate but holy landscape. The weekly sessions will provide ample opportunity for fellowship but also time for reflection on the place of wilderness in our prayer lives.

The Lenten Series schedule will be consecutive Wednesdays: Feb. 28, Mar. 7, 14, 21, 28. Each evening's schedule will be:

6:00 - Eucharist

6:30 - 7:15 - Soup supper

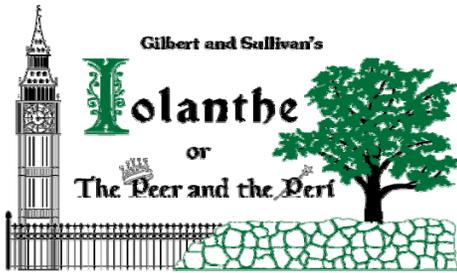
7:15-8:30 - Lenten reflection

## Adult Education Film Series: An Inconvenient Truth

For over two decades, Albert Gore has been touring the world with a presentation on the effects of global warming and climate change. Last year, the presentation served as the basis for the documentary *An Inconvenient Truth*. According to Davis Guggenheim, the film's director, "Al Gore strips his presentations of politics, laying out the facts for the audience to draw their own conclusions in a charming, funny and engaging style, and by the end has everyone on the edge of their seats, gripped by his haunting message." The film will serve to complement the Lenten Series' theme of "Praying in the Wilderness." It will be shown at First Parish, Sudbury on March 3 at 7pm with discussion following.



*For more information on either program,  
contact Jonas Barciauskas (978-440-8164, [barciaus@bc.edu](mailto:barciaus@bc.edu))*



## Help fight world hunger...and enjoy a delightful musical!

How can you do both? Attend Gilbert & Sullivan's *Iolanthe*, presented by the Sudbury Savoyards at the Lincoln/Sudbury Regional High School Theatre. The Sudbury Savoyards (an all-volunteer organization) donates all of its proceeds to UMCOR, the United Methodist Committee on Relief. Since their last production of *Iolanthe* in 1999, the Savoyards have donated more than \$95,000 for the relief of world hunger.

Parliament comes to the Sudbury stage when the House of Lords comes face to face with a band of enchanting fairies. Topsy-turvydom ensues, only to be resolved in the colorful finale. *Iolanthe* contains some of the most enthralling music and lyrics ever written by Gilbert & Sullivan, and two St. Elizabeth parishioners – Graham Daly and Ruth Griesel – are *very* active fairies in this production.

Performances will be held at 8 pm on Feb.23, 24, and 28, and March 2 and 3. Two matinees are also scheduled at 2 pm on Sunday, Feb. 25th, and Saturday, March 3rd. The 2 pm Family Matinee on Sunday, February 25th, will feature a special program for the younger audience members, including an after-show tour of the stage and an opportunity to meet the actors. Tickets are \$18 for adults, \$14 for senior citizens and students, and \$10 for children. There is a special price of \$10 for all seats at the Wednesday, Feb. 28th, performance.

### Attention Recorder Players (Past or Present!)

Do you have a recorder, itching to get back in service? Do you think about taking it out of storage, dusting it off and playing music with like-minded friends? Now is your chance! If you are interested in forming a small group to play at special occasions or services, please contact Carol Davies at: [carolhdavies@verizon.net](mailto:carolhdavies@verizon.net). Let her know what type of recorder you own (soprano, alto, tenor) and your level of expertise. Once we have this information, we can purchase suitable music.



# FEBRUARY 2007

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	8:00 AM Holy Eucharist - Church 9:45 AM Church School 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist - Church 11:30 AM Annual Meeting 7:00 PM Homeless Forum (Trinity Church Concord)	29	30 10:00 AM Origins of the Bible Seminar (CNF) 11:15 AM Yoga Class (MPR) 3:00 PM Brownie Meeting (MPR) 2472 3:00 PM Wardens Meeting 7:30 PM Adult Ed. Committee Meeting (CNF)	31 7:30 PM Adult Ed. (MPR)	1 10:30 AM TaiChi (PH) 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal (Choir loft)	2 9:00 AM Life Line Screening	3
4	8:00 AM Holy Eucharist - Church 9:10 AM - 9:55 AM Adult Confirmation Classes 9:45 AM Church School 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist - Church 4:00 PM - 5:30 PM Youth Group Meeting (YGR)	5 3:00 PM - 5:30 PM Brownie(7149) and Girl Scouts(2484) meeting (PH & MPR) 3:00 PM Diocesan Clergy Retreat - Barbara Away 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM Girl Scout Leaders Training (MPR)	6 Diocesan Clergy Retreat - Barbara Away 10:00 AM Origins of the Bible Seminar (CNF) 11:15 AM Yoga Class (MPR) 3:00 PM Brownie Meeting (MPR) 2472 3:00 PM Brownie Troop #2450 (YGR) 7:00 PM Diversity Committee Meeting (cnf)	7 3:00 PM Brownie Meeting (MPR) 3:15 PM - 5:30 PM Girl Scout Troop #7164 (kitchen) 4:00 PM Diocesan Clergy Retreat Ends- Barbara Returns 7:30 PM Adult Ed. (MPR)	8 10:30 AM TaiChi (PH) 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal (Choir loft) 7:00 PM COGS Steering Committee meeting (YGR) 7:30 PM RIM Meeting (MPR)	9	10
11	9:10 AM - 9:55 AM Adult Confirmation Classes 9:45 AM Church School 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist - Bishop Shaw visit 11:30 AM Parish Feedback Project Meeting (R13 rm)	12 Joint Vestry Meeting 7:00 PM Girl Scout Meeting (R13 rm)	13 11:15 AM Yoga Class (MPR) 3:00 PM Brownie Meeting (MPR) 2472 7:30 PM ESL Class (MPR & CNF)	14 3:30 PM Girl Scouts (MPR)	15 Barbara Away 10:30 AM TaiChi (PH) 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal (Choir loft)	16 Barbara Away	17 Barbara Away
18	Barbara Away 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist - Church 9:45 AM No Church School 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist - Church (Family Friendly Service)	19 Barbara Away Office Closed School vacation week!	20 Barbara Returns School vacation week! 7:30 PM ESL Class (MPR & CNF)	21 Ash Wednesday School vacation week! 6:30 AM Holy Eucharist - Church 7:30 PM Holy Eucharist - Church	22 School vacation week! 10:30 AM TaiChi (PH) 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal (Choir loft)	23 School vacation week!	24
25	8:00 AM Holy Eucharist - Church 9:10 AM - 9:55 AM Adult Confirmation Classes 9:45 AM Church School 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist - Church	26	27 12:30 PM Deanery Luncheon (PH) 3:00 PM Brownie Meeting (MPR) 2472 7:30 PM ESL Class (MPR & CNF)	28 6:00 PM Holy Eucharist - Church 6:45 PM Soup Supper 7:15 PM Lenten Program (MPR & CNF)	1 10:30 AM TaiChi (PH) 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal (Choir loft)	2 J2A Confirmation Retreat Departs	3 J2A-Confirmation Retreat Returns 8:30 AM - 3:00 PM Vestry Retreat

	Feb. 4	Feb. 11	Feb. 18	Feb. 21	Feb. 25
Kitchen Angel: Cecilia Small	5 Epiphany	6 Epiphany	Last Sunday after Epiphany	Ash Wed.	1 Lent
Euch. Min.	8:00 Stuart Hamilton 10:00 Larry Ruark Ruth Griesel	8:00 Audrey Newton 10:00 H. Ainsworth B. Wallingford	8:00 Larry Ruark 10:00 Steve Davies Audrey Newton	6:30 AM Larry Ruark 7:30 PM Ruth Griesel	8:00 B. Wallingford 10:00 Stuart Hamilton Susan Newlin
Lector	Craig Stafford	Jonas Barciauskas	Jane Graham	7:30 PM Craig Stafford	Karl Loos
Breadbearer/Third Station	John Howard/ Karyn Grant & B. Messersmith	Ann Loos/ Linda Trail & Larry Stewart	Linda Graham/ Rich Grant		B. Messersmith/ Larry Ruark & Larry Stewart
Acolyte	Tim Howard	Richard Rourke	Sam Bertolino		Jack Walker
V.P.O.D.	Gifford Perry	Lisa Barnes	Win Treese		Steve Kenney
Ushers	Ray Considine & John Romain	Rajeev & Joanne Deshmuk	Betty & Stuart Hamilton		Jonas Barciauskas & Pat Coffin
Greeters	TBA	TBA	TBA		TBA
Altar Guild	8 & 10 Ruth Griesel	8 & 10 Ruth Griesel	8 & 10 Ruth Griesel		8 & 10 Ruth Griesel
Coffee Hostess	Pat Blackey	Beth White	Leslie Ray		Betsy Wallingford

# Level II News

By Katie Walker

For the past month in the Atrium we have focused on the Infancy Narratives. I asked Devin Walker and Alex Briasco-Stewart about these narratives and this is what I learned:

## Adoration of the Shepherds

In the Atrium we wondered how Mary and Joseph felt the night that Jesus was born. We wondered about how it must have felt to put baby Jesus in a manger, and how scared the shepherds must have felt when they were first visited by the angels. We wondered why God picked the shepherds to receive this special news from the angels, and how the shepherds decided to follow the star. We talked about how joyful everyone felt when they saw Jesus and how they thanked God for Him.

## The Presentation at the Temple

We heard about a special moment in Jesus' life. Mary and Joseph brought baby Jesus to the Temple to be presented. They brought Him to the Temple with two turtledoves to be offered to God. Two very special people were in the Temple. One was named Simeon—an old and holy man. God had promised Simeon that he would see a great light in his lifetime. Simeon waited his whole life to see this light. Simeon saw this light when Jesus was brought into the Temple and he said a special prayer of thanks to God for that light. Another person in the Temple preparing for the light was an old and holy woman named Anna. Anna also recognized Jesus as the Savior and thanked God.

## Adoration of the Magi

After Jesus was born special visitors called Magi went to see Him. These Wise Men followed the Holy Spirit in the form of a Star which led them to Jesus. The three kings brought Him special gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh—fit for a king. We wondered about how Jesus felt when the kings worshipped Him, and how King Herod felt when the Magi didn't return to him with information about Jesus. We wondered why our King was born in a stable in the small town of Bethlehem and not in a palace in a large city.

# High School Program

...Continued from Page 11

The week will begin with a two-day community building course at the Thompson Island Outward Bound Education Center in Boston Harbor. Upon its completion the group will move to a church in Charlestown or Oak Square which will be their home base and sleeping quarters for the following 5 days during which they will be engaged in a variety of service projects which might include working with low income seniors, the homeless, Head Start children, or volunteering in a food pantry or Vacation Bible School program. The group will shop for, plan and cook all of its own meals. Travel to and from work sites will be by public transportation. Each evening there will be a program to reflect on, deepen, and integrate the experiences of the day in the context of our faith.

The youth group leaders, Kiersten and David Varner, are thrilled to have the opportunity to create a local program tailored to our kids and our purposes. The kids who were planning to go on the ASP trip were given the opportunity to consider the options, ask questions, talk it over with their parents, friends, and youth leaders, and tell me honestly how they felt. They ultimately said, all things being equal, their first choice would be ASP, but given the strain it would put on the human and financial resources of St. E's to sponsor two long-distance, expensive youth trips in the same year, they were open to the City Mission idea, and in fact, some even preferred it.

When I came to St. E's I brought with me the desire and ability to introduce our congregation to the ministry of ASP. It was only an idea, but once embraced by parishioners, it became a vital reality. A few years ago, pilgrimage was only an idea. A few months ago, City Mission was only an idea. I have the confidence that the congregation can take these ideas and make them every bit as wonderful as ASP, broadening the opportunities for our youth to live into their identity and mission as disciples of Christ.

*The wardens, the youth leaders and I welcome your comments and questions. Barbara*

# Mite Boxes are Coming!



Starting on Ash Wednesday, Susan Goswami and The Mitchells (Kristine & Dave) will distribute *Mite Boxes* to all members of COGS, Rite 13, and J2A. Mite boxes provide a means for children and young adults to help those less fortunate, and also help young people understand that no gift is too small.

**From Wikipedia:** The term *mite* is defined as:

1. a very small contribution or amount of money, such as a widow's mite (Mark 12:41-44; Luke 21:1-4).
2. a very small object, creature, or particle (this one isn't really germane to the discussion!)
3. a coin of very small value, especially an obsolete British coin worth half a farthing.

The term **mite box** refers to a box that is used to save coins for charitable purposes. Contemporary mite boxes are usually made of cardboard and given out to church congregations during the Lenten season. The mite boxes are collected by the church and donations are given to the poor. Mite boxes are popular with children because they can fill them with small change and it teaches them the principals of giving to the poor. The Mite box giving promotes the spirit of contributing based on the intent to help others and not on the monetary amount.

The proceeds will be collected on Easter and will be given to Episcopal Relief & Development whose mission statement (taken from [www.er-d.org](http://www.er-d.org)) is: "ERD provides emergency assistance in times of disaster; rebuilds devastated communities and offers long-term program development solutions to fight poverty. ERD's mandate is taken from the following passage: *Matthew 25: 37-40 (NRSV)*

*"For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me... Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the Least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me."*

## Youth Group



**Sudbury Farms Raffle:** Thanks to everyone who sold, purchased and helped out!

### Upcoming Events

**Feb. 4 - Youth Group Meeting (4 p.m.)** - So, the Patriots aren't in the Super Bowl...we are still having youth group!

**Feb. 11 - Bishop's visitation at the 10 AM service.** This is our personal invitation to join us for worship. We would love to see you there!

**Feb. 18 & 25 - School Vacation** - nothing scheduled, but watch e-mail...we may throw something in...

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# MICAH Ministry Report

MICAH members at St. Elizabeth's have set out as a group to define ourselves, both as a ministry here and as a part of the larger organization. Our mission statement is:

**Responding to the call "to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with your God" (Micah 6:8), the St. Elizabeth's MICAH ministry joins our voices with other voices so that together we use our collective power to effect systemic change and improve the quality of life for all in our communities.**

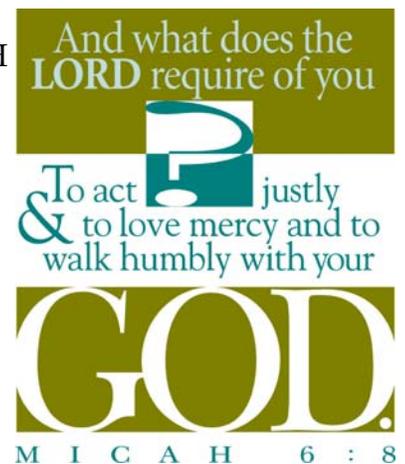
Through emerging concerns voiced by parishioners in the Fall of 2005, St. Elizabeth's MICAH ministry focused on the issues of affordable housing, affordable health care, and property tax relief for senior citizens. We held a meeting in March on the two Affordable Housing articles being presented at Town Meeting. St. E's MICAH Ministry supported these articles and encouraged parishioners to attend Town Meeting and become involved.

A MICAH committee representative has met with other St. E's Justice Ministry committee lay leaders and Rev. Williamson. The group reflected on individual goals, missions, projects, etc. and how these works interconnect within St. E's and the community. Members promoted and attended a workshop in Concord around the areas of institutional racism and white privilege. By June, group members and interested lay leaders were committed to conducting the Parish Feedback Project.

St. Elizabeth's MICAH ministry is also a member of the interfaith MICAH parent organization, which is comprised of other MetroWest congregations. As part of its community organizing effort, the group supported the affordable health care initiative spearheaded by Temple Beth El and the Framingham Community Health Center's application to build a new health center. In the Fall, members met with Governor-elect Deval Patrick (other candidates canceled) and sponsored educational seminars at the First Parish in Framingham regarding the new health insurance legislation.

Due to its growth in both breadth and activity, the Clergy-led MICAH Board of Directors has reconstituted the Board to reflect a more active laity component. Currently, there are laity and clergy from eight MetroWest interfaith congregations. Representatives from St. Elizabeth's include Barbara Williamson, Lucie St. George, Mara Huston, and Cheryl Davis. They meet regularly to determine how to work together on issues most effectively.

The MICAH Ministry at St. Elizabeth's offers the opportunity to join with neighboring towns to build community across social, economic, racial, religious and ethnic barriers while working for systemic change.



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# Changes Afoot in High School Youth Program

As I said at the Annual Meeting on Jan. 28<sup>th</sup>, the summer mission trip for 2007 will be local. This is a change. Rather than raise and spend \$18,000 to go to Appalachia, the High School Youth Group will raise and spend \$8000 to do mission work in Boston, saving the money that has already been raised toward ASP for the ASP trip in the summer of 2008. So the new twist is that in years of the J2A pilgrimages, the summer mission trip will be local. Since the pilgrimage is an every other year event, the pilgrimage and the ASP trip will alternate summers.

No doubt this comes completely out of the blue for most of you. Here is the history.

Seven years ago, St. E's adopted the Journey to Adulthood program of Christian formation for youth in the 6<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grades. To date, we have implemented two levels of the program—Rite 13 for 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders, and J2A for 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> graders. This fall, we will implement the final level for older high school youth, YAC (Young Adults in the Church). At the same time, I introduced the St. E's High School Youth Group to the Appalachia Service Project, and for the last seven summers, under the extraordinary organization and leadership of Susan Newlin and Larry Jobson, youth and adults have gone on mission trips of home repair in central Appalachia. One of the downsides of these great trips was that the High School Youth Program became synonymous with ASP to the extent that if a student could not or did not want to go on the trip, he or she ended up pretty much on the outside with little or no chance of breaking into the group. In the meantime, the Journey to Adulthood program was slowly growing, expanding the options for our teens to find a niche at St. E's that was independent of ASP.

There are a number of jewels in the crown of the Journey to Adulthood program. One is the Rite 13 ceremony. One is confirmation at the end of J2A, this year held in a deanery-wide celebration at St. Anne's in Lincoln on June 2nd. And one is the pilgrimage in the summer following confirmation. Now that our J2A program has matured, we're ready to undertake a pilgrimage for our J2A youth.

You might wonder why the ASP trip does not qualify as a pilgrimage. Pilgrimage and mission trips share some aspects, but they are quite different. ASP has as its aim making houses warmer, safer and drier for underserved people in Central Appalachia. In addition to constructing houses, participants are encouraged to build relationships with the families whose homes they work on. The Scriptural mandate for Christians and Jews alike to serve the poor undergirds the work of ASP, and participants often find their faith lives deepened in the process.

Pilgrimage has as its aim making a spiritual journey to a holy place both externally in the physical location and landscape of the destination, but also internally in the inner faith life and landscape of the pilgrim. Pilgrimage by definition takes us to a place we would never otherwise go, both physically and spiritually. Pilgrimage can include a day of mission work in service to the poor, but that is not the primary aim of the week's program. Pilgrimage is more like a retreat with morning and evening worship, prayer walks, journaling, guided exercises and meditations in addition to games, group building, hikes, campfires, and cooking together.

So in the summer of 2007, our J2A youth will go on pilgrimage. The cost will be something on the order of \$10,000, part of which will be covered by the participants themselves.

Youth who are not going on the pilgrimage are invited to participate in a week of mission work in Boston through an organization called City Mission Society, a non-profit affiliated with the United Church of Christ. (CONTINUED ON PAGE 8)



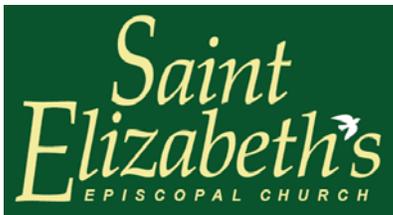
## St. E's 2007 Pictorial Directory: An Update & Thank You!

St. E's directory is well on its way to becoming a reality. Activity ages are being prepared with snapshots from the past year, photos are being submitted by those unavailable while Olan Mills was here, and our church roster is being meticulously updated. We hope to have our directory by Easter (April 8th)!

Many parishioners assisted, and we offer profound thanks. Pat Blackey, Chris Gardiner, and Beth Santomenna made calls to parishioners, encouraging them to participate. Nancy Morgan and Marcia Kankanpaa signed people up on Sunday mornings. Volunteers took shifts while photographs were being taken—and also made reminder calls the day before: Jen Ehlers, Carol Oram, Linda Bertolino, Linda Trail, Louise Card, Chris Gardiner, Jane Graham, Larry Jobson, Nancy Morgan, Chris Howard, Alicia Wagner, Karyn Grant, Marcia Kankanpaa, Cathy Fairbairn, and Joanne Deshmuk.

Thanks to Betsy Wallingford, who shopped for those well-received snacks offered to folks as they waited. To Beth Santomenna and Larry Jobson, thank you for making calls after the sessions were completed to those who were unable to participate. Thanks to Debbie Flagg, who created the link to Olan Mills on our website, which enabled parishioners to sign up online. And a very, very special thank you to Pat Coffin, who is designing the layout of the directory and preparing the finished product-- an awesome task!

Of course, we thank the 97 families, couples, and individuals who had their photos taken by Olan Mills for the directory. (Note: The Pictorial Directory is a project of the Newcomers Committee.)



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*Ours is a community through which we respond to our connection with God as revealed in Jesus Christ. Together we seek to know and worship God, nurturing one another in love as we live God's will. Empowered by the Holy Spirit, we seek to reach out and respond to the needs of others and to make God known to the larger community.*

*St. Elizabeth's Church in the Town of Sudbury welcomes and honors everyone. In accordance with our baptismal covenant, we affirm the inherent worth and dignity of every person. We strive to include all persons without regard to sexual orientation, race, nationality, gender, family configuration, ethnic background, economic circumstances, difference in ability, culture or age. Our love and acceptance of each other embody our commitment to unity with God and each other in Christ.*