

The Mantle

St. Elizabeth's Episcopal Church
Sudbury, Massachusetts

March 2007

As I write, I have just returned from the baptism of my grandson at Trinity Episcopal Church in Rocky Mount, Virginia. The great event took place on Sunday, February 18th, which this year is the last Sunday after the Epiphany, the Sunday before Lent begins. As it always is on that Sunday, the Gospel lesson was the story of the mountain top transfiguration of Jesus.

The Gospel writer gives us words of great comfort and strength as we stand at the gateway of our Lenten journey. To refresh your memory, in this text, Jesus has taken three of his disciples – Peter, James and John – and gone up on the mountain to pray. By this point in Luke's Gospel, Jesus has experienced a flourishing ministry of preaching, teaching, and healing and has developed quite a following. He knows that he has a decision to make. He has the choice to remain at work in the safe and successful enterprise of bringing people to God through his burgeoning ministry out in the country, or to turn his face to Jerusalem where his work would bring him into dangerous and potentially deadly conflict with the Roman and Temple authorities. At a crossroads, he goes

up on the mountain to pray, taking with him his closest companions. There in a vision he is met by Moses and Elijah, representing the Law and the Prophets, and hears the voice of God affirming God's love for him.



"I invite you, in the name of the Church to the observance of a holy Lent."

If we step back from this scene, we see in it that Jesus had everything he needed to support him in the difficult journey he was about to undertake. He had close companions. He had prayer. He had the Scriptures, which for him were the Law and the Prophets. And he had the ever present love of God. And just as Jesus had what he needs for his journey to the cross, so we have what we need for our Lenten journey to Good Friday and Easter. We have close companions in the faith among our fellow parishioners who walk the journey of Lent

with us. We also have the companionship of the desert fathers and mothers whose wisdom we will study on Wednesday evenings at 7:15 following the 6 PM Eucharist and 6:45 PM soup supper from February 28th through March 28th. We have prayer, both in our private devotions and in Sunday morning and Wednesday evening worship. We have the Scriptures, not only of the Hebrew Bible that were available to Jesus, but also in the Christian texts written after his death and resurrection. And we have the ever present love of God that surrounds us on every side.

Like Jesus, we are at a crossroads. We have a decision to make about how we will live into Lent this year. Will we follow God's desire for us to take the time to journey into a deeper knowledge and love of God or will we persist in allowing every day details, demands, and distractions to fill all of our time and attention? I invite you to join Jesus and your other companions in the faith on a journey into a world beyond this world where the sky is clearer and the air is purer and the love of God is more easily discerned. I invite you, in the name of the Church to the observance of a holy Lent.

Barbara

Warden's Words

by Peter Gonze, Co-Warden

Following St. E's Annual Meeting on January 28th, and the approval of the new Vestry members, the first meeting with the 2007 Vestry was held on February 12.

Once again, we are fortunate to have terrific group of thoughtful, engaged, energetic parishioners who have agreed to serve on the Vestry. I feel privileged and blessed to have the opportunity to be part of this Vestry and to serve as Co-Warden with Lisa Barnes.

Our St. E's community seems to have almost endless energy to take on a range of programs and activities that work toward fulfilling the mission of the Church. Every month The Mantle and each week the Sunday Bulletin provide updates and highlights on many of the programs. We are fortunate too, that there are many who selflessly offer up their time and their talents to help with these ministries.

However, we need to continue to invite others to participate, at whatever level is comfortable. There is no mo-

nopoly on being involved; it is not a special club. One of our tasks must be to find effective ways to communicate that there are many ways to help. Many "hands" are needed, the tasks come in all sizes and there are so many opportunities to contribute.

"we need to continue to invite others to participate, at whatever level is comfortable. There is no monopoly on being involved"

Over the last several months, much of what has been heard from the Vestry (and the Wardens in particular) has dealt with income and expenses. Indeed, we do have a fiduciary responsibility to attend to these issues. I am reminded that we shouldn't lose sight of the broader perspective. Although the Vestry functions to some degree like a board of directors, it is important for us also to remember that this ministry of leadership is exercised within the Church.

Success is not measured in terms of numbers of members, amount of pledges or capital campaigns, but rather in the degree to which we work toward the fulfillment of the mission of the Church. And what is the mission of the Church? In the Book of Common Prayer (p 855), it states that the mission is "to restore all people to unity with God and each other in Christ". We are each on our own unique path to for this mission.

Our foundation and our connection is a faithful dependence on God's guidance and power. We are each called, in our own way, to contribute time, skills, and creativity according to our ability, to fulfill the Church's mission. There are many opportunities within our current range of programs, and there will be many more as we continue to embrace new initiatives. Along with the Vestry and the leaders of the various committees, I invite your participation.

Peter



Vestry Notes

by Lisa Barnes, Co-Warden

While our February Vestry meeting marked our first official gathering with our newly-elected members (Jane Newton, Nancy Kimble and John Howard), a day earlier we had the opportunity to meet with Bishop Tom Shaw. Bishop Shaw, Barbara and all of the vestry jumped right into the deep end of the pool, taking full advantage of the open and respectful atmosphere by asking and discussing difficult questions including staffing and support for Barbara, why have we chosen to serve St E's, where do we think St E's and the Episcopal church are headed in the coming months and years.

At the vestry meeting the following night, we heard more insightful, enthusiastic and heartfelt words of wisdom from Susan Berry, our outgoing co-warden. If you have not taken a moment to thank her for her immeasurable contributions, she may be more available to chat with you now that her administrative obligations to St E's are transitioning. She is a sparkling gem in our St E's treasure trove!

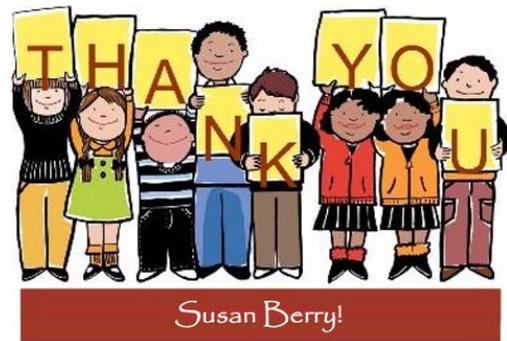
Hopefully you were able to avail yourself of Steve Kenney's presentation of our current financials at the Annual Meeting, and he did so again at the vestry meeting, updating us all on the January financial summary.

Representing the Buildings and Grounds brigade, Giff Perry presented a list of much-needed repairs and replacements, requiring our new vestry to make some conclusions about what to repair immediately, and what to put off until later. These are tricky decisions as we are not choosing between Mercedes and Bentley's, it's closer to: using a bicycle vs. keep on walking!

Barbara will look to help us invite the Holy Spirit more clearly and directly into the spirit of our vestry business, assisting us in integrating the spiritual with the worldly business we will conduct in the coming year.

We are looking forward to deepening our relationships towards each other, St Elizabeth's and God at our annual vestry retreat in early March.

Peace,
Lisa



Envelopes for flower dedications for Easter will be available in the church starting in the middle of March. The envelopes can be put in the collection plate or sent to the office.



Do You Want to Talk? The All-Parish Feedback Project

The All-Parish Feedback Project continues to move along, albeit at a slower pace than we had hoped. The busy lives of both project members and parishioners make it a challenge to find a mutually convenient time to talk. While we originally had planned to conduct conversational interviews with as many parishioners as possible before the end of 2006, we have now designated May 1st 2007 as the “finish line”.

Despite the continuing best efforts of our 10-person team, it is likely that we will be unable to personally talk with everyone at St. E's who has yet to be invited into a conversational interview during the time we have left. Nonetheless, we plan to continue talking with as many parishioners as we can right up until May 1st.

Meanwhile, however, *if you are interested in or are otherwise motivated to participate in a conversational interview with us, please let Susan Berry (or any one of us) know. We will be sure to find a time to talk with you.*

What's this Project About Again?

The All-Parish Feedback Project is a parishioner-led, Vestry and Rector-supported, effort to do “important” congregational work in concert with Barbara's 2006 sabbatical. It is intended to help us re-discover and strengthen those things at St. E's that are meaningful to us now that the construction disruption is behind us and to generate some feedback to help us shape and guide our church community going forward.

A ten-member task force was formed, and a process used with great success by St. John's of Duxbury was adopted. The process involves conducting one-on-one “conversational interviews” with as many parishioners as possible. These “conversations” are guided by six pre-constructed questions that parishioners receive and reflect on prior to the on-on-one interview.

What's Involved in the Conversational Interview?

One of the task force members will contact you and mail to you a copy of the six questions to think about. A time for you to talk together by phone or in-person is then set. Most conversational interviews are completed within 30-40 minutes.

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

Care is taken to preserve your anonymity as your thoughts, comments, and reflections are synthesized into themes and ideas for discussion with Barbara, the Vestry, and the congregation.

What's the Process Been Like?

The comments and reflections shared by the 60-plus parishioners interviewed thus far have been very thoughtful and heartfelt. Many said that the conversation was comfortable and enjoyable, and that it left them feeling listened to, affirmed, and accepted. As interviewers, we have found the conversations not only personally enlightening and spiritually moving but also resulting in a deeper and richer "connection" to the persons we interviewed.

Closing Thoughts?

We are still debriefing completed interviews while simultaneously continuing to conduct more interviews. We will continue to do our best to identify and synthesize the themes and ideas that parishioners have shared and hold to our plan to begin debriefing with the Vestry in June.

Several parishioners have recently joined the All-Parish Feedback Project task force to help us reach as many parishioners as we can before May 1st. A few more interviewers would further help to speed the project along and lighten the work-load for all of us. Please consider becoming part of this project. Contact **Susan Berry** or **John Stevens** for more information.



John Stevens
Susan Berry
Ruth Giesel
Nancy Morgan
Jonas Barciauskas
Betsy Wallingford
Lucie St. George
Ann Loos
Larry Jobson

MARCH 2007

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
25	8:00 AM Holy Eucharist - Church 9:00 AM - 9:45 AM Adult Confirmation Classes 9:45 AM Church School 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist - Church	26 3:00 PM Wardens Meeting (CNF)	27 10:00 AM Bible Study 11:15 AM Yoga Class (MPR) 12:30 PM Deaneary 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	1 10:30 AM TaiChi (PH) 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal (Choir loft)	2 5:00 PM J2A Confirmation Retreat (from St. Anne's Lincoln)	3 8:30 AM - 3:00 PM Vestry Retreat 5:00 PM J2A Confirmation Retreat Returns (to St. Anne's Lincoln) 7:00 PM Inconvenient Truth at First Parish
4	Family Lenten Supper and Program 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist - Church 9:00 AM - 9:45 AM Adult Confirmation Classes 9:45 AM Church School 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist - Church 11:30 AM Youth Group Auction Meeting (MPR)	5 3:00 PM - 5:30 PM Brownie(7149) and Girl Scouts(2484) meeting (PH & MPR) 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM Girl Scout Leaders Training (MPR)	6 10:00 AM Bible Study (MPR) 11:15 AM Yoga Class (MPR) 3:00 PM Brownie Meeting (MPR) 2472 Troop #2450 (YGR) 7:00 PM Diversity Committee Meeting (cnf) 7:30 PM ESL Class (MPR & Cnf)	7 12:30 PM Brownie Meeting (MPR) 6:00 PM Holy Eucharist - Church 6:45 PM Soup Supper 7:15 PM Lenten Program	8 10:30 AM TaiChi (PH) 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal (Choir loft) 7:00 PM COGS Steering Committee meeting (YGR)	9 Diocesan Spring Convention	10 Diocesan Spring Convention
11	8:00 AM Holy Eucharist - Church 9:00 AM - 9:45 AM Adult Confirmation Classes 9:45 AM Church School 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist - Church	12 7:00 PM Girl Scout Meeting (R13 rm) 7:00 PM Wardens Meeting (CNF)	13 10:00 AM Bible Study (MPR) 11:15 AM Yoga Class (MPR) 3:00 PM Brownie Meeting (MPR) 2472 Kitchen Miracle 7:30 PM ESL Class (MPR & Cnf)	14 3:30 PM Girl Scouts (MPR) 6:00 PM Holy Eucharist - Church 6:45 PM Soup Supper 7:15 PM Lenten Program	15 10:30 AM TaiChi (PH) 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal (Choir loft) 7:30 PM RIM Meeting (CNF)	16 Diocesan Spring Convention	17 Diocesan Spring Convention
18	8:00 AM Holy Eucharist - Church 9:00 AM - 9:45 AM Adult Confirmation Classes 9:45 AM Church School 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist - Church	19 3:00 PM - 5:30 PM Brownie(7149) and Girl Scouts(2484) meeting (PH & MPR) 7:00 PM Vestry Meeting (MPR)	20 10:00 AM Bible Study (MPR) 11:15 AM Yoga Class (MPR) 7:30 PM ESL Class (MPR & Cnf)	21 6:00 PM Holy Eucharist - Church 6:45 PM Soup Supper 7:15 PM Lenten Program	22 10:30 AM TaiChi (PH) 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal (Choir loft)	23 Diocesan Spring Convention	24 Diocesan Spring Convention
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	March 4 2 Lent	March 11 3 Lent	March 18 4 Lent	March 25 5 Lent
Kitchen Angel for March: Barbara Ingersoll				
Euch. Min.	8 AM Betsy Wallingford 10 AM Betsy Wallingford Susan Newlin	8 AM Audrey Newton 10 AM Larry Ruark, Ruth Griesel	8 AM Stuart Hamilton 10 AM Susan Newlin Steve Davies	8 AM Ruth Griesel 10 AM Matt Reilly, Audrey Newton
Breadbearer & Third Station	Linda Trail Karyn Grant, Ann Loos	John Howard Larry Stewart, Rich Grant	Karyn Grant Bev Messersmith, Linda Trail	John Howard Stuart Hamilton, Ann Loos
Lector	Walter Morgan	Craig Stafford	Jonas Barciauskas	Jane Graham
Acolyte	Elise Fairbairn	Emily Perry	Henry Fairbairn	Jeff Newton
V.P.O.D.	Carol Dicker	Peter Gonze	John Howard	Gifford Perry
Ushers	Rajeev & Joanne Deshmuk	Jim & Jane Newton	Mike & Jeremy Perisho	Kevin & Tricia Griggs
Greeters	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
Altar Guild	8 AM Clare Perry 10 AM Clare Perry	8 AM Anne Reilly 10 AM Anne Reilly	8 AM Clare Perry 10 AM Clare Perry	8 AM Anne Reilly 10 AM Anne Reilly
Coffee Server	Bev Messersmith	Terry Rourke	Kiersten & Dave Varner	Jeremy Perisho

Lenten Fun for Families with Atrium-Aged Children

Beginning at 4:00 PM on March 4th and March 25th, we will offer a program and simple supper for families with children in our Atriums. Our guest presenter, Fiona Vidal-White, whose passion and area of expertise is children and worship, will lead all of us in an exploration of the Eucharist (with an emphasis on the service of the table or Holy Communion) completely accessible and totally engaging to young worshippers. We will use what we learn on both Sundays to fashion an abbreviated child-friendly worship experience to cap off the second workshop at 5:00 PM on March 25th. The worship and the supper that follows are open to all parishioners. In short, the framework of the two afternoons looks like this:

March 4th

4:00 Fiona's 90 min. Worship Workshop
5:00
5:30 Supper

March 25th

Fiona's 60 min. Worship Workshop
Worship using what we have learned
Supper



News from Atrium | by Sally Norton

In Level I, as we departed from the Infancy Narratives after celebrating Christmas we moved into the parables. What is a parable? A parable is a way that Jesus taught, by telling stories. Something from everyday life is transcended. We explored the parable of the mustard seed, the hidden treasure and the pearl.

One favorite is the parable of the mustard seed. Where does the power come from to make something so small, grow into something so big, big enough for the birds to build nests in? Each child had the opportunity to look at a mustard seed. The mustard seeds are not the round seeds you find at the supermarket for cooking – but something smaller than a poppy seed. It is tiny. It gets so big. How does this happen? The power of the Kingdom of God is amazing.



Youth Group

Last Month

On February 4, we met during our usual 4-5:30 time slot and had a fun time of relaxing, munching, and playing Taboo! It was good to get together away from our daily stresses and enjoy some fellowship.

On February 11, Bishop Shaw met with the youth group as he was interested in meeting our youth and asking them about recent events, their spiritual journeys, their career aspirations, and their reasons for attending youth group. We thoroughly enjoyed Bishop Shaw's visit. After Bishop Shaw left, we relocated to the kitchen where we cooked three casseroles for the Miracle Kitchen. Everyone had a blast slicing and dicing!

Sudbury Farms Raffle

Thanks to all who contributed to the raffle. We raised several hundred dollars for our ongoing mission projects.

City Mission 2007

As you are aware, our summer mission trip will take a different twist this July as we will join City Mission in downtown Boston, from July 7-14. We appreciate the openness that each of you have given to this change in plans. We understand that it is still new to all of you, but hope and pray that as a youth group we will be able to embrace it with the same spirit exhibited towards ASP and our overall youth group program in general. We be-

lieve that providing an urban outreach immersion experience will provide the catalyst to our youth group to "bring home" the ideals of loving service to our fellow humankind in an urban setting.

The City Mission week will begin on Saturday morning, July 7, with an overnight team building and outward bound program on Thompson Island in Boston Harbor. Thompson Island will be a time for bonding and learning about and accepting challenges as a group before we head off into Boston for a week of service. We will leave Thompson Island on Sunday afternoon and head to our "base" church, either in Charlestown or Allston-Brighton. We will stay in the "base" church from Sunday through Friday night, finishing the week on Saturday, July 14. During the week, we will go out in groups during the day to a variety of community service organizations. In doing so, we will have the opportunity for a range of work including, but not limited to, construction, painting, and work with the homeless, prison ministry, food banks, etc. At night, we will return to the church where we will cook dinner, eat, have evening gatherings, down time, fun activities, go bowling or similar stress relievers and generally have a good time together.

If you have any questions or are interested in participating in City Mis-



sion or any other youth group activity, please let us know. You can contact David and Kiersten Varner at 617-484-1894 or youthgroup@st-elizabeths.org.

David and Kiersten

Upcoming Events

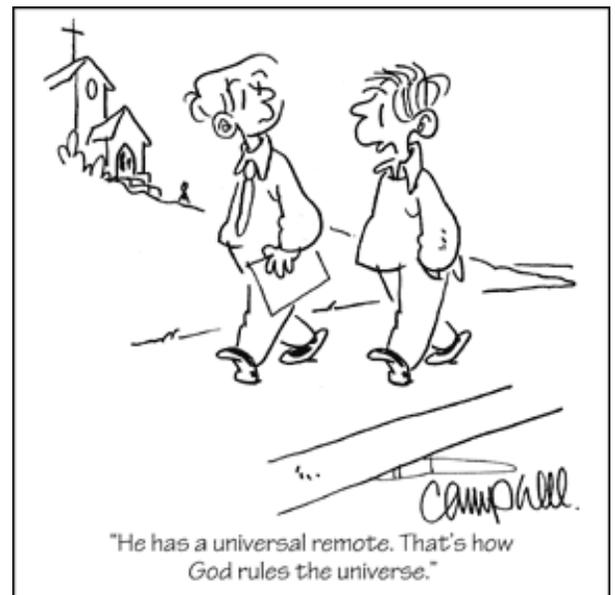
March 4 – Youth Group Meeting @ 4 p.m.

March 18 – Youth Group Meeting @ 4 p.m.

Dates to Remember

April 28 – Auction to support youth group mission activities this year and in years to come!

TBD weekend in May – Annual YG Retreat – exact date and details to follow!



Happy Birthday to You! and many happy returns



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Dick Bell, Ann Brackett, Heidi Candiloro, Anna Cass, Steve Castellini, Joanne Chadwick, Gerald Cubelli, Joanne Deshmuk, Jacob Frissora, Aaron Gerry, Hannah Gerry, Connor Goodwin, Susan Herel, Andrew Kenney, Ryan Kenney, Bill Lamb, Shaun MacKinnon, Lauren McMahon, Liz Morgan, Ethan Mossi, Anne Reilly, Matt Reilly, Jack Romain, Sarah Romain, Thomas Small, Bill Smith, Ben Sugg, Bob Torgerson, Ingeborg Traulsen, Kiersten Varner, Jennifer Vesey, Alicia Wagner, Betsy Wallingford, and Mike Wilson



BIRTHDAYS in MARCH

Cornelia Bendel, Maria Bluni, Mark Bluni, Michael Brown, Rick Bryant, Brian Candiloro, Maria Congleton, Alisha Congleton, Ray Considine, Carol Davies, Michael Davis, Bobby Dawson, Brian Day, Jill Day, Sean Dicker, Ryan Ewing, James Ewing, Steve Fischer, Carly Fitzgerald, David Frissora, Maddi Frissora, Riley Frissora, Joel Gardiner, Peter Gonze, Kevin Griggs, Rachel Haggard, Amy Henry, Mia Herel, Lorraine Kuenzel, Carrie Lepordo, Hannah Lepordo, Sam Lepordo, Samantha Leslie, Marrissa Lewis, Stephanie Lewis, Kevin Loughry, Brenda MacKinnon, Kristine Mitchell, Carol Oram, Bret Perisho, Jim Quinn, Elizabeth Quinn, Liz Riviello, Suzanne Romain, Stephen Santomenna, Ava Springsteel, Temple Staples, Anna Steiger, Lena Torgerson, Justin Veren, Trevor Western, and Andrew Wilkins

Adult Education

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)*



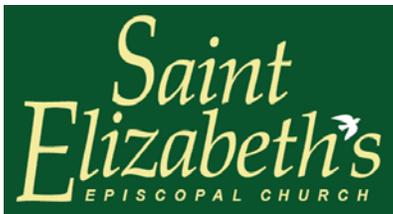
Join the *Interfaith Walk for Climate Rescue*

This is an invitation to all at St. Elizabeth's to participate in the *Interfaith Walk for Climate Rescue*.

On March 16-24, 2007, the *Religious Witness for the Earth* is calling on all people to join the *Interfaith Walk for Climate Rescue*, "a moral call for swift, bold and comprehensive political action to address global warming." The walk may become America's largest demonstration against global warming, as participants walk across Massachusetts from Northampton to Boston to focus attention on the issue. The Detailed Daily Schedule may be seen at <http://www.climatewalk.org> and in eastern Mass goes through Worcester, Grafton (train to next town), Wellesley, Newton, Cambridge, and Boston. Except the last day, there will be special evening programs at 7 PM at the host overnight sites. Check the web pages for updates.

It is expected this walk or march will be one of several across USA and considered as significant as have been similar marches for women's suffrage, and civil rights. As author and activist Bill McKibben says: "*Religious Witness for the Earth* is inviting everyone who can walk--whether for a city block or a mile, whether for a day, a weekend, or the whole 9 days--to join in a public pilgrimage to express the moral and spiritual urgency of addressing global warming." See the website for his full letter.

To find out more or to sign up for the *Interfaith Walk for Climate Rescue*, go to <http://www.climatewalk.org> and sign up online. If you wish to have overnight lodging the registration deadline is March 5. You can walk as an individual, a family, or form a "team."



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Stan Hanson, Director of Music
shanson47@comcast.net

Peg Scarlata, Parish Secretary
office@st-elizabeths.org

www.st-elizabeths.org

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.