

The Mantle



St. Elizabeth's Episcopal Church

Sudbury, Massachusetts

The Rev. Valerie Bailey Fischer Comes on Staff at St. Elizabeth's

As you know, the Vestry and I made it a priority in 2008 to bring an additional priest on staff. In response to the need voiced by respondents in the Parish Feedback Project Report as well as through increasingly shared awareness of the heavy demands I have shouldered during the latest growth spurt at St. E's since the fall of 2006, adding a priest to the staff moved from classification as a luxury to classification as a necessity.

During the search for an Assistant Rector, the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts made clear its desire for us to hire the Rev. Valerie Bailey Fischer, both because of what she would bring to St. Elizabeth's and because of the formation she would garner from us as a priest in training to become a rector.



I had had it in mind to bring on a retired priest in order to save money. That idea, as it turns out, was not viable. Then the economy went south and the goal of bringing on any additional staff became untenable. The Diocese offered to cover the cost of Valerie's compensation in exchange for the time I would expend in overseeing her formation. While this arrangement does not lighten my work load, it is a tremendous benefit for the congregation, as a second priest always livens things up, offers new perspectives and additional pastoral presence, and provides me with opportunities to spend time in the formation programs for children and youth that occur during the first half of the 10 AM service. In addition, I have always liked Valerie and am happy for the opportunity to work with her.

Valerie was ordained to the priesthood in January 2008. Given that her main focus has been campus ministry, her work at St. Elizabeth's will center on the skills she needs to develop in order to pastor a parish. Valerie will celebrate regularly, preach once a month, share the pastoral load, and on a rotating basis spend time in each major ministry area including worship, education for children, youth and adults, outreach, administration and finance, stewardship, newcomers, and fellowship.

So beginning January 18th, 2009, we will welcome Valerie into our community for 20 hours a week. At the end of the academic year, Valerie will resign from the chaplaincy at Framingham State and devote those additional 10 hours to St. Elizabeth's. The plan at this point is that she will remain with us through May of 2010. Please see "About the Rev. Valerie Bailey Fischer" on page 2 of this Mantle for a brief biography. I am excited and deeply grateful for the gifts she brings to us and for the support of the diocese which makes this arrangement possible.

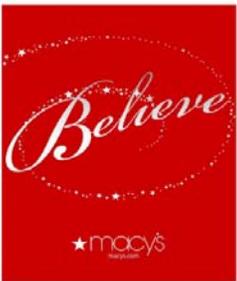
Barbara

HELP WANTED: Helpers wanted to bring a few flower stems to the Atriums each week. If you can help, please contact Maggie Watson at 978-443-2743 or maggiewats@gmail.com or the church office. **Thank you!**

From Our Rector by The Rev. Barbara Williamson

While Christmas shopping in December, I was struck by the bag in to which my Macy's purchases were placed. It is a red bag. On the outside of it is written *A million reasons to Believe*. A million reasons to believe in . . . what? In Macy's? In the retail industry? In the economy? In Santa Claus? In America? In the idea of believing?

Given the world's financial crisis, there is no question that many of our beliefs have been shaken. Assets we thought were safe have diminished in value. Employment we thought was secure is at risk. Institutions we thought we could trust have failed. We find ourselves rethinking who and what we believe in.



Crede is the Latin verb to believe, but at its core it means to put one's heart to or to put one's trust in. It is the Latin from which the English word *creed* is derived. Our church has two creeds, the Apostles' (BCP p. 96), the Nicene (BCP p. 358). Each one begins either, "I believe," or "We believe" and then goes on to outline our basic beliefs about God in a few short phrases. And our basic beliefs about God, maker of heaven and earth, savior of the world, the Lord, the giver of life "in whom we live and move and have our being," trump all of our other beliefs. Because sooner or later when we find ourselves in some fox hole, it will be God, not Macy's, we want by our side.

While our country runs on a "free market" economy, that economy is not the sum and substance of our being. If there is one thing that is starkly clear to me this holiday season over against holiday seasons of recent years, it is that the strong trust and belief we once had in our financial and commercial institutions has diminished significantly, and giving out shopping bags encouraging us to believe will likely do little to shift our attitudes in the near term. I imagine rather that we are going to reflect more carefully on what we do believe and focus our time, treasure and talent more thoughtfully and intentionally in the areas that mean the most to us. And while our economy may suffer in the short run as a result of our time out from spending while we reassess our priorities, I believe in the long run we will be much more deeply satisfied with our lives and will support a more sustainable financial system.

Barbara

About the Rev. Valerie Bailey Fischer

The Rev. Valerie Bailey Fischer grew up in Philadelphia and attended Penn State University where she was active in campus ministry. After graduating with a degree in journalism, she worked as a campus chaplain and newspaper reporter in Central Pennsylvania and upstate New York. During the Internet boom, Valerie worked for Unisys Corporation in Blue Bell, PA as a technical trainer and documentation consultant.

Valerie is a 2004 graduate of Union Theological Seminary and a 2009 candidate for Master of Sacred Theology in Church History from Boston University. She has served as a youth minister at Parish of the Epiphany, Winchester, MA, assistant rector at Church of the Holy Spirit, Wayland, MA and young adult minister at All Saints Parish, Brookline, MA. Valerie lives in Boston with her husband Robert, their one-year-old daughter Maggie, two cats and a dog. Valerie enjoys various forms of needle work, playing cello and playing squash.

Warden's Words

by Lisa Barnes, Co-Warden

It's a new year filled with anticipation, wonder and perhaps no small amount of worry about how our unstable economy may affect us, our loved ones, and our neighbors. Many of us look eagerly if not confidently toward milestones from the presidential inauguration to a special birthday, marriage, anniversary, graduation, new job or address, or a clear medical diagnosis. Some contemplate more somber passages such as the end of a relationship or the quiet passage of time since we last saw a loved one now departed.

In December, my in-laws celebrated 50 years of marriage; my parents have their golden anniversary in September. In April, my father will celebrate 10 years since his last cigarette – a habit he kept for over 45 years. And this month, our family will mark an unusual event on Martin Luther King Day. That was the day last year when Sam, then 12 years old, was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes. Type 1 is a disease Sam will need to treat every day, around the clock until a cure is found. No matter if he is awake or asleep, sick or healthy, if he is happy or sad, in school or on vacation, pitching from the baseball mound or dancing at a friend's bar mitzvah. Since being thunderstruck with his diagnosis, I have marveled at the calm and graceful way Sam has quietly integrated this nasty disease into his daily life. Missing school and making up work through a multitude of medical appointments he continues to earn mostly A's, without a complaint. Trusting in us and in himself as he bravely tried a camp specially created for diabetic children, when it was the last group of kids he thought he would enjoy being around. Being deprived of much of the food and drink he used to consume without a second thought, Sam has adjusted. And how beautifully, through God's grace, my husband Andrew and Sam's brother Ben have accepted their new, support roles. After a crash course in diabetes 101, each of us has begun to learn how this uninvited guest must fit into our family dynamic.

Surprisingly, (or to those of you far wiser than me, not surprisingly,) this unwelcome guest has brought with it many opportunities. Our family has connected with the families of the 27 other children in Sudbury who share Sam's diagnosis. We have related success and failure stories, laughed, cried, raised money for research, exchanged recipes for "healthy" birthday cakes, praised particular doctors and researchers, and gotten tips about best practices for interacting with coaches, teachers, school nurses and administrators. I have found it odd to realize that we never would have connected with any of these families, some of whom we share nothing but the intimate and personal details of our children's and our families mental, spiritual and physical health.

Another sweet child from Sudbury was in the same hospital that month only he never came home. How could we be anything but grateful that Sam "only" has diabetes? Over this last year we have also seen our beloved neighbor Tom go from walking and twinkling with his sassy, dry wit to being wheelchair-bound and unable to speak from the cruelty of ALS. Praise the Lord for his fingers continued ability to bang out jokes on the laptop. Our interactions are different now but oh so enjoyable! It could not be more plain if it was in a shiny package with a bright red bow: we have been given the gift of perspective. We have so much to be grateful for: Sam home from the hospital and back in school, the possibility of a cure for type 1 within the next ten years, and for Tom's fingers and advanced communications technology. I give thanks to the tugs and pulls of a strong marriage and a husband I have no business being so lucky to have. And thanks to Ben for painting Tom's shed, stacking his wood, shoveling his path; for traveling to West Virginia on a transformational ASP trip and learning how to give his brother a shot when the mere thought of it makes Ben want to pass out.

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

Thanks to Rev. Williamson for sharing so much of her year with me, modeling thoughtful, educated, creative and spiritual listening and leadership as our growing congregation at St Elizabeth's navigated through another year. And now we are blessed with Valerie Bailey Fischer to join the team – the St E's family expands and changes once again. God has graced us with good things, and opportunities are all around us. So it's not as simple as seeing the glass as half-full; we are all seated inside an embarrassment of riches; we have each other, our families for another hour or day or year, we carry precious memories of loved ones gone too soon but always with us now, we have a good meal and often three every single day, a place to spend the night protected from the cold, and teachers of all kinds around us who care deeply about us. And we have God with us every day, all the time, in sickness and health, in life and in death. So for me it is as simple as waking up each morning, grateful, and thinking, "Thanks be to God!" for all that I am, and all that I have received, and all that I have to offer. Thank you for the opportunity to serve on your vestry and as your co-warden. It has been an honor and a challenge and is one of many gifts I can never truly repay.

Lisa

Annual Meeting February 1st

The congregation comes together once a year for its annual business meeting at which the new Vestry members and Warden are elected along with Diocesan Convention Delegates. In 2009, that meeting will be held following the 10 AM service on Sunday, February 1. Other business of the meeting includes the presentation of the financial statements of 2008 and budget for 2009. The Rector and other parish leaders summarize and highlight the happenings of 2008 and look forward to the anticipated challenges and blessings 2009 will bring. All parishioners are encouraged to save the date and to attend this forum which is the Episcopal Church's answer to Town Meeting.

We serve a light brunch and provide supervision and lunch for children. The meeting lasts about an hour and is well worth that investment of time for the return of knowledge of how St. Elizabeth's operates.

St. E's Discussion Group

St. Elizabeth's now has a email list for discussions within our parish community. It's strictly optional, and it's not used for announcements from the office or Barbara. Rather, it's for us to talk with each other and to send announcements of general interest. For example: "I'm walking for a charity...could you help?" "I have a couch to sell (or give away)" "What do you think about?" "I need some help moving a giant"

The list is managed by Google Groups. To subscribe to it, send an email to:

st-elizabeths-community-subscribe@googlegroups.com

Once you have joined the group, you can send mail to it at:

st-elizabeths-community@googlegroups.com

or

community@st-elizabeths.org

All of the messages will be archived on the group web site at:

<http://groups.google.com/group/st-elizabeths-community>

The mailing list is generally open to join it, but you have to be a member to see the archives or post messages. If you have any questions, ask Win Treese (treese@acm.org) or John Howard (johneliothoward@comcast.net).

Vestry Notes by Win Treese, Co-Warden

The vestry meeting on December 15, 2008, had a very full agenda.

As you have probably heard (or read elsewhere in the Mantle), the Rev. Valerie Bailey Fischer will begin working at St. Elizabeth's in January. The highlight of the meeting was her joining us for the evening, as she will be doing for future meetings.

The second highlight of the meeting was having Jay Holdman and Craig Stafford talk to us about several aspects of the Journey to Adulthood (J2A) program, especially the current confirmation class, which will be confirmed in the spring, and the pilgrimage that will be happening this summer. Both have very strong participation.

We reviewed the results of the stewardship campaign. As of the meeting, we were considerably under our pledge total from the current year, which leaves the Finance Committee with a major challenge in creating the budget for 2009---there is very little discretionary spending in the budget besides payroll. The diocese is providing support for Valerie, which does make it possible for us to add an assistant rector for the coming year.

Barbara reported that coffee hour has been busier than ever, and some of the recent changes to the setup in the parish hall for coffee hour seem to have

been effective in making the time more pleasant for everyone.

We had two main topics for Buildings & Grounds: the rectory kitchen and some work to remove some dead trees and other pruning. The stove in the rectory has aged to the point of needing an immediate replacement, which the vestry approved. The kitchen there will need further work as well, and the Buildings & Grounds committee will be evaluating what else needs to be done there. As for the trees, several are in risky positions should they come down. With the recent experience of the ice storm in the area, the vestry agreed to go ahead with the work. The B&G committee found us a very good price for it, saving considerably over the original estimate. Choosing to spend money on such items at this time is not an easy decision, but the vestry agreed unanimously that it was the right thing to do.

We received brief updates on work that is continuing for planned giving and for the outreach and advocacy programs at St. Elizabeth's. Both of these areas will be on the agenda for the annual meeting.

As always, if you have questions or want to learn more about the work of the vestry, please feel free to ask the wardens, any vestry member, or Barbara.

Win

Adult Education Speaker Series

Growing into God: Faith Development from Infancy Forward

The Speaker Series will resume on January 11 with John McDargh, a professor of psychology and religion in the Theology Department at Boston College. His area of research at Harvard, where he completed his doctoral work in 1981, was on the origins and development of the individual's images of God across the life cycle. An Episcopal layman, he is a member of St. Pauls' Church, Newton, and an Associate of the Society of St. John the Evangelist. The seminar and lunch, located in the Multipurpose Room, will follow the 10 am service. Childcare will be provided. A donation of \$15 per person will cover the cost of lunch, childcare, and the speaker for this session. Please register by calling the church office. Please contact Barbara Williamson (978-443-6035, barbara_williamson@st-elizabeths.org) or Jonas Barciauskas (978-440-8164; barciaus@bc.edu)

January 2009

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	8:00 AM Holy Eucharist II - Church 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist II -Church (Baptism)	29 11:00 AM Staff Meeting (CNF)	30 10:00 AM Bible Study (CNF)	31 10:00 AM Tai Chi (PH)	1 10:00 PM New Years Day - Office Closed	2	3
4	8:00 AM Holy Eucharist II - Church 9:45 AM Church School (COGS, Rite 13, J2A, YACs) 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist II (Service of Lessons & Carols/ Laying-on-of-Hands) - Church 11:10 AM Youth Choir Rehearsal (10 Minutes after end of second Service) 11:45 AM Finance Committee Meeting (CNF) 7:00 PM Adult Confirmation/Reception Meeting (CNF)	5 11:00 AM Staff Meeting (CNF) 3:45 PM - 5:15 PM GS Troop 2468 (MPR)	6 10:00 AM Bible Study (CNF) 7:30 PM Habitat Community Outreach Committee Meeting (MPR)	7 10:00 AM Tai Chi (PH) 3:30 PM Warden's Meeting (CNF)	8 9:00 AM - 1:30 PM Sudbury Villagers Luncheon/Tea (PH) 2:00 PM Healing Ministry (CNF) 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM STOP (Congregation Beth El) 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal (MPR) 7:00 PM Cogs Committee Meeting (J2A RM)	9 Annual Reports Due 3:30 PM Girl Scout Meeting (MPR)	10
11	8:00 AM Holy Eucharist II - Church 9:45 AM Church School (COGS, Rite 13, J2A, YACs) 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist II w/Baptism - Church 11:10 AM Youth Choir Rehearsal (10 Minutes after end of second Service) 11:15 AM The Adult Education Speaker Series - Growing into God: Faith Development from Infancy Forward 7:00 PM Adult Confirmation/Reception Meeting (CNF)	12 11:00 AM Staff Meeting (CNF) 2:15 PM - 5:15 PM GS Troops 2484/7149 (PH & MPR) 6:50 PM Vestry Mtg (MPR) 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM Girl Scout Leaders Meeting (Parish Hall)	13 10:00 AM Bible Study (CNF) 3:40 PM - 5:00 PM GS Troop 2435 (MPR) 6:00 PM Miracle Kitchen 7:30 PM MICAH LOC (CNF)	14 10:00 AM Tai Chi (PH) 12:30 PM - 3:30 PM GS Troop 2453 (MPR) 7:30 PM - 9:00 PM Foundations of the Bible - Tools for Understanding the New Testament	15 8:15 AM Warden's Meeting (CNF) 2:00 PM Healing Ministry (CNF) 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal (MPR)	16	17
18	Warrant for Annual Meeting Posted 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist II - Church 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist II -Church (Family Friendly Service) 11:10 AM Youth Choir Rehearsal (10 Minutes after end of second Service)	19 Martin Luther King Day (Office Closed)	20 10:00 AM Bible Study (CNF)	21 10:00 AM Tai Chi (PH) 11:00 AM Staff Meeting (CNF) 11:45 AM - 1:15 PM Staff Lunch 7:30 PM - 9:00 PM Foundations of the Bible - Tools for Understanding the New Testament 7:30 PM - 8:30 PM Habitat Volunteer Information Session (Goodnow Library)	22 February Mantle deadline 2:00 PM Healing Ministry (CNF) 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM STOP (Our Lady of Fatima Parish) 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal (MPR)	23 25th Winter Weekend at Cranmore Inn, North Conway, NH	24 25th Winter Weekend at Cranmore Inn, North Conway, NH
25	25th Winter Weekend at Cranmore Inn, North Conway, NH 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist II - Church 9:45 AM Church School (COGS, Rite 13, J2A, YACs) 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist II -Church (10 Minutes after end of second Service) 7:00 PM Adult Confirmation/Reception Meeting (CNF)	26 11:00 AM Staff Meeting (CNF) 3:45 PM - 5:15 PM GS Troop 2468 (MPR) 6:50 PM Vestry Mtg (MPR)	27 10:00 AM Bible Study (CNF) 12:30 PM Deanery Luncheon (PH) 7:30 PM Soup Kitchen Mixer (Spina home)	28 10:00 AM Tai Chi (PH) 7:30 PM - 9:00 PM Foundations of the Bible - Tools for Understanding the New Testament	29 2:00 PM Healing Ministry (CNF) 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal (MPR)	30	31

	January 4 2 Christmas	January 11 1 Epiphany	January 18 2 Epiphany (Family Friendly)	January 25 3 Epiphany
Kitchen Angel for January: Louise Bendel Miracle Kitchen Coordinator: Ruth Griesel	8:00 AM Harry Ainsworth 10:00 AM Audrey Newton Betsy Wallingford	8:00 AM Susan Newlin 10:00 AM Peter Gonze Steve Davies	8:00 AM Audrey Newton 10:00 AM Jim Peters	8:00 AM John Brackett 10:00 AM Stu Hamilton Peter Gonze
Euch. Min.	Karyn Grant Jim Peters Jim Newton	John Howard Rich Grant Clare Perry		Karyn Grant
Breadbearer & Third Station	Walter Morgan	Bob Torgerson		John McNeill
Lector	Tim Howard	Jordan McNeill	Elizabeth Dewey	Andrew Kenney
Acolyte	John Pearson	Joe Meeks	Stu Hamilton	Art Huston
V.P.O.D.	John Romain Jonas Barciauskas	Pat Coffin Pat McCabe	Tim White Steve Lewis	Larry Jobson Susan Newlin
Ushers	Clare Perry	Clare Perry	Clare Perry	Clare Perry
Altar Guild	Ildi Morris	Kristine Mitchell	Betsy Wallingford	Jeremy Perisho
Coffee Server				

From the Level III 6th Graders

This month, we asked the Level III 6th graders to write our submission to the Mantle:

From Ben Lepordo, Tim Howard and Chris Wilkins:

Part of what we do in Level 3 is study the Story of Creation. Genesis One was written to explain how we came to be. In Genesis One, we realize that God has great powers, God created light and dark, day and night, the sky and water, vegetation and seeds, land and stars, sun and moon, fish and birds, animals and all creatures.

In Genesis Two, God created Adam. Adam became a living being when God breathed into his nostrils. We read about Eve being created from Adam's rib. We think that the Garden of Eden had many symbols, such as, temptation (forbidden fruit.) Man was asked to name all of the creatures and we think that would be cool.

From Kristin Kimble, Lindsey Levoy, and Erica Treese:

In Level Three, we're learning about the Plan of God. Some of the first tools early people used were rocks and stones. People domesticated dogs and then cattle. Humans also learned how to make utensils, pottery, and paint. People cultivated crops and grapes for wine. That stabilized their cultures so they didn't wander. They invented the wheel to make what little traveling they did do, easier. That later evolved into bikes and cars.

Eventually, humans began to count. People used movements and pictures to tell what they needed. People started having different beliefs and those beliefs became the Egyptian and Sumerian cultures. Around 100 B.C., God first spoke to Moses. People now had a written language. They used the alphabet to communicate.

Another religion started with the Romans. This was around the time that Jesus was born. After about 1,000 years, many more things were invented. Things like modes of transportation (trains, cars, airplanes) and amusement (computers, televisions, Ipods.) Parousia is yet to come!

The Healing Spirit of Rhythm

Why do almost all of the icons of Teresa of Avila contain a tambourine? What was she doing banging around in that chapel? Why don't we use more rhythm in our chapels now?



Our bodies are regulated by rhythm in many ways: heartbeat, breathing, brain waves, metabolism, and circadian rhythms (24-hour cycle), infradian rhythms (several days or weeks), selenian rhythms (28-day cycle), etc... We are governed both by cycles within us and cycles over which we have no control (like the effect of the moon on the ebb and flow of the tides, or the effect of a dance on our feet). Everything we do is affected by rhythm, and different rhythms affect different aspects of our lives.

On Saturday, January 10th, Ana Hernandez is coming to St. David's, Pepperell. She'll lead a workshop from 1 - 5 pm using drumming, meditation, and chants to illustrate the connection between rhythm and consciousness, and will show how rhythm might be used to enrich our worshiping communities. Feel free to bring hand drums, ritual bells and any other small instruments you'd like to find a use for.

Ms. Hernandez assures participants that it's ok to arrive late or leave early. Come for any part you can. A free will offering will be taken up. For samples of her work see <http://profile.myspace.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=user.viewProfile&friendID=132653158>

Sudbury Habitat for Humanity Needs help!

St. Elizabeth's is seeking volunteers of any age and ability, to assist with the building project of the Sudbury Habitat for Humanity home. We have the opportunity to participate in two hands-on build dates of March 21 (12:30- 4 PM) and March 28 (8:30-12:30) and we need everyone's assistance.

Here are a few of the ways you can help:

1. Put your ASP or personal handyman/woman skills to work in the actual construction (if you are 16 or older)
2. Contribute by organizing food / meals for the working crew
3. Assist with babysitting to allow adults to get involved
4. Contribute in another creative way to assist these families



We would love to get everyone involved so please check your calendars and save the dates so you can be a part of this special and rewarding program. Anyone that is interested should contact Carol Davies via email: carolhdavies@verizon.net by February 28 and let her know how you would like to contribute to this rewarding and worthwhile cause.



Happy New Year! from the Organ Bench



Our choirs sang like "Angels" for the Christmas Services, thanks to all who made music.

The Adult Choir which meets on Thursday in the MPR at 7:00pm, would welcome new members in all parts but especially Tenors and Basses!

New members are always welcome in the Youth Choir which rehearses each Sunday following the 10:00am service. Please speak to Mary Sue Willie or email her at cvmswillie@comcast.net.

Thank You to All Who Contributed to the Beauty of Christmas at St. E's

Our Christmas services were so beautiful, the results of many hands making light work

Special thanks go to:

Music Director Mary Sue Willie, the Adult Choir, the Youth Choir, soprano soloist Graham Daley, violinist Bonnie Brown, trumpeter Thomas Small, and other guest musicians

Altar Guild Director Clare Perry and Altar Guild members Stevie Spina, Ruth Griesel, Pat Blackey

Flower Guild members especially Betsy Wallingford and Joanne Deshmuk, with heavy lifting and ladder work by Dave Wallingford

Pageant Directors Teri Grey and Kris Wile, with sound help from Steve Santomena and John McNeill, parent and youth helpers, pageant cast members and narrators

Acolytes, Eucharistic Ministers, Lectors, Ushers, and Vestry members

And all parishioners and others who gave special donations to fund the music and flowers.

THANK YOU ALL!!



*Together, We Can End Homelessness
in Massachusetts*
Fifth Annual Forum on Family Homelessness

Sunday, January 25, 2009

7:00-8:45 PM

Trinity Episcopal Church, 81 Elm Street, Concord

- Overall, **96,000 children** in Massachusetts have no permanent home, according to a July 2007 report by the Massachusetts Department of Education. Some stay in shelters & motels. Others are doubled up with relatives, sleep in cars or campgrounds, or move from one friend to another.
- Family homelessness has risen by 50% in Massachusetts. Every night: **1,900 homeless families** are in shelters; more than **600 homeless families** stay in motels.
- **Still, homelessness can be ended. There are strategies that work!**

*Keynote Speaker: State Rep. Byron Rushing, Asst. Majority Whip,
and Co-chairman, Mass. Commission to End Homelessness*

Rep. Byron Rushing, an engaging and charismatic speaker, will describe the visions, goals, conclusions and recommendations of the Massachusetts Commission to End Homelessness. These goals include ending the widespread use of shelters and motels and increasing affordable housing opportunities. He also will tell us about initial steps in the implementation of the Commission's recommendations -- and **shed light on what concerned people can do to end homelessness**. The forum is free & open to all. Refreshments at 7pm; program will begin promptly at 7:10pm.

Questions? Call Carl Miller (978)-369-3755 or Frank Austin at (978)-263-0182

Sponsored by: Advocacy Network to End Family Homelessness & Cooperative Metropolitan Ministries.

Supporters: Domestic Violence Services Network; Concord Academy; Concord Carlisle High School; Concord Housing Development Corporation; Concord-Carlisle Human Rights Council; League of Women Voters of Concord-Carlisle; Nashoba Brooks School; Open Table; and local faith communities including: Unitarian Universalist Massachusetts Action Network;

Concord/Carlisle: Carlisle Congregational Church; First Parish in Concord, Social Action Committee; First Religious Society; Holy Family Parish; Kerem Shalom Congregation, Social Action Committee; St. Irene's Catholic Church; Trinitarian Congregational Church; Trinity Episcopal Church; West Concord Union Church; **Acton:** Acton Congregational Church; Church of the Good Shepherd; First Parish Church of Stow and Acton, Social Action Committee; So. Acton Congregational Church, St. Matthew's Methodist Church; St. Elizabeth of Hungary Parish; West Acton Baptist Church; **Sudbury:** St. Elizabeth Episcopal Church; Sudbury United Methodist Church; Sudbury Presbyterian Church; **Lincoln:** First Parish Church; **Bedford:** First Church of Christ UCC, First Parish, Unitarian Universalist; St. Paul's Episcopal Church; **Lexington:** Pilgrim Congregational Church; United Methodist Church

MICAH Update by Mara Huston

Can Sudbury Be An Affordable Place to Live?

As our taxes continue to go up, our investments go down, and we are now in the town budget process again, facing another town meeting with another possible override, have you wondered if Sudbury can be an affordable place to live? We have.

MICAH (Metropolitan Interfaith Communities Acting for Hope) at St. Elizabeth's has been researching this question for the past several months. Here is what we have done so far:

-We have met with Ruth Griesel, Susan Murphy and Carol Oram, all active members of the senior community in Sudbury who have raised their kids here and have stayed long after those kids graduated from high school. We talked about what it is like to live in Sudbury as a senior.

-We have met with Larry O'Brien, Selectmen of Sudbury, and Kris Kiesel, Director of the Sudbury Senior Center, to talk about what they see as key points to supporting a diverse community in Sudbury which includes Seniors.

-We have met with Chuck Woodard, Chair of the Sudbury Finance Committee, and Joe Meeks, St. E's parishioner and former member of PTERC. We spoke about financial management within Sudbury facing all the cost centers in town.

Our next meeting will be with Jody Kablack, Sudbury Town Planner, Beth Rust, Sudbury Community Housing Specialist, Rosemarie Comrie, local real estate agent on Tuesday, January, 13th, 7:30pm to talk about housing and zoning in Sudbury. Please to join us.

After the January meeting, we will look at what we have learned so far. Our next step is to schedule a house meeting within St. E's to talk to Sudbury residents about affordability issues. Our goal is to build a coalition of people who care about Affordable Living for All in Sudbury. Will you join us?

Metrowest Interfaith Congregations Acting for Hope (MICAH) is a group of Catholic, Protestant, Jewish and Unitarian congregations from Sudbury, Framingham, Ashland, Natick and Marlborough working together for regional change. Our current members include Mara Huston, Cheryl Davis, Susan Berry, Barbara Williamson, Lucie St. George, John Brackett, Jonas Barciauskas, Linda Bertolino, and Pat Coffin. New members are always welcome! For more information, contact Mara Huston (mara@hustonfam.net) or Barbara Williamson (barbara_williamson@st-elizabeths.org).



Jackson Hudgins, Don Neal, Madeline Neal, Gus Merhige, Meg Striepe, Chris Trecker, Bethany Stevens, Barbara Williamson, Art Huston, Kristin Kimble, Cadyn Baumgartner, Caroline Tinsley, Cheryl Davis, Carol Phalen, John Merhige, Cynthia Abbott, Marcy Wilkins, Kirsten Brown, Sarah Mullen, Joan Gallagher, Emma Norton, Richard Rourke, Mary-Michael Merhige, Erin Regan, Fred Bautze, Ben Lepordo, Sally Norton, Tom Davies, Martin Kafina, John Brackett, Ben Davis, Katherine Ewing, John Romain, Nicholas Wilkins, Stephanie McNeill

Saint Elizabeth's Communications Committee NEEDS HELP!

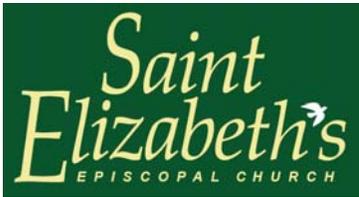
What We Do

- Mantle and eMantle, our monthly newsletter
- www.st-elizabeths.org, our web site
- Sudbury Town Crier articles
- Parish Hall Bulletin Board

How You Can Help

- **Mantle Editor** – Assist in producing the mantle every other month. All content is provided by contributors. If you have familiarity with Microsoft Publisher and an eye for newsletter formatting, we hope you will consider a call to this important communications ministry. Tricia or Pat will willingly mentor a new editor.
- **Web Site Author** – We could use a co-webmaster with HTML skills to assist in keeping our web site, www.st-elizabeths.org, as a helpful resource with dynamic content.
- **Feature Writer** – Do you have a flair for writing? We need a features writer to author occasional articles for the Sudbury Crier about community focused events taking place at St. E's.
- **Communications Bulletin Board Designer** - We could use some help with a creative person to keep our communications bulletin board in the Parish Hall up to date and fun.
- **Church Brochure Designer** – Help us develop a set of Saint Elizabeth's brochures for the front hall for visitors, newcomers, and church members.

The committee shares content provided from parishioners. For further information, please contact a communications committee member: John Howard (978) 443-0089 (johnelioward@comcast.net) or Pat Coffin (978) 443-4781 (mantle@st-elizabeths.org).



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Pat Coffin, Mantle Editor
Submit articles to mantle@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.