

The Mantle

St. Elizabeth's Episcopal Church
Sudbury, Massachusetts

February 2009



Mark Your Calendar!

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper and Talent Show

Tuesday, February 24th at 5:30 PM

We will have a Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper followed by a Talent Show featuring the Youth Choir. Don't hide your light under a bushel! There is room for many performances! Perhaps a solo, duet, quartet, a reading or instrumental piece, each of which should be no more than 5 minutes. The supper begins at 5:30 pm with the talent show beginning at 6:30 pm to allow our younger generation time to get homework and beauty sleep before school the next day. Come for food and fun before the Lenten fast begins! Suggested donation of \$5.00 per person/ \$20.00 maximum per family. Reservations will be taken at the services on February 8 and 15.



You are cordially invited to the St. Elizabeth's Auction to Benefit Outreach

Saturday March 7th, 2009 at 5:00 pm

Light hors d'oeuvres, Childcare provided.

The Auction for Outreach is fast approaching. This event is the primary fundraiser for a major portion of our outreach activities, including J2A Pilgrimage, ASP, City Mission, Habitat for Humanity, and MICAH. These worthy programs warrant the support of a fantastic auction, and the auction warrants the support of the whole parish. We will need many helpers, donors, and buyers. Please spread the word to your friends outside of the parish and outside of the area about the auction. What a great excuse to come for a visit! Childcare will be provided.

We are now seeking donations for both the live and silent auctions. Vacation homes, autographed celebrity and sports memorabilia, cooking, touring, and sports services and lessons, electronics, jewelry and gift certificates all make exceptional auction items. We will also be auctioning off gift baskets and will need volunteers to purchase themed items to return to us for packaging. Creativity is encouraged! No donation is too small or will go unnoticed, so if you are not sure, please ask!

Please see Graham Daley, graham.daley@gmail.com, (978) 337-4971 if you have any questions or donations.

From Our Rector by The Rev. Barbara Williamson

I don't get to the movies very often, so when I go, I try to see the best movie I can. I had an opportunity to see "Slumdog Millionaire" a couple of weeks ago, and, having heard rave reviews. I jumped at the chance. It is an excellent movie. The acclaim is well deserved.

However, I was not at all prepared for the level of violence, exploitation, and cruelty it depicted. In one two-hour story line the viewer sees the waterfront of what ails the world, from desperate poverty to religious persecution to abuse of the vulnerable to humiliation of the poor to corruption of authority to a ruthlessly getting what one wants with no compunction for the means one uses. Giving us as it does a window into the depths of evil, "Slumdog Millionaire" is not a movie for the faint of heart.

Still the window into evil is useful to us. We lead a fairly sheltered existence and don't often confront the reality of evil. So it is that we can be pretty glib in the service of Holy Baptism (BCP p. 300) in which the celebrant asks the parents and godparents if they renounce Satan and all the spiritual forces of wickedness that rebel against God; if they renounce the evil powers of this world which corrupt and destroy the creatures of God; and if they renounce all sinful desires that draw them from the love of God. What does that really mean?

"It is my fervent hope and deep desire that as Americans and as Christians we too are caught up in the powerful community spirit that is sweeping our country ..."

We know about personal sin because it is something with which we are pretty well acquainted. But cosmic evil and the evil powers of this world are a little harder to apprehend. We might wonder what it has to do with us. In fact, as Americans, we cannot help but participate in and even support the evil powers of this world. Organized crime has infiltrated the food industry, so we support organized crime every time we buy certain items in the grocery store. Organized crime has infiltrated the garbage collection industry so we support organized crime every time we discard our trash. Some of the

imported items we buy are made in sweatshops with no regard for American child labor laws. Some international corporations whose products we buy or stock we own, in order to do business in other countries, must do things that we would consider immoral and that would be illegal in the US. Whether we know it or not, evil weaves its ugly way into our lives. So it is that we desperately need and abjectly depend upon Jesus Christ to save us since we are powerless to save ourselves.

The day after I saw "Slumdog Millionaire", President-elect Obama became President Obama. We hope and pray that Mr. Obama will be able to effect positive change. From what I have heard from some who were there on the Mall for the inauguration that strangers treated each other as friends and that the sense of community pride and of collective responsibility and desire to work together to build a better world was palpable.

Keeping in mind that evil is always at hand, it is my fervent hope and deep desire that as Americans and as Christians we too are caught up in the powerful community spirit that is sweeping our country, balancing our sincere efforts on behalf of the powerless with prayerful humility, so that we work together as if everything depends upon us and pray together as if everything depends upon the God who in ways we cannot fathom will with our cooperation triumph finally over all evil—cosmic, worldly, and personal—once and for all.

Barbara

Warden's Words by Win Treese, Co-Warden

By the time you read this, the annual meeting will be past, and we will have elected new vestry members and a new co-warden. We'll be looking forward to getting started for the coming year, with a sense of change and renewal that precedes spring. This month, I'd like to share a few thoughts about what I'm looking forward to with St. Elizabeth's in 2009.

Before I do so, I'd first like to thank Lisa Barnes for her service as co-warden over the past two years, and especially for the past year. It has been a joy, a privilege, and a learning experience for me in serving with her, and I will miss her insight. Fortunately, unlike saying goodbye to a colleague at work, Lisa will still be here every Sunday. Thank you, Lisa.

For some in the parish, it seems like yesterday that we were working on the new building plan. We wanted a new building because the parish was growing, and having the extra space has certainly made it possible for us to grow further. And now we're talking about growth and change again.

Of course, we kicked off 2009 with a significant change, with the Reverend Valerie Bailey Fischer joining us as Assistant Rector. I am personally enjoying getting to know her and have an opportunity to learn from a different and fresh perspective. Combined with other recent changes, including Mary Sue Willie as the music director and

Dick Vanderlippe in the office, the church feels like an even more dynamic place. Even during the week, the office is livelier.

During this year, I expect we'll be spending a lot of time talking about growth and change. Looking at the numbers, both the size of the parish and the weekly attendance have been going up. In the church business, so to speak, we're at a size that almost requires changes. We're still a small community, but big enough that it's harder to get to know everyone. Small enough that we mostly still fit in the church, but big enough that it can sometimes be hard to find a seat, especially if you're new. Small enough to be friendly, but big enough that a newcomer can sometimes be overlooked at coffee hour, or have trouble finding a parking space on Sunday morning. Big enough that we can have a bigger collective impact on our area and beyond.

All in all, these are good challenges. There will be times of joy, and times of discernment. I've been enjoying meeting someone new almost every week, and I'm hoping that we can continue to create a feeling of welcome for newcomers. But these are still challenges for us to wrestle with, and they can make the church feel different than what we may have been used to. I hope you will join me in embracing the opportunities that God is presenting to us.

Win



Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return...

Our economy declared a financial fast last fall. The Church declares a spiritual fast for the season of Lent which this year begins on Ash Wednesday, February 25th. The Lenten fast by removing some of our preoccupations, draws us into deeper relationship with God. Make a right beginning of this rich and holy season by attending one of our Ash Wednesday services including the imposition of ashes and Holy Communion, which will be offered at 6:30 AM and 7:30 PM. In addition, a weekday Eucharist will be offered at 6 PM on the five subsequent Wednesdays evenings in Lent followed by a soup supper and program exploring the history and meaning of Holy Communion.

Vestry Notes by Lisa Barnes, Co-Warden

The Vestry's first meeting of the new year convened late in January due to the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday. As is our newly adopted custom, we began with time spent on spiritual *formation* as we discussed readings and reflections around the theme of Unity. During the *information* part of the meeting, the off-going members (Susan Newlin, Joel Gardiner, John Pearson and I) were thanked for our contribution. The nominating committee to elect new members of the Vestry was also thanked for their work. The nominating committee included Susan Newlin, Joel Gardiner, Jane Newton and John Stevens.

While the Rev. Williamson expressed to the vestry her ongoing challenge to meet the increasing pastoral care needs in addition to the many other hats she is called to wear, Art Huston and Susan Newlin volunteered to begin the coordination of career support/networking focus groups. Parishioners interested in contributing and/or participating in this initiative are encouraged to contact Susan, Art or the Wardens. We also gave support to the Shrove Tuesday pancake supper at St. E's on Feb 24th, and reviewed plans for the Annual Meeting.

The third portion of Vestry meetings are comprised of *decisions*, and they included a review of December 2008 Treasurer's report. Total income for the month of December was \$55,618, primarily due to very strong year-end pledge payments. Unpledged and year-end appeal gifts totaled \$11,835. December expenses were higher than budget due to the final payroll checks being paid on December 31. A significant unexpected expense for the month was an \$1800 electrical system repair.

We also adopted the 2009 Budget which shows a projected deficit of \$32,000. The vestry agreed to proceed with a plan to refinance a construction loan with parishioner loans to save \$16,000 in 2009 and future years. To the extent increased pledges and the loan refinancing do not close the projected budget gap, the finance committee will recommend a range of cost cutting measures to undertake to close the projected budget deficit by the end of this year. With the privilege and delights of membership, there is also much hard work ahead for all of us in the St Elizabeth's community, whether young or old, in a traditional, recognized leadership position or not.

Lisa

MICAH Update by Mara Huston

Moving Towards Action to make Sudbury Affordable to All

On Tuesday, February 10th, 7:30 pm, we will be discussing what we have learned through our research meetings and determining our next steps. We learned about senior issues, housing issues and town financial management. We will review our research and determine what we can do now and what will take longer efforts. Our goal is to achieve Affordable Living for All in Sudbury.

MICAH is the Metropolitan Interfaith Congregations Acting for Hope, a group of congregations from the Metro West area. We are from different religious, ethnic and economic backgrounds working together to recognize and act on social justice issues. We are all equal in God's eyes and we work to unite.

If you have any questions, please contact Mara Huston (978-443-3278, mara@hustonfam.net) or Barbara Williamson.

Adult Education by Jonas Barciauskas

Speaker Series: Faith Development in Adolescents

On Sunday, Feb. 8th, the Speaker Series will feature Prof. Theresa O'Keefe, a member of Boston College's Institute of Religious Education and Pastoral Ministry. Dr. O'Keefe has been teaching in the area of youth and young adult faith, and as Director of IREPM's Contextual Education program, her aim is to assist students to develop reflective practices that help them better understand themselves as ministerial leaders. 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) with any questions.



From the Organ Bench

by Mary Sue Willie,
Director of Music

After a wonderful Advent and Christmas Season of making music, the choirs have suddenly dropped off in numbers. Snow storms and winter vacations are part of the reason that has contributed to our low choir attendance.

So, *"Now is the time for all good people to come to the aid"* of the choir director who would welcome singers of all ages in all parts!

We have a few more weeks in the Epiphany Season before we 'retire' the Alleluias. Then some lovely music for Lent and early preparations for a glorious Easter.

Mark your calendars for Tuesday, February 24th! We will have a Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper followed by a Talent Show featuring the Youth Choir. There's room for many of you to perform. Perhaps a solo, duet, quartet, a reading or instrumental piece, each of which should be no more than 5 minutes. The supper begins at 5:30 pm with the talent show beginning at 6:30 pm to allow our younger generation time to get homework and beauty sleep before school the next day. This brings us to Ash Wednesday (2/25) and a service with choir at 7:30 pm.

Please contact Mary Sue Willie, Director of Music at (978) 369-2363 or cvmswillie@comcast.net to sign up for one of the choirs or the talent show.

FEBRUARY 2009

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	8:00 AM Holy Eucharist II - Church 9:45 AM Church School (COGS, Rite 13, J2A, YACs) 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist II-Church 11:10 AM Youth Choir Rehearsal (10 Minutes after end of second Service) 11:30 AM Annual Meeting (PH)	2 11:00 AM Staff Meeting (CNF) 2:15 PM - 5:15 PM GS Troops 2484/7149 (PH & MPR)	3 YAC Volunteers at Community Servings 10:00 AM Bible Study (CNF) 7:30 PM Habitat Community Outreach Committee Meeting (MPR)	4 10:00 AM Tai Chi (PH) 7:30 PM - 9:00 PM Foundations of the Bible - Tools for Understanding the New Testament	5 2:00 PM Healing Ministry (CNF) 6:45 PM - 8:15 PM STOP (Islamic Center, Wayland) 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal (MPR)	6 3:30 PM - 5:00 PM Girl Scout Troop #72487 (MPR)	7 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM WeeHands Signing Class (MPR)
8	8:00 AM Holy Eucharist II - Church 9:45 AM Church School (COGS, Rite 13, J2A, YACs) 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist II (Laying on of Hands for healing) -Church 11:10 AM Youth Choir Rehearsal (10 Minutes after end of second Service) 11:15 AM Adult Education lunch and Seminar	9 1:00 PM Staff Meeting (CNF) 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM Girl Scout Leaders Meeting (Parish Hall)	10 Barbara Williamson Away (Pre-Lent Clergy Retreat) 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)	11 Barbara Williamson Away (Pre-Lent Clergy Retreat) 10:00 AM Tai Chi (PH) 12:30 PM GS Troop 2440 (MPR) 12:30 PM - 1:30 PM GS Troop 2453 (PH)	12 Barbara Williamson Away (Pre-Lent Clergy Retreat) 2:00 PM Healing Ministry (CNF) 6:45 PM - 8:15 PM STOP (Sudbury United Methodist Church) 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal (MPR) 7:00 PM Cogs Committee Meeting (J2A RM)	13 Barbara Williamson Away (Pre-Lent Clergy Retreat) 2:00 PM Healing Ministry (CNF) 6:45 PM - 8:15 PM STOP (Sudbury United Methodist Church) 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal (MPR) 7:00 PM Cogs Committee Meeting (J2A RM)	14 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM WeeHands Signing Class (MPR)
15	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)	16 Office Closed School Vacation Week	17 School Vacation Week 10:00 AM Bible Study (CNF)	18 School Vacation Week 10:00 AM Tai Chi (PH) 11:00 AM Staff Meeting (CNF) 7:30 PM - 8:30 PM Habitat Volunteer Information Session (Goodnow Library)	19 March Mantle deadline School Vacation Week 2:00 PM Healing Ministry (CNF) 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal (MPR)	20 School Vacation Week	21 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM WeeHands Signing Class (MPR)
22	8:00 AM Holy Eucharist II - Church 9:45 AM Church School (COGS, Rite 13, J2A, YACs) 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist II -Church 11:10 AM Youth Choir Rehearsal (10 Minutes after end of second Service)	23 11:00 AM Staff Meeting (CNF) 3:45 PM - 5:15 PM GS Troop 2468 (MPR) 6:50 PM Vestry Mtg (MPR)	24 10:00 AM Bible Study (CNF) 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper with Talent Show	25 6:30 AM Ash Wednesday - Church 10:00 AM Tai Chi (PH) 7:30 PM Ash Wednesday - Church	26 2:00 PM Healing Ministry (CNF) 6:45 PM - 8:15 PM STOP (First Parish of Sudbury Unitarian Universalist) 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal (MPR)	27	28 Diocesan Event: 20th Anniversary of the Consecration of Barbara C. Harris 8:00 AM Vestry Retreat @ St. E's

Miracle Kitchen Coordinator: Cecilia Small Kitchen Angel: Linda Bertolino	February 1 4 Epiphany	February 8 5 Epiphany	February 15 6 Epiphany (Family Friendly)	February 22 Last Sunday after Epiphany	February 25 Ash Wed
Euch. Min.	8 AM Harry Ainsworth 10 AM Betsy Wallingford Susan Newlin	8 AM Stuart Hamilton 10 AM Harry Ainsworth Audrey Newton	8 AM Peter Gonze 10 AM Steve Davies Ruth Griesel	8 AM Peter Gonze 10 AM Carol Dicker Jim Peters	6:30 AM Ruth Griesel 7:30 PM Betsy Wallingford Valerie Bailey Fischer
Breadbearer & Third Station	Karyn Grant/ Barbara Williamson Jim Newton	Clare Perry/ Larry Stewart Valerie Bailey Fischer	Valerie Bailey Fischer	Jim Newton/ Clare Perry Barbara Williamson	Not Required
Lector	Jonas Barciauskas	Jane Graham	Jim Newton	Jay Holdman	6:30 AM Not Required 7:30 PM Craig Stafford
Acolyte	Emily Knaul	Ryan Kenney	Bryan Dicker	Bret Perisho	6:30 AM not Required 7:30 PM TBD
Vestry Person of the Day	Jeremy Perisho	John Howard	Nancy Kimble	Win Treese	Not Required
Ushers	Stuart Hamilton Steve Lewis	Ray Considine John Romain	Mike & Jeremy Perisho	Larry Jobson & Susan Newlin	6:30 AM not Required 7:30 PM Larry Jobson
Altar Guild	8 AM Clare Perry 10 AM Clare Perry	8 AM Clare Perry 10 AM Clare Perry	8 AM Clare Perry 10 AM Clare Perry	8 AM Clare Perry 10 AM Clare Perry	8 AM Clare Perry 10 AM Clare Perry
Coffee Server	Not Required	Pat Blackey	Maggie Watson	Ildi Morris	Not Required

News & Updates From RITE 13

Some Program Rituals and Symbols

Within the RITE 13 Program several rituals and symbols have emerged as important reflections of the relevance and focus of the RITE 13 experience.

One of them is the creation of a cloth that “holds” the names and artistic “doodles” of all the young people moving together as a group through this 2-year Program. Each RITE 13-er creates his or her own ‘mark’ on the cloth as a symbol of their belonging to this group. As new RITE 13-ers join, they too are invited to mark the cloth with their name and ‘doodle’. This cloth is displayed at every class meeting as a weekly reminder of everyone’s membership. It is displayed as a covering over a small table in the center of our meeting space on which the next symbol of our RITE 13 experience is set...the lighted candle.



The start of every class meeting begins with the Lighting of the Candle. This is done by a volunteer whose birthday is closest to that Sunday’s class date. The Lighting of the Candle symbolizes making way for enlightenment and understanding, and the bringing into the ‘light’ that which was unknown or dark. As the candle is lit each Sunday, Rite 13-ers are invited to open their minds and their hearts to new learning and understanding.

Next *Mantle* ... The ritual and symbol of ‘holy’ socks and shoes.

News From The Atriums – Level I

We have covered a great deal of material over the past few months. In preparation for Advent, our presentations introduced the children to the Liturgical Calendar and seasons of the year (Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter, and Pentecost). The colors corresponding with each season were also included. Geography was covered over the next few weeks to reinforce the truth that Jesus was a real person, born in a specific place and time (Israel), but his message has traveled around the world and lives with us still. Our globe and maps greatly enhanced these presentations as have the joyful—and instructive—songs that we love to sing. During Advent, we talked about prophets and what they foretold about Jesus—the Messiah, Savior, Wonderful Counselor—who would be a light to the world. During the Christmas season, we rejoiced over the birth of Jesus with the adoration of the shepherds and the Magi.

Our first presentation in Epiphany took us to the Temple in Jerusalem, where Jesus was brought as an infant by Mary and Joseph. There, we learned that he was recognized as the promised Messiah by two very special people—Anna and Simeon. In coming weeks, we will explore parables. Jesus often taught by using parables, which are stories in which something from everyday life is transcended—such as a seed of grain, a hidden treasure, or a pearl.

As always, our time in the Atrium begins at 9:45 a.m. for a period of gathering before the presentation at 10 a.m. Volunteers are needed during the coming months, and a sign-up sheet is posted on the wall outside the Atrium. We deeply appreciate all the assistance that has been given thus far and look forward to the blessings of Epiphany, Lent, and Easter.

Support the Habitat for Humanity Home in Sudbury

Saturday, February 28th at 1:30 PM Come cheer on the Lowell Devil's American Hockey League team. Tickets are \$15 with proceeds from each ticket go to the Sudbury home. Mara Huston can help you get tickets. For more details, go to



www.gwhfh.org.



Friday, March 6th at 7 PM Come enjoy the Harmony for Habitat musical event hosted by Memorial Congregational Church. All donations will support the Habitat for Humanity home in Sudbury. If you have any questions about the project, please talk to either Susan Berry, Carol Davies or Mara Huston.

Sudbury Habitat for Humanity Needs YOUR 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.

The Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts Spring Learning Event "Everything Must Change" with Brian McLaren

March 7, 2009 - 9:30 a.m. – 3 p.m.

George Sherman Union, Boston University, 775 Commonwealth Ave., Boston

Cost: \$15.00 General admission, \$ 9.00 for Students

Box lunch, for \$10 extra, available by advance sign-up (see registration link at <http://www.regonline.com/builder/site/Default.aspx?eventid=697166>). Or, you may bring a bag lunch. Please note there are few easily accessible restaurants in the immediate vicinity.

Brian McLaren, author of *Everything Must Change* and *The Secret Message of Jesus*, is a noted international speaker and a leading voice in the emergent church movement, listed by Time as one of America's 25 most influential evangelicals. By special invitation of the archbishop of Canterbury, he addressed the assembled bishops at the most recent Lambeth Conference on the gifts of Anglicanism to meet the challenge of evangelism in the world today. Advance registration is required. McLaren has an avid following and event registration will be open to the public, so register soon. As part of this event, you may also make a donation for the Jubilee Ministry supporting AIDS relief and development work in Africa.

When Angels are Busy, God Sometimes Sends Real People

My Ice Storm Sheltering Experience

by John Stevens

The massive ice storm that forced thousands of people from their homes and into shelters this past December only narrowly missed us. In fact, I and other members of Sudbury's volunteer emergency response force were put on alert by the Fire Chief in case we had to open a Sudbury shelter at the Fairbanks Senior Center for people whose homes became damaged or lost power and heat because of toppled trees, downed wires, and cracked utility poles. While this call from the Sudbury Fire Chief never came, calls for help from neighboring communities did, and I volunteered to help staff a shelter in Worcester.

When I arrived at the Worcester shelter at 6:30 am on the Saturday after the Thursday night storm, I found more than 55 people, nearly all of them elderly or with a chronic or debilitating medical condition, sheltered in what was the cafeteria of a small high school. Half of the cafeteria floor space had been converted into a dormitory complete with cots and blankets while the other half served as the 'Day Area' where cafeteria tables with attached benches provided places for those awake and about to sit, eat and wait.

With so many shelters needing to be opened in the aftermath of this storm, there were not enough trained volunteers to properly staff them. I had at least participated in two sheltering drills through my membership with Sudbury CERT, and counted on that experience as I tried to help ensure that people were safe and properly cared for while being sheltered at this facility.

As I made my way around the shelter introducing myself and checking on the medical and personal needs of people, I came across two young girls and their adult-aged aunt. They had just woken up from their overnight at the shelter. Although the girls readily admitted that sleeping on the cots was "not fun", they did not seem particularly distressed or despairing even though they too had apparently been forced from their home by the storm. I learned that they were sisters and in fourth and seventh grade, respectively.

As the morning wore on, it was apparent that there wasn't much for people to do but wait in the make-shift Day Room with the hope of hearing that power was restored and that someone would be coming soon to take them home. Some people were weepy and despairing, some were bored and cranky, and few needed low-level but ongoing nursing care.

As I did what I could do to organize and coordinate what shelter resources we had, I was curious about these two young girls and their aunt. They seemed to be very alert and observing of everything going on around them, and did not appear to be the least bit 'put out' by the experience of being in a shelter with 50 strangers, nearly all of whom were elderly, physically frail, or medically disabled.

I noticed their aunt sitting quietly to the side watching with a faint smile as the two young girls hastily ate their cereal and began gathering up not only their own trash but the trash of those sitting nearby. They quietly approached each person and, in turn, politely asked if they could "carry away the garbage". Without fanfare and on their own initiative, the girls then began stopping at each table and asking if they could clean up what people were done with. The girls were met with many smiles, a few chuckles, and a lot of "Thank you dearie" or "Bless you child" acknowledgments. As the girls made their rounds, they soon began offering to refill coffee cups, heat water for tea, or bring breakfast to those looking to eat something.

Soon, these two young girls were in full swing running back and forth to the kitchen area delivering breakfast food and drink to those grateful for the 'service'. The girls became the center of everyone's attention as they

(Continued on page 11)

(Continued from page 10)

responded with exaggerated curtsies and flagrantly false accents. Within the hour, a lighthearted and upbeat mood began to take hold of the Day Room. People began conversing with one other, card games were started, and the despairing and agitated behaviors that were so evident earlier had lessened appreciably.

By late-morning the girls and their aunt had packed up what little they had brought with them and prepared to leave. When I asked if they would again be staying at the shelter that night, they simply replied no. The girls, however, asked if they could nonetheless return later in the day and help serve dinner. I told them that we would all be grateful if they did.

The two girls reappeared at the shelter with their aunt just before the dinner serving time. Again, while the aunt stood quietly to the side, these two young girls again demonstrated their gift of caring and hope, and in a very real way elevated the spirits of those congregated at this shelter as they helped serve the evening meal. They were called “angels” by many of the shelter residents, and clearly helped people re-discover their hope, patience, and capacities for enduring this very disruptive and trying circumstance.

Truly, the people that God sends to help and comfort others in times of need come in all sizes.

Sudbury’s volunteer emergency response force needs more members. Please visit www.Sudbury.ma.us, click on “committees” and follow the links to MRC and to CERT. Or feel free to talk with me directly.



Well okay, whatever happened to the updated cookbook that was in the works? If you have asked that question in the past couple of months I have your answer. The answer is, it is still in the works and on the front burner. Thank you to many of you who have submitted recipes! But more are needed. I'm going to be sending out some emails over the coming days soliciting some delectable, tried and true recipes from you and your fellow parishioners. If and when you get one of these emails, please consider replying and sending along one or more of your favorites. Any category is welcome and all will be appreciated. Please look for completed books sometime after the snow melts. (I know we're all looking forward to that! My relatives in northern Minnesota say that their year consists of nine months of winter followed by three months of bad sledding.) If you don't want to be bothered by email, feel free to pre-empt this by sending recipes to me either by email or snail mail. Thank you!!
Send your recipes to:

wilsonrenie@aol.com
Renie Wilson
34407 Maffitt Lake Road
Cumming, IA 50061

Marc Bacon, Nicola Bacon, Dick Bell, Ann Brackett, Anna Belle Brown, , Heidi Candiloro, Anna Cass, Steve Castellini, Phoebe Colket, Gerald Cubelli, Joanne Deshmuk, Jacob Frissora, Hannah Gerry, Connor Goodwin, Susan Herel, Andrew Kenney, Ryan Kenney, Robert Kornblum, Liz Morgan, Ethan Mossi, Dan Mullen, Elise O'Keefe, Devon Regan, Matt Reilly, Anne Reilly, Andy Reinhard, Chase Reinhard, Brooke Robak, Jack Romain, Sarah Romain, Thomas Small, Bill Smith, Ben Sugg, Will Susi, Bob Torgerson, Kiersten Varner, Jennifer Vesey, Karl Von Goeler, Alicia Wagner, Betsy Wallingford



Saint Elizabeth's Communications Committee NEEDS HELP!

How You Can Help

- **Mantle Editor** – Assist in producing the mantle every other month.
- **Web Site Author** – Assist in maintaining our web site, www.st-elizabeths.org.
- **Feature Writer** – Author occasional articles about St. E's for the Sudbury Crier.
- **Communications Bulletin Board Designer** - Keep our communications bulletin board up to date and fun.
- **Church Brochure Designer** – Develop a set of Saint Elizabeth's brochures for visitors, newcomers, and church members.

Please contact John Howard (978) 443-0089 (johnelioward@comcast.net) or Pat Coffin (978) 443-4781 (mantle@st-elizabeths.org).

Subscribe to the St. E 's Discussion Group

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

st-elizabeths-community-subscribe@googlegroups.com

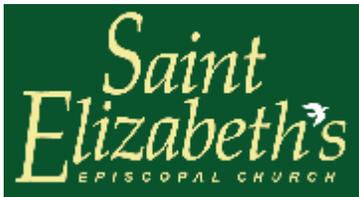
Once you have joined the group, you can send mail to it at:

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>

If you have any questions, ask Win Treese (treese@acm.org) or John Howard (johnelioward@comcast.net).



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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.