

The Mantle

St. Elizabeth's Episcopal Church Sudbury, Massachusetts April 2009



Holy Week
at
St. Elizabeth's

Palm Sunday - 9 a.m. and 11 a.m., April 5

Blessing of the Palms, followed by procession with music and liturgical dance. Dramatic readings of the Passion during both services by the youth of the Rite 13 and J2A programs.

Maundy Thursday - 7:30 p.m., April 9

Footwashing and the stripping of the altar done by the church's youth.

Good Friday - 7:30 p.m., April 10 in the St. Elizabeth's Chapel

Liturgy of the Light - 6:30 p.m., Saturday, April 11

Participants gather in the Church parish hall at 6:30 p.m. and then process to the Chapel at 6:45 p.m. for the service that begins at 7:00 p.m. Unlike the last few years, we will save the unearthing of the alleluias until Easter morning.

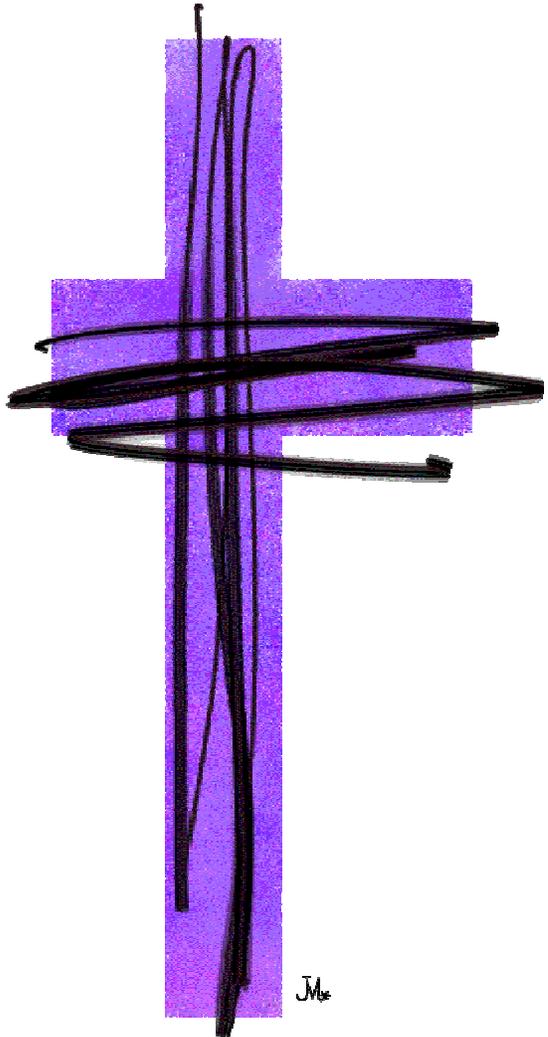
This is a moving service done by candlelight, led by the 2nd and 3rd grade children of Catechesis of the Good Shepherd's Atrium II in the beautiful setting of the chapel. Children read short passages or may be involved in many other ways. The chapel parking is accessed via the drive at 451 Concord Road, south of the main church.

The first practice for this event was held March 29th. The Second practice will be April 5, Palm Sunday. This is a great opportunity for parent volunteers to help the kids and assist with walking down the aisle and organizing while up on the altar. Please contact Chris Howard at ChristineHoward@comcast.net if you are able to help.

Easter Sunday - 9 a.m. and 11 a.m., April 12

Almighty God, who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ overcame death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life: Grant that we, who celebrate with joy the day of the Lord's resurrection, may be raised from the death of sin by your life-giving Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Book of Common Prayer - Collect for Easter



From Our Rector by The Rev. Barbara Williamson

As I write Easter is two and a half weeks off, and I have had enough of March. March is a long month. Not just because it has 31 days. Not just because we are tired of winter and all have cabin fever. Not just because Lent always falls in March. It is long because unlike all of the other months in the public school year, it has no three-day weekend, no school vacation, no day off. And since the rhythms of our lives are determined more by the school calendar than by any other calendar, March can seem interminable. It can seem relentless. Some of us get a little frayed around the edges, weighed down as we are by many demands that then get more complicated by a job loss or the death of a parent or a frightening diagnosis. We find that no matter how hard we try, our best falls short of what we would hope for. We find that no matter how well we plan, circumstances arise over which we have no control. We find that no matter how carefully we allocate our time, our precariously balanced lives are easily upset. Summer with its more forgiving schedule can't come soon enough.

And yet this March has been full of blessings too numerous to count. A representative sample includes

- The Daily Reflections for Lent 2009 compiled by Jay Holdman is a great blessing. I have been stunned and humbled by the remarkable writings I have found there. Parishioners and former parishioners, children, youth and adults, have composed compelling reflections sharing deeply of their faith, struggles, insights, and hopes. The book has been a perfect companion for the Lenten journey.
- The insights and collegueship of the Rev. Valerie Bailey Fischer, along with the amazing work of Peg Scarlata and Dick Vanderlippe.
- Successful heart valve replacement surgery for Harry Ainsworth.
- The pastoral care team that came together at Jeremy Perisho's initiative to provide meals, rides, companionship, and help with errands first for the Ainsworths but then for other families whose balance had been upset by extraordinary circumstances.
- The weekly miracles that occur in the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd and Journey to Adulthood programs, miracles mediated by committed volunteers who consistently give so generously of themselves.
- The beautiful music, unparalleled energy, and joyful spirit of our Music Director, Mary Sue Willie, the choirs, and the instrumentalists.
- The collection and distribution of thirty baskets of food and other necessary items to citizens of Sudbury living at or close to the poverty line.
- Thanks to Susan Newlin and Art Huston, the effort to organize support within the parish for all of our working and out of work adults.
- The great team of adults and youth that produced the fun and fabulous Outreach Auction to raise money for Habitat for Humanity, Pilgrimage, Appalachia Service Project, and MICAH.

You might recall that my Lenten discipline this year is to refrain from rushing. I have been more compliant at some times than others, but by and large, the effort has given me more space to count blessings, to be still and know that God is God, and to relish the incredible abundance of wonderful and willing people in our parish community who give so freely of their time, talent, and treasure for our great good and God's greater glory.

So maybe it is a good thing that March is so long. All the more time to appreciate God's many blessings.

Barbara

A headline in the Boston Globe caught my attention the other day. It read, *Giving = Happiness*. Intrigued, I delved into the article which turned out to be a review of a new book by Harvard psychologist Richard Weissbourd called "The Parents We Mean to Be." The gist of the article is that parents often mistakenly assume that their children will become happy, responsible adults if only they can help them to build enough confidence and self-esteem. Instead, Weissbourd argues that "if you focus on kids being empathic and tuning in to others and helping others, they're more likely to be more moral and more happy." Essentially he is pointing out the difference between looking inward and looking outward.

By focusing on the "self" – self-confidence, self-esteem – we're teaching our children to look inward. It's an action that closes us off from others and can sometimes lead to loneliness and isolation. This is certainly not what we want for our children, ourselves or any of our loved ones. How do we avoid this trap? Weissbourd notes that parents can help foster qualities of "honesty, kindness, loyalty, generosity, (and) a commitment to justice," by encouraging children to help those on the economic or social margins.

But is it enough simply to tell our children these are good things to do? I'm not sure. If your children are like mine, they're much more likely to hang up their coats, clear the table and put away the dishes if they see *me*

doing it with them. In the same way that children can't learn to make a bed unless they see their parents do it first, perhaps they can't really learn what it means to be kind and generous unless they see it in action.

We're fortunate at St. Elizabeth's to have so many occasions to look outward. We have social functions such as coffee hour and pancake suppers where we can make an effort to meet someone new or share a kind word with a shy person. We have the Giving Tree and Spring Gift baskets through which we can share our abundant gifts with others. We have Habitat for Humanity and Spring Clean-up, ASP, and City Reach – all opportunities to reach beyond ourselves, to reach out to others, to offer ourselves and our children the wonderful gift of Giving.

For me, the most poignant part of the article was actually a reference to a different book called "The Five Secrets You Must Discover Before You Die." The author of this book, John Izzo, asked 235 elderly people what brought the most happiness to their lives. What was their overwhelming response? "Be a giver." They said "when you're young you think your greatest happiness will come from what you get from life...but looking back they realized the only thing that gave meaning was the fact that they gave."

It makes sense. Perhaps we can help our families see the gifts they *have* by showing them what they can *give*.

Abusive Behaviors

In a perfect world, no child, no elderly person, no one in a committed relationship would live in fear of being abused by someone close to him or her. Unfortunately, we do not live in a perfect world. Even in upscale suburban communities like ours, a bully may target our children in person or via the Internet. Some of our teens may be involved in unhealthy dating relationships. An elderly neighbor may be the victim of family or caretaker neglect or abuse. A friend may be enduring unreasonable social isolation and economic control, psychological abuse, threats of bodily injury, or actual physical violence from his or her spouse or partner. If you know someone in an abusive relationship, help is available. For information about resources in our area, visit www.domesticviolenceroundtable.org. Know that Barbara or Valerie will discuss in confidence with you any concerns you may have about situations involving abusive behaviors.

Vestry Notes by Win T reese, Co-Warden

At the March vestry meeting, we focused on two main areas: first, continuing to come together as a team with new members, and starting to think more deeply about what we want for St. Elizabeth's over the next few years. In addition, we reviewed some of the ideas that emerged from our look back at 2008 during the February meeting.

There's a certain intensity to forming a new team, even one that has changed only partially. Every vestry is different, with individuals bringing different gifts and contributions to the group. This vestry has come together as a group very quickly, and we are looking forward to a terrific year.

Looking ahead, we did some brainstorming on ideas for what St. Elizabeth's might be like in three to five years. What is the experience we want to have? What challenges are we facing? What is our community like? This is only the beginning of a continuing discussion, and it is already a fascinating one.

Some of the ideas for immediate action included improving the coffee hour experience for everyone and creating a group to help parishioners who may be looking for jobs as well as getting connected to other parishioners professionally. Both of these are already in progress. Others, such as paving the parking lot, are very desirable, but not something we can afford right now.

In future meetings, we'll be taking a closer look at some of the visionary ideas from both vestry members and what we hear from you, so that we can turn them into concrete goals and projects. If you have any thoughts or comments to share, please talk to any of the vestry members, Barbara, Nancy, or me. You can also reach the wardens by email at wardens@st-elizabeths.org.



From the Organ Bench

by Mary Sue Willie,
Director of Music

As we move into Palm Sunday/Passion Sunday, we begin Holy Week by reliving the festive entrance into Jerusalem as we process singing an ancient version of "All Glory Laud and Honor" complete with tambourines, wood blocks, dancers, and drums. The service ends with our singing of the "Passion Chorale" which will be repeated in the postlude played by our own John Kodera.

The Adult Choir will lead in the singing on Maundy Thursday as we participate in the footwashing and celebrate the Last Supper. This is followed by our reciting of Psalm 22 and singing "Were you there?" during the stripping of the altar before we leave in silence.

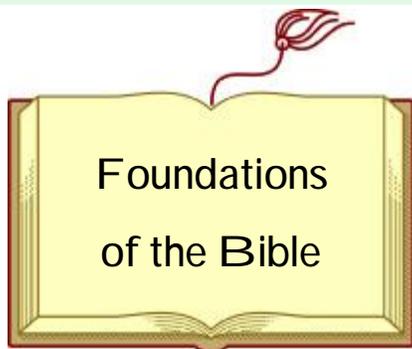
Easter Day we celebrate with joyful Alleluias sung by the choirs and assisted by brass players from the Small family and guest trumpeters: Dennis and Martha Caron.

We look forward to experiencing this dramatic week with you through the powerful medium of making music together.



ALLELUIA!

Adult Education by Jonas Barciauskas



Tools for understanding the New Testament: Everything you always wanted to know about the Bible, but didn't know to ask.

The meetings are Wednesdays from 7:30 pm to 9 pm at St. Elizabeth's in the conference room. The upcoming 4 sessions will be on what happens after the Gospels.

April 29: Luke-Acts: Elegance and Adventure - Parables and Propaganda

May 6: Paul: How Letters Changed the World - The Creation of Books & Theology

May 13: Paul & Other Letter Writers: Differing Theologies - A Growing Church

May 20: Revelation: The Problematic Book - No. It's No Timetable for the End of the World

The set of 4 meetings is \$60 per person (scholarships available). For questions about the course, call Chris Visminas (teacher) at 508-820-7335 or e-mail cevisminas@juno.com.

The setup: We're going to cover the New Testament in 8 meetings of an hour and a half each. The meetings will be on Wednesdays from 7:30pm to 9:00pm at St. Elizabeth's. The classes are clumped in 2 groups of 4. The first 4 classes, held in January and February, were primarily about the Gospels; the second 4 will be on what happens after the Gospels. Your Guide will be Chris Visminas, a priest, who teaches adults around the Diocese. The format will be a mix of lecture, questions (from you), copious illustrations and discussion.

Each week is self contained so you won't be lost if you miss a session. However attending all sessions will enrich your experience. No books, except a bible of your choice, is required. Any homework will be 45 minutes or less for each meeting and will consist mostly of short readings from the Bible. There will also be some extra reading for those who get excited about ideas, episodes, cultures, history, etc. Bring questions! Each set of 4 meetings is \$60 per person (scholarships available). See Peg Scarlata in the office for how to pay.

For information of a practical sort and to sign up call the Church Office at 978-443-6035. For questions about the course call Chris Visminas (teacher) at 508-820-7335 or email cevisminas@juno.com.



Jeffrey Abbott, Harry Ainsworth, Tea Baumgartner, Kathy Bautze, Harris Bendel, Louise Bendel, Scott Bluni, Collins Boland, Allison Boyle, Lauryn Brown, Graham Daley, Morgan Davies, Jeff Davis, Bob Dawson, Bob Ewing, Cathy Fairbairn, Henry Fairbairn, Kelly Frissora, Kimberly Gee, Nathan Gerry, Laura Hacker, Christine Howard, Maureen Hynes, Grace Keilen, Dan Knaul, Emily Knaul, Carl Lepordo, Matt Lucarelli, Jon McLeod, Abby Meeks, Ted Meeks, Ildi Morris, Andrew Mossi, Jim Parker, Mike Perisho, Megan Quinn, Leslie Egan Ray, Robert Regan, Caitlin Regan, Tom Rourke, Larry St. George, Abigail Tinsley, Rebecca Trail, Katie Trecker, James Wagner, Katie Walker, Jack Walker, Devin Walker, Rick Watson, Evan White, Kris Wile, Greg Wilkins, Christopher Woodman, Declan Zurn

Attention all Sudbury Residents!

Town Meeting starts on Monday, April 6th, 7:30pm at Lincoln/Sudbury Regional High School Auditorium. If you have never attended a Town Meeting, now is a good time to start. It will likely run for three consecutive nights. You should have received your Warrant at your home in March. MICAH is working on an initiative called ***Affordable Living for All*** in Sudbury. Decisions made at this Town Meeting will directly affect how affordable Sudbury is to live in.

Specifically, there are six articles related to affordable housing and housing diversity options in Sudbury.

- § Articles 16 & 17 are requests to transfer land to the Sudbury Housing Trust to build affordable home ownership opportunities.
- § Article 20 requests amendments to the Accessory Dwelling Unit Bylaw
- § Article 23 and 29 support the Sudbury Housing Trust efforts to increase affordable home ownership opportunities
- § Article 30 supports the Sudbury Housing Authority efforts to increase affordable rental opportunities

Please review your Warrant and come to Town Meeting.

Liturgy of the Light: Important Rehearsal Information

The Second practice for the Liturgy of the Light will be April 5th, Palm Sunday. On Palm Sunday we have services at 9 and 11. The practice will be during the 9 a.m. service. On Palm Sunday everyone including children gathers in the church for the blessing of the palms followed by the procession around the church as in previous years. Following this, children will branch off into Atriums. The practice will be held in one of the downstairs rooms during Atrium time and include Level II children who are involved in the Liturgy of Light service. All other level II children will meet in Atrium as usual. In the event that we need the time for practice and we do not make it back in time for



communion, parents can meet up with their children back at Atrium. This is a great opportunity for parent volunteers to help wrangle the kids and assist with walking down the aisle and organizing while up on the altar. Please contact Chris Howard at ChristineHoward@comcast.net if you are able to help. There is also a volunteer sign up sheet located outside Atriums in the downstairs hallway. We will also need help with set up and take down; mostly moving extra chairs up to the chapel from the parish hall and then replacing items afterwards.

News & Updates From Rite 13

News & Updates From RITE 13 *More Program Rituals and Symbols*

In previous Mantles, several rituals and symbols of the RITE 13 program were highlighted. The relevance and importance of the cloth, candle, and 'holy' socks were described. This final mention of RITE 13 rituals and symbols focuses on the relevance and importance of the Opening and Closing Prayer.

Every classroom lesson and activity experience begins with an Opening Prayer. Rite 13-ers are typically invited to stand in a circle and to spend a moment 'preparing' for prayer. That is, they are invited to practice what they had learned earlier about prayer and the ways to get ready to pray. This includes planting one's feet firmly on the floor and taking a moment to focus on the sensation and feeling of stability and firmness that comes from that 'connection'. It also includes clearing one's mind of all the 'clutter' and every-day worry that typically occupy our thoughts, and to focus our attention on the here-and-now. Finally, it includes taking two-to-three cleansing breaths as a way to help bring meditative relaxation and focus to our body and minds.



Our Opening Prayer takes many forms. Sometimes a prayer is pre-selected and read by one of the RITE 13 young people or by a Catechist (teacher). Other times a prayer is started, and then each member of the circle in turn adds his or her own statement or thought. These prayers often have a theme of 'Thanks' or of 'Hope'.

Our Closing Prayer also takes many forms, and typically tries to tie the classroom lesson or experiential activity for that day to a prayer of hope and well-being for the upcoming week.

MI TE BOX COLLECTION ON EASTER SUNDAY

Mite Boxes will be collected on Easter Sunday. Proceeds will be given to Episcopal Relief & Development whose mission statement (taken from www.er-d.org) is:

"ERD provides emergency assistance in times of disaster; rebuilds devastated communities and offers long-term program development solutions to fight poverty."

If you have any questions, please contact Suzy Kornblum or Maggie Watson. Thanks!

APRIL 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 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 Finance Committee Meeting (MPR)	30 11:00 AM Staff Meeting (CNF) 3:45 PM - 5:15 PM GS Troop 2468 (MPR)	31 10:00 AM Bible Study (CNF) 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM Yoga (MPR) Session II	1 8:00 AM Warden Meeting (CNF) 10:00 AM Tai Chi (PH) 6:00 PM Lenten Series Eucharist 6:30 PM Lenten Series Supper 7:15 PM Lenten Series Program: The Loss and Discovery of Tradition	2 2:00 PM Healing Ministry (CNF) 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal (MPR)	3 5:00 PM Leave for Pre-Confirmation Retreat - Barbara C. Harris Camp & Conference Center	4 10:00 AM Rehearsal for Palm Sunday Dancers & Instrumentalists (Church) 2:00 PM Traces of the Trade (Trinity Church, Concord) 5:00 PM Return from Pre-Confirmation Retreat - Barbara C. Harris Camp & Conference Center
5 8:45 AM Church School (COGS, Rite 13, J2A, YACs) 9:00 AM Palm Sunday - Church 11:00 AM Palm Sunday (Laying-on-of-Hands) - Church 12:10 PM Youth Choir Rehearsal (10 Minutes after end of second Service)	6 11:00 AM Staff Meeting (CNF) 2:15 PM - 5:15 PM GS Troops 2484/7149 (PH & Yoga (MPR) Session II (MPR)	7 10:00 AM Bible Study (CNF) 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM Yoga (MPR) Session II GS Troop 2453 (PH)	8 10:00 AM Tai Chi (PH) 12:30 PM GS Troop 2440 (MPR) 12:30 PM - 1:30 PM GS Troop 2453 (PH)	9 2:00 PM Healing Ministry (CNF) 7:30 PM Maundy Thursday Service - Church	10 7:30 PM Good Friday Service -Chapel	11 7:00 PM Liturgy of Light - 6:30 Parish Hall, 6:45 Process to Chapel
12 No Church School 9:00 AM Easter Sunday- Church 11:00 AM Easter Sunday -Church (Baptism)	13 Office Closed 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM Girl Scout Leaders Meeting (MPR)	14 10:00 AM Bible Study (CNF) 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM Yoga (MPR) Session II 3:40 PM - 5:00 PM GS Troop 2435 (MPR) 6:00 PM Miracle Kitchen 7:30 PM MICAH LOC (CNF)	15 8:00 AM Warden Meeting (CNF) 10:00 AM Staff Meeting (CNF) 10:00 AM Tai Chi (PH)	16 Barbara away (3/16-3/21) 2:00 PM Healing Ministry (CNF)	17 Barbara away (3/16-3/21)	18 Barbara away (3/16-3/21)
19 Barbara away (3/16-3/21) 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist II - Church 9:45 AM No Church School 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist II -Church (Family Friendly Service)	20 Barbara away (3/16-3/21) OFFICE CLOSED Patriot's Day Holiday School Vacation Week	21 Barbara away (3/16-3/21) School Vacation Week 10:00 AM Bible Study (CNF) 12:30 PM Deaneary Luncheon (PH)	22 School Vacation Week 10:00 AM Staff Meeting (CNF) 10:00 AM Tai Chi (PH)	23 May Mantle deadline School Vacation Week 2:00 PM Healing Ministry (CNF) 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal (MPR)	24 School Vacation Week	25
26 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)	27 11:00 AM Staff Meeting (CNF) 3:45 PM - 5:15 PM GS Troop 2468 (MPR) 6:50 PM Vestry Mtg (MPR)	28 10:00 AM Bible Study Cancelled Barbara away (Clergy Conference) Valerie away (Clergy Conference)	29 Barbara away (Clergy Conference) Valerie away (Clergy Conference) 10:00 AM Tai Chi (PH)	30 Cancelled Barbara away (Clergy Conference) Valerie away (Clergy Conference) 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal (MPR)	1 2:00 PM Healing Class	2 10:00 AM Confirmation or Reception into the Episcopal Church - St. Mark's Church, Southborough

	April 5	April 9	April 10	April 12	April 19	April 26
Miracle Kitchen Coordinator: Maria Congleton Kitchen Angel: Tricia Griggs	Palm Sunday	Maundy Thursday (Intergenerational Service)	Good Friday	Easter Sunday	1 Easter (Family Friendly Service)	2 Easter
Euch. Min.	9 AM Stuart Hamilton Betsy Wallingford 11 AM Carol Dicker Audrey Newton	7:30 PM Stuart Hamilton		9 AM Carol Dicker Steve Davies 11 AM Betsy Wallingford Susan Newlin	8 AM Peter Gonze 10 AM Carol Dicker Susan Newlin	8 AM Harry Ainsworth 10 AM Audrey Newton Betsy Wallingford
Breadbearer & Third Station	9 AM Cliff Card/ John Howard, Valerie Bailey Fischer 11 AM Clare Perry/ Jim Newton, Barbara Williamson			9 AM Larry Stewart/ Ruth Griesel, Valerie Bailey Fischer 11 AM Karyn Grant/ Jay Holdman, Barbara Williamson	Clare Perry	Karyn Grant/ Jay Holdman Valerie Bailey Fischer
Lector	9 AM Walker Morgan 11 AM Jim Newton	7:30 PM Jonas Barciauskas	7:30 PM Jonas Barciauskas Jay Holdman	9 AM Eric Kimble 11 AM Craig Stafford	John McNeill	Walter Morgan
Acolyte (s)	9 AM Tim Howard, Bret & Brooke Perisho 11 AM Sean and Bryan Dicker, John Newton	Chris & Nick St. George, Walker Griggs		9 AM Kristin & Sara Kimble, Elizabeth Dewey 11 AM Sam Sugg, Emily & Hannah Knaul	Bryan Dicker	Bret Perisho
Vestry Person of the Day	9 AM Nancy Kimble 11 AM Win Treese			9 AM Stuart Hamilton 11 AM Nancy Morgan	Bonnie Brown	Jonas Barciauskas
Ushers	9 AM Mike & Jeremy Perisho 11 AM Susan Newlin & Larry Jobson			9 AM John Romain & Pat McCabe 11 AM Terry Rourke & Larry Jobson	Terry Rourke & Ray Considine	Mike & Jeremy Perisho
Altar Guild	9 AM Gretchen Meeks 11 AM Mari Weldon	7:30 PM Gretchen Meeks Clare Perry	7:30 PM Clare Perry Mari Weldon	9 AM Clare Perry Mari Weldon 11 AM Clare Perry	8 AM Mari Weldon Christine Robb 10 AM Christine Robb	8 AM Ruth Griesel Stevie Spina 10 AM Christine Robb
Coffee Server	Kristine Mitchell			Ildi Morris	Beth White	Betsy Wallingford

Outreach, Advocacy and Service

Second in a series of Mantle articles focusing on outreach, advocacy and service at St E's

We, the congregation of St. Elizabeth's Episcopal Church, welcome and honor everyone. In accordance with our baptismal covenant, we affirm the inherent worth and dignity of every person.

Service to the Community through Giving

By Mari Weldon

I became active with Outreach last year, when the group was looking for someone to join in their efforts, and in particular to take on the coordination and execution of the Giving Tree at Christmas. As a group, we talked at



length over how much we felt we could contribute, to both families in our community and Ecclesia Ministries in Boston. It was a balancing act: we wanted to be able to support as many people as we could, but in a difficult economic climate, we also wanted to be

sensitive to our St. E's family, for they are the ones who make it possible to fulfill all these requests.

I was tasked with making the ornaments that would hang on the tree, which was a fun activity I shared with my daughter Hope. Still, I found myself overwhelmed by the requests. The children needed clothes and a few toys, but the parents were asking for things that I use each day without thought: socks, pots and pans, and basic household wares. There were also requests for grocery cards, gas cards – purchases I make weekly, as if I am on auto-pilot. I suddenly became aware of all that I am blessed with and had more appreciation for the simple gifts that God has bestowed upon me.

In the end, we were able to support five families locally, and gave 25 sets of hats & gloves and McDonald's gift cards to Ecclesia to distribute to the homeless at the Christmas morning services. The response from our parish was overwhelming: almost all of the ornaments with gift requests were scooped up the very first Sunday the tree was up, and we even received extra gifts from parishioners who hadn't taken an ornament but wanted to contribute regardless. I was overjoyed and proud to be part of such an amazing group of people.

Now as we enter spring, we have asked our St. E's family to help support our community by filling food baskets that our youth will deliver (or, by the time this is printed, will have delivered). Once again, the response was great – 30 baskets, which is slightly more than what we have delivered in years past, were taken and returned full of food to be given to those in need. And while it may seem these baskets being delivered will only touch those that receive them, the work that has been done here goes far beyond that. Not only will it bestow blessings on those in need of tangible things, it bestows blessings on all of us through a demonstration of generosity and commitment to doing the work of Christ. Here again, I find myself overwhelmed by the love and generosity of my St. E's family, and also thanks-filled for all the blessings of my life.



Thanks be to God.

Seventh Annual Benefit Auction A Huge Success

Thanks

to the hard work of many people, the Benefit Auction held March 14 exceeded all expectations in money raised and fun had by all. We raised over \$16,000, the best results ever! The funds will go to support St. Elizabeth's youth outreach programs Appalachia Service Project and City Mission, the J2A Pilgrimage to Ghost Ranch, New Mexico this summer, MICAH, and Habitat for Humanity. Thank you to all of you who purchased items at the auction.

Highlights of the auction included:

- VIP tickets and parking to two sold out concerts procured by David Bertolino: Billy Joel and Elton John, and Country Fest starring Kenny Chesney. Thanks to David for all of his hard work on exciting items as well as publicity – those yellow signs were all over town.
- Signed baseball and football items that are priceless memorabilia.
- Vacation homes for all seasons generously shared and appreciated by those soon to enjoy their visits.
- Countless talents shared by the parish: gourmet meals, gourmet cookies, violin lessons, motorcycle rides, sea kayaking tours, baseball lessons and many more.
- A very strong J2A and YAC presence. The youth all put huge effort into organizing, setting up, cleaning up and donating a multitude of items for the auction, many involving their own sweat and energy in yard work and babysitting services. Their commitment and involvement was evident and appreciated by all of us.
- Strong support from the local community in the form of donations for the auction and willingness to display flyers and signs for our publicity. Please be sure to thank any of the merchants you come into contact with for their support.
- Pre-Auction purchases for those unable to free up their schedule on Auction night. We'll expand this next year and get earlier notice to you about available items so that you can still participate if you're unable to attend.

A BIG thanks to some special contributors:

- Graham Daley for overall organization and shepherding. She and her personal support staff spent many hours taking care of all of the details and making sure nothing fell between the cracks.
- J2A and YAC youth for all of their contributions, work at setting up and cleaning up, playing Vanna White, encouraging bidding, and making sure their parents knew which items they wanted to win.
- J2A and YAC parents for answering our calls for help and pitching in to work in all areas, including generously bidding on many items.
- Peg Scarlata for production of all of our materials, general organization and knowing that we'd need more help than we expected, and at the last minute.
- Lisa Kenney for managing auction donations and keeping us all on track, including at least 137 versions of an Excel tracking sheet.
- Pat Coffin for creating the Live Auction booklet, giving us a professional look and feel on auction night.
- J2A Leaders Amy Henry, Dave Mitchell and Craig Stafford for their energy and enthusiasm in motivating the J2A youth, gathering and donating auction items, cheerleading, and bringing friends and relatives to the auction!
- David Bertolino for procuring valuable donations of tickets and memorabilia – he pulled many rabbits out of his hat. David is also responsible for donating the multitude of bright yellow signs that so many helped to place around town, led by the sign placement queen, Linda Bertolino.
- Janice Darias for her creative thinking, experience from last year, coordinating all of the volunteer efforts, hard work in gathering donations and encouraging the YAC group's involvement.
- Karyn Grant for leading a team on publicity that helped to bring in non-parishioners to the auction.
- Lisa Barnes for organizing childcare to let parents concentrate on buying great items.
- Linda Bertolino and Beth White for organizing snacks.
- And last but not least, Barbara for her encouragement, support and tireless efforts.

Scenes from St. E's Work Days at the Sudbury H for H House March 21 and 28





March 28 Work Crew



ASP Alumni at the Sudbury Habitat for Humanity House

Miracle at the Miracle Soup Kitchen



A True Tale of Loaves and Fishes **By Pat Coffin**

March was my month as St. E's Miracle Soup Kitchen coordinator. It also marked my first solo stint, without the wisdom and experience of my Soup Kitchen mentors, Stevie, Ruth and Betsy. Fortunately, Harry was planning to be there, just a few days before his heart surgery.

Mine was one in a long line of announcements seeking volunteers the week of March 9th. I was looking for eight cooks and six volunteered, No problem; I was happy to make two. I was looking for servers, and three volunteered. Things were looking good. The only group we hadn't heard from was the Boy Scouts, who had signed up but not confirmed.

By Tuesday afternoon, two volunteers let me know they couldn't come after all. Family emergencies. No problem, we'd get by. I did hear that the Boy Scouts would be there after all, so no worries. Everything was falling into place nicely, as it always does. At four, I stopped by St. E's to pick up the casseroles, expecting six and finding four. Harry was there, and he offered to wait there until 5 for the last two. They did not appear. Once again, family and other unpredictable emergencies arose, circumstances beyond anyone's control.

When I arrived at the Soup Kitchen in downtown Framingham with the casseroles, frozen vegetables and cookies, I was asked to make a salad with leftover greens and other veggies that would otherwise go to waste. To my knowledge, this was the first time we've ever served salad. How did they know we were short on food?

Harry and Bob arrived to help, followed by 5 Boy Scouts (all first timers at the Miracle Kitchen) and two Dads, all eager to help. It took no time to get the rhythm of filling plates and serving. It all went like clockwork. And, of course, the scouts did most of the work! Best of all, no one went away hungry or even noticed the food shortage. Many complimented us on the food and the service. Most had seconds. All were thankful. At the end of the meal, we all had the sense that we could have fed hundreds more.



The Fellowship Committee will be organizing a trip to the Lowell Spinners game on Fathers Day, Sunday June 21st. We will leave the Church via bus at 12:00 noon arriving at the ball park at approximately 12:45 PM for the 1:30 PM game. We will board the bus immediately following the game and arrive back at the Church between 4:00 and 5:00 PM. Tickets are non-refundable and cost \$5.00 per person for the game and \$9.00 per person for the bus for a total per person cost of \$14.00. Food and beverages will be available at the ball park for an additional cost. This is a family activity. We have reserved 40 tickets for the game. To confirm your tickets please send a check made payable to St. Elizabeth's Church to Ray Considine 133 Annursnac Hill Road Concord MA 01742.



Kits for Kids

How do you keep your young children occupied during Church?

Crayons? Colorful Paper? Mini-Notebooks? Stickers?

Please help us put together "Kits for Kids." St. Elizabeth's would like to show families with young children - particularly newcomers and visitors - that their children are welcome at our service. We'd like to make available in the Narthex a small kit that a child can bring into the service. We would include in the kit an information card for the family to fill out. If you'd like to help with this fun project, please call Nancy Kimble at 978-443-5283 or e-mail nanconkim@comcast.net. Thanks!!



TRACES OF THE TRADE

A STORY FROM THE DEEP NORTH



This clear-headed film represents an intense and searing call for national dialogue... powerful is an inadequate word to describe its impact.

— Kirk Honeycutt
The Hollywood Reporter

Trinity Episcopal Church

81 Elm Street, Concord

will host a showing and guided conversation

Saturday, April 4, 2009, 2 to 5 pm

This PBS film traces the DeWolf family's journey confronting its history as the largest slave trading dynasty in the US. The film challenges viewers to examine their complicity in the long-term consequences of slavery.

Our facilitators are Dain Perry, a DeWolf family descendant, and his wife, Constance, who together have guided over one hundred such conversations nationwide.

A brief service of repentance will follow.

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 (johneliothoward@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 (johneliothoward@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.

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