

# The Mantle

St. Elizabeth's Episcopal Church Sudbury, Massachusetts January 2010



## AN ENDOWMENT FOR ST. ELIZABETH'S by Win Treese

**A**t the vestry meeting in December, the vestry approved the creation of a permanent endowment fund for St. Elizabeth's. Many parishioners have been interested in having an endowment available for donations as part of estate planning or other significant gifts. This idea has been around for a while, and we're excited to have reached this point of putting it in place. In this article, I'm going to outline the basic structure of the endowment. Before we put it into operation, we'd also like to invite any feedback on the details, as described below.

Some of you may remember a fund we had several years ago called the "endowment." In the way it was actually handled, it was more like a "rainy day fund," which is good to have, but it's not the same thing. The primary purpose of the permanent endowment fund is that the earnings from the fund are available to support the work of the church, but normally the assets of the endowment itself remain untouched.

The structure of the endowment is fairly straightforward, and the vestry is adopting several documents that guide the management of the endowment. These include guidelines for accepting gifts into the endowment, the designation of contributed gifts for certain purposes, some guidelines for

investing the assets, and how earnings from the endowment are distributed. The endowment will be overseen by a new board, which will be appointed by the vestry. The board is primarily responsible for the investment of the assets and the distribution of earnings.

The endowment will begin with three designated funds: Capital, Outreach & New Ministries, and a General Fund. These provide donors with some choices to designate the purpose of their gift while giving the vestry some flexibility in spending to meet the needs of the parish in the future. The Capital fund is also available for spending the principal, as a means of building up reserve funds for capital projects at the church over time.

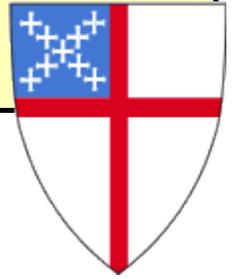
The details of these, as well as other aspects of the endowment, are spelled out in the documents being adopted by the vestry and (after it is created) the endowment board. Before we make the final decision on the documents, we would like to invite feedback from any interested parishioner. If you would like to review the documents, please get in touch with me by email at [treese@acm.org](mailto:treese@acm.org) or by phone at 508-276-1031. I'll be happy to send you a copy.

### Centering Prayer Group Forming

**Sylvia Sepulveda** and **Jonas Barciauskas** have started a Centering Prayer group which meets on a weekly basis at St. Elizabeth's. Centering Prayer is a form of silent meditation with deep historical roots in the Christian tradition currently practiced by people from across a spectrum of denominations. We will benefit from several local resources available to us for learning about the basics of its practice, including **Fr. William Sheehan** who has been involved in teaching centering prayer and leading retreats for over thirty years. He has offered to lead a series of introductory sessions beginning on Jan. 5th.

The Centering Prayer sessions are held on Tuesday evenings beginning at 7:30. Feel free to join us whenever your schedule permits. Contact Sylvia ([srsepulveda@mac.com](mailto:srsepulveda@mac.com)) or Jonas ([barciaus@bc.edu](mailto:barciaus@bc.edu)) for information. You can visit the Contemplative Outreach website for information about centering prayer: <http://www.contemplativeoutreach.org> There's a helpful 7 minute video on the site's About Us page.

# From Our Rector by The Rev. Barbara Williamson



**The week before** Christmas, Win Treese came across a book called "The Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts, 1784-1984" edited by M. J. Duffy. It includes a bit about the history of the whole diocese, along with a few pages on each of the parishes in the diocese, including St. Elizabeth's.

It is uncanny how the mission of St. Elizabeth's in its early years continues to be its mission now. From the get-go St. Elizabeth's has had at its center the Christian formation of children and youth. Regular Sunday services began on May 11, 1947, with 10 children in the church school. "Soon there were sixty youngsters..." claims George E. Wheatley who composed the article about St. Elizabeth's. The church school met in Whitehall (the big white house on Concord Road just south of the chapel), then owned by parishioner and warden, Arthur Howe.

With Mr. Howe's death in 1949, the church school needed to find a new place to meet. With money raised from family pledges, a loan from the Petticoat Lane Shop (the church run thrift store), and a loan from the diocese, a prefabricated structure was erected late that year just above the chapel parking lot and was dedicated to Mr. Howe and known as Howe Hall. Howe Hall was destroyed by termites and condemned in the mid-1990's, when it was razed to the ground.

St. Elizabeth's grew quickly. To become a self-sustaining parish by 1961, just fourteen years after its organization as a mission in 1947, is nothing short of remarkable. But then the 1950's were boon years for the church. St. Elizabeth's reflected the growth and prosperity of Sudbury.

Besides St. Elizabeth's early emphasis on Christian formation for children and youth there are other themes that continue to the present day.

Beginning with the shipment of clothing in 1950, to St. Stephen's Mission at Fort Yukon, Alaska, outreach has been a priority at St. Elizabeth's. At the time of the Soviet invasion of Hungary, parishioners housed a refugee family. Later, St. Elizabeth's joined forces with the Methodist Church to bring a Vietnamese family to Sudbury where they were housed in the Presbyterian rectory. You may recall that earlier this decade St. Elizabeth's along with Sudbury United Methodist Church and First Parish of Sudbury housed the Benabed family, political refugees from Algeria, in the rectory for 18 months.

St. Elizabeth's has a history of active lay involvement in pastoral care to the sick, the elderly and the homebound.

According to George Wheatley, "The women of St. Elizabeth's have been from the very beginning the backbone of the parish." He cites their many enterprises which brought money into the church as well as their leadership in the Altar Guild, the church school, the vestry, and prayer groups, all of which "has had a stabilizing effect on the parish as a whole."

The first country fair was held in June of 1948.

The Rev. Dr. William Wolf, the first priest to serve St. Elizabeth's, formed what is now known as the Sudbury Clergy Association. Then it was called the Sudbury Council of Churches and included lay as well as clerical members. Today the religious professionals in town will tell you that the Sudbury Clergy Association is the best ecumenical and interfaith group they have ever been a part of. St. Elizabeth's continues to be active in and supportive of cooperation among the churches and synagogues in Sudbury, including the STOP program, Habitat for Humanity, the Metrowest Free Medical Clinic, and up until recently, the Metropolitan Interfaith Congregations Acting for Hope (MICAH) a faith-based community organization.

A look back at the history of St. Elizabeth's helps us to know who we are and the longstanding themes that continue to influence what we do. Clearly we come by our priorities of formation, outreach, and ecumenical and interfaith work honestly.

Contact any vestry member or me if you would like to read the whole text of Wheatley's article on St. Elizabeth's.

*Barbara*

From Our  
Assistant  
Rector  
by The Rev. Valerie  
Bailey Fischer

**A**fter weeks of several family emergencies in the parish, I found that trouble had struck close to my home. A close family friend had taken sick about the time of the holidays and ended up in the hospital. We often visit this family during Thanksgiving, either for the primary meal or one of the family gatherings that would happen that weekend. We had not heard from them and when we were checking to see what was happening. And now we knew.

My husband and I were sad, fearing the worst, and hoping for the best. We visited the hospital and offered our prayers and support. Our friend made comments about how her rector had visited her in the hospital and she had gotten a lot of support from her church. Then they looked at me and I looked at her and we were silent. In that pregnant pause, the same thought crossed our minds, oh my. She's an Episcopalian. And so am I. I then said, "I can come visit with communion if you like."

We had known this family so long that she remembers me when I was a Presbyterian. So only in that moment did it occur to her that I could be there, not just as a family friend, but also as a priest, a person representing the church. In the midst of this crisis, a new dimension had opened up unexpectedly. We found that we could enter into that mystical zone together and break bread.

That would be nice, she said.

So, the next day, (taking some of the reserve sacrament from St. Elizabeth's recent service) I went to the hospital. Instead of casual clothing, I was in clerical clothing. I walked into our friend's hospital room. Her daughter was there, it was Sunday afternoon, and the daughter had not been to service either so she stayed to have communion with her mother and me.

I took off my coat and both of them drew their breaths in shock. I realized they had never seen me in a collar. It had just been casual clothes during all of those Thanksgiving dinners, the good music and stories. But coming in as a representative of the church changed the moment. The visit was so different from the day before with the first hospital visit. For on that Sunday, the present reality expanded beyond just a visit from friends to include all of our Thanksgivings and Christmases, as well as 2000 years of fellowship over the Eucharist. Our memories of Thanksgiving dinner morphed into the altar and our guests included Jesus and all the saints with us. The memories of good times and good food and good friends and our faith in Christ and our participation in breaking bread together created a spirit of love and peace that invaded the hospital room.

I had not always been so optimistic about hospital visits. I was in the hospital many years ago in seminary, and because of my cynical nature; I put "no clergy visitors" on my form. I had no real reason for doing this. I knew was going to recover, and my illness was not serious so I did not want to be a bother and ask for a pastoral visit. So that Christmas, I sat with my morphine pump and Fox news (the only option) weak tea and snow flurries, I thought I was being brave. My field education supervisor found out about my hospital form after I got out of the hospital. When I tried to explain my reasons, she rolled her eyes and said I was being silly.

I just did not want to bother anyone, I said.

She sighed. You don't know what you're missing, she said. Lots of clergy would have loved to make that visit. And, now, you just missed an opportunity. However, in retrospect, now I realize, I missed what could have been the best Christmas gift for us all, a chance to see peace on earth chase away the fears and sadness, for a few moments, in the midst of a holy gesture of the Eucharist, the gathering of friends at the extended table. From that time forward, that one missed opportunity fuels my desire to help others experience what my friend did for a few moments in the hospital, a moment of peace and fellowship with those present in her room, those in her parish and those saints through the ages.

Pastoral care visits are wonderfully subversive. In the midst of pain and fear, we bring the love we share at the altar of our parish and from the tables of our family gatherings. In the hospital, there is pain and suffering, but sometimes the peace often manages to shout louder. In these visits, we bring no promises except that we proclaim peace and love. And perhaps, that moment is enough to chase the shadows away.

*Valerie*

## Warden's

## Words

by Nancy Kimble,  
Co-Warden

The beginning of the New Year brings with it one of my favorite holidays. When I was growing up, my family always celebrated The Feast of the Epiphany on January 6<sup>th</sup>. We called it "Little Christmas" because it was a smaller, quieter celebration of Christ's birth, a holy day all but ignored by popular culture. The Epiphany – meaning to reveal or make known – commemorates God's act of revealing his son, Jesus, to the world with the visit of the three wise men. In our house, the three ceramic kings from our nativity set would navigate their way slowly around our living room for 12 days, arriving at the manger with their precious gifts on the morning of the Epiphany. To add to the excitement, "The Wise Men" would also bring a small gift to me and my four brothers and sisters – usually a pair of socks or mittens. But the size of the gift didn't matter at all. It was the excitement of seeing the kings and the gifts lined up in front of the manger that made the day special. I think celebrating The Feast of the Epiphany in this way helped us focus on the hope and promise of the Christmas season even after all the candy canes were eaten and the presents unwrapped. For 12 more days the tree stayed lit and the candles remained in the windows to light the way for the Wise Men, three kings who recognized the Savior of the World in the tiny innocence of the Christ Child. Today I continue to celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany with my own children. I hope that it will help them to shine a light not only on the birth of Jesus, but on the importance of welcoming Christ into our hearts

*Nancy*

## Vestry Notes by Win Treese, Co-Warden

The vestry had a packed agenda for December. It's the time of year when we consider the budget for the coming year. We reviewed the budget and the forecast for the end of 2009, and looked at the proposed budget for 2010. We're still waiting for the final stewardship campaign results, and our current plan is to keep expenses level in the coming year. Because the income plan is uncertain now, we will revisit the budget at the January meeting when it should be clearer. We'll also have a more detailed presentation and other information at the annual meeting and in the annual report.

We also spent some time discussing Bishop Shaw's November 29th decision about solemnizing same-gender marriages. There is an article in December's Mantle outlining the decision and inviting your feedback. The vestry's role in this matter is to advise Barbara. While the decision is Barbara's alone to make, she wants to be sure the congregation will stand behind the implications of the rainbow decal on our sign. Based on the very thoughtful discussion at the December meeting, the vestry is inclined to support solemnizing marriages for same-gender couples who meet the same requirements that Barbara applies to other marriages. However, given the timing of the Bishop's decision, we want to be sure parishioners have the opportunity to weigh in now after the holidays when there is more time to focus on such matters, so that we have an accurate reading of the mind of the congregation.

Recently we heard some feedback about the length of announcements at the 10 AM service. As described in another article, we're taking some steps to shorten the announcement time. Several vestry members wanted to make sure that we don't lose the vibrancy of hearing about what's going on, and we tried to craft the process to achieve that.

The vestry also adopted a plan to create a permanent endowment fund, which is also described in another article. The endowment won't be large for a while, but we expect that it will become an important part of the financial vitality of the parish in the future.

Finally, we approved a document retention policy for parish records as recommended by the finance committee, and began planning for the 2010 annual meeting, which will be held on February 7, 2010, after the 10 AM service.

*Win*

# Announcement Procedure Clarified

One of the signs that there's a lot going on at St. Elizabeth's is that we have quite a few announcements at the end of the service. Sometimes the announcements seem to go on forever, when we're all feeling ready for coffee hour (especially the younger children!). So we're going to try some things to streamline announcement time, and we need some help from everyone to make it effective.

First, for everyone: please read over what's in the bulletin, the Mantle, email messages, the web site, and the bulletin board in the parish hall, so that you don't miss finding out about things you want or need to know about. We communicate in many ways, and we don't want anyone to miss out on the information.

For those who want to make an announcement, here's the procedure:

- First, if it's appropriate, try to make sure it makes into both the Mantle (monthly) and the bulletin (weekly). The Mantle deadline is around the 21st of the month, and it's good to have items for the bulletin to Peg by Monday.
- Second, If you want to call attention to an item in the bulletin, talk to the VPOD before the service about doing that, rather than getting up yourself. If it wasn't in the bulletin, you can ask the VPOD to make a short announcement--writing it out makes it easy for everyone. Finally, tell the VPOD about what you need to announce and work out the best way to do it. Sometimes the best announcement really is a new announcement. We don't want to squash important announcements, but if a quick word from the VPOD can get your message across, please take advantage of that.

With everyone's help--both announcer and listeners--we can shorten the announcement time and still make sure we all find out about the great things going on at St. Elizabeth's!



## St. E's Bell Ringers Aid Miracle Kitchen

On Saturday, December 19, St. E's bell ringers Bonnie Powell, Bonnie Power, Peter Weiler, Betsy & Dave Wallingford, and Mary & Harry Ainsworth manned The Salvation Army's kettle at Shaw's Market in Sudbury from 9:00 AM until 3:00 PM. A total of \$498.33 was collected which goes specifically into their Miracle Kitchen fund. The area's kettles collected a total of \$4,840.05 that day. "Many thanks" to the bell ringers and those of you who donated and stopped to chat!

St. E's  
Annual Meeting  
Sunday, February 7

## The Top Ten Reasons to Come to St. E's Annual Meeting

10. Find out about all the activities going on at St. Elizabeth's
9. Free lunch for the kids (and you, too)!
8. See and talk to all the church leaders in one place
7. Finish off your Spot-the-Vestry-Person-of-the-Day bingo card
6. Find out who all those vestry people are
5. Two words: Delicious Quiche!
4. Ask "what's a vestry, anyway?"
3. Budget pie charts!
2. Tell us what you think about what's going on at St. Elizabeth's
1. It only happens once a year!

The St. Elizabeth's Annual Meeting for 2010 will be held after church on Sunday, February 7. We'll elect new vestry members, look back at all that has happened in 2009, and look ahead to 2010. This year we're planning something different: part of the meeting will be an open forum with the vestry for questions and discussion. A light lunch and child care will be provided. We look forward to seeing you there!

# JANUARY 2010

| Sunday   | Monday  | Tuesday   | Wednesday  | Thursday   | Friday  | Saturday   |
|--|---|---|--|--|---|--|
| <b>27</b><br><b>NO COGS, Rite 13, J2A, YACS</b><br><b>8:00 AM</b> Holy Eucharist II - Church<br><b>10:00 AM</b> Holy Eucharist II - Lessons & Carols - Church<br><b>11:10 AM</b> Youth Choir Rehearsal (10 Minutes after end of second Service)  | <b>28</b><br>Bible Study Cancelled<br><b>7:30 PM - 9:00 PM</b> Centering Prayer Group (YG Room)                                       | <b>29</b><br>Bible Study Cancelled<br><b>7:30 PM - 9:00 PM</b> Centering Prayer Group (YG Room)   | <b>30</b><br><b>10:00 AM</b> TAI CHI (PH)  | <b>31</b><br>Healing Ministry Cancelled  | <b>1</b><br>New Year Day (Office Closed)                | <b>2</b>   |
| <b>3</b><br><b>8:00 AM</b> Holy Eucharist II - Church<br><b>9:45 AM</b> Church School (COGS, Rite 13, J2A [MPRJ, YACS])<br><b>10:00 AM</b> Holy Eucharist II - Church (Laying on of hands for healing)<br><b>11:10 AM</b> Youth Choir Rehearsal (10 Minutes after end of second Service)<br><b>11:15 AM</b> J2A Leadership Meeting (MPR) | <b>4</b>  | <b>5</b><br><b>10:00 AM - 11:00 AM</b> Bible Study (CNF)<br><b>7:30 PM - 9:00 PM</b> Centering Prayer Group (YG Room)   | <b>6</b><br><b>10:00 AM</b> TAI CHI (PH)<br><b>6:45 PM - 8:15 PM</b> STOP (Congregation Beth El)   | <b>7</b><br><b>2:15 PM - 3:30 PM</b> Healing Ministry (CNF)<br><b>7:00 PM</b> Choir Rehearsal (MPR)  | <b>8</b><br><b>3:30 PM - 5:30 PM</b> Troop #72487 (MPR) | <b>9</b><br><b>Annual Reports Due</b>                |
| <b>10</b><br><b>8:00 AM</b> Holy Eucharist II - Church<br><b>9:45 AM</b> Church School (COGS, Rite 13, J2A [MPRJ, YACS])<br><b>10:00 AM</b> Holy Eucharist II - Church<br><b>11:10 AM</b> Youth Choir Rehearsal (10 Minutes after end of second Service)   | <b>11</b><br><b>2:30 PM - 5:30 PM</b> Troops #7135, 2484, 7149 (PH & MPR)<br><b>6:30 PM - 9:30 PM</b> Girl Scout Leaders Meeting (PH) | <b>12</b><br><b>10:00 AM - 11:00 AM</b> Bible Study (CNF)<br><b>6:00 PM</b> <u>Miracle Kitchen</u><br><b>7:30 PM - 9:00 PM</b> Centering Prayer Group (YG Room)       | <b>13</b><br><b>10:00 AM</b> Staff Meeting (CNF)<br><b>10:00 AM</b> TAI CHI (PH)<br><b>12:45 PM - 3:00 PM</b> Troop #72440 (MPR)<br><b>6:45 PM - 8:15 PM</b> STOP (Our Lady of Fatima) | <b>14</b><br><b>2:15 PM - 3:30 PM</b> Healing Ministry (CNF)<br><b>7:00 PM</b> Choir Rehearsal (MPR)<br><b>7:00 PM</b> Cogs Committee Meeting (YAC RM)                         | <b>15</b>   | <b>16</b><br><b>9:00 AM</b> Men's Group (St. John's) |
| <b>17</b><br>No COGS<br><b>NO COGS, Rite 13, J2A, YACS</b><br><b>8:00 AM</b> Holy Eucharist II - Church<br><b>10:00 AM</b> Holy Eucharist II - Church<br><b>11:10 AM</b> Youth Choir Rehearsal (10 Minutes after end of second Service)  | <b>18</b><br>MLK Holiday (Office Closed)  | <b>19</b><br><b>10:00 AM - 11:00 AM</b> Bible Study (CNF)<br><b>7:30 PM - 9:00 PM</b> Centering Prayer Group (YG Room)  | <b>20</b><br><b>10:00 AM</b> Staff Meeting (CNF)<br><b>10:00 AM</b> TAI CHI (PH)<br><b>6:45 PM - 8:15 PM</b> STOP (Islamic Center of Boston)   | <b>21</b><br><b>2:15 PM - 3:30 PM</b> Healing Ministry (CNF)<br><b>7:00 PM</b> Choir Rehearsal (MPR)   | <b>22</b><br>Winter Weekend                             | <b>23</b><br>Winter Weekend                          |
| <b>24</b><br><b>Mantle Deadline</b><br><b>8:00 AM</b> Holy Eucharist II - Church<br><b>9:45 AM</b> Church School (COGS, Rite 13, J2A [MPRJ, YACS])<br><b>10:00 AM</b> Holy Eucharist II - Church<br><b>11:10 AM</b> Youth Choir Rehearsal (10 Minutes after end of second Service)   | <b>25</b><br><b>11:00 AM</b> Staff Meeting (CNF)<br><b>6:50 PM</b> Vestry Mtg (MPR)   | <b>26</b><br><b>10:00 AM - 11:00 AM</b> Bible Study (CNF)<br><b>7:30 PM - 9:00 PM</b> Deanery Lunch (PH)<br><b>7:30 PM - 9:00 PM</b> Centering Prayer Group (YG Room) | <b>27</b><br><b>10:00 AM</b> TAI CHI (PH)  | <b>28</b><br><b>2:15 PM - 3:30 PM</b> Healing Ministry (CNF)<br><b>7:00 PM</b> Choir Rehearsal (MPR)   | <b>29</b>   | <b>30</b>  |
| <b>31</b><br><b>9:45 AM</b> Church School (COGS, Rite 13, J2A [MPRJ, YACS])<br><b>10:00 AM</b> Holy Eucharist II - Church<br><b>11:10 AM</b> Youth Choir Rehearsal (10 Minutes after end of second Service)  | <b>1</b><br><b>11:00 AM</b> Staff Meeting (CNF)   | <b>2</b><br><b>10:00 AM - 11:00 AM</b> Bible Study (CNF)<br><b>7:30 PM - 9:00 PM</b> Centering Prayer Group (YG Room)   | <b>3</b><br><b>10:00 AM</b> TAI CHI (PH)<br><b>3:00 PM - 5:30 PM</b> Troop #7135 (PH)<br><b>6:45 PM - 8:15 PM</b> STOP (First Parish of Sudbury Unitarian Universalist)                | <b>4</b><br><b>2:15 PM - 3:30 PM</b> Healing Ministry (CNF)<br><b>7:00 PM</b> Choir Rehearsal (MPR)<br><b>8:00 PM - 10:00 PM</b> <u>Women's Winter Social (Sky Restaurant)</u> | <b>5</b>  | <b>6</b>   |

|  | January 3<br>2nd Sunday after<br>Christmas        | January 10<br>1st Sunday after the<br>Epiphany          | January 17<br>2nd Sunday after the<br>Epiphany<br>(Family Friendly) | January 24<br>3rd Sunday after the<br>Epiphany   | January 31<br>4th Sunday after the<br>Epiphany |
|--|---|---|---|--|--|
| Miracle Kitchen<br>Coordinator:<br>TBA<br>Kitchen Angels:<br>TBA | 8 AM H. Ainsworth<br>10 AM S. Newlin<br>A. Newton | 8 AM J. Brackett<br>10 AM B. Wallingford<br>S. Hamilton | 8 AM Peter Gonze<br>10 AM C. Dicker<br>S. Davies                    | 8 AM P. Gonze<br>10 AM H. Ainsworth<br>A. Newton | 8 AM TBA<br>10 AM J. Peters<br>S. Hamilton     |
| Euch. Min.   | K. Grant/<br>J. Howard                            | R. Grant/<br>C. Perry<br>TBA                            | Not Required  | C. Card/<br>J. Holdman                           | J. Howard/<br>K. Grant                         |
| Breadbearer &<br>Third Station                                   | J. Barciauskas                                    | J. Graham   | Not Required  | L. Stewart                                       | B. Torgerson                                   |
| Lector   | Elizabeth Dewey                                   | Adam Howard   | John Kodera   | Hannah Knaul                                     | TBA  |
| Acolyte  | W. Treese   | K. Grant  | A. Huston   | S. Kenney  | N. Kimble                                      |
| Vestry Person of<br>the Day                                      | J. Romain<br>P. Coffin                            | L. Jobson<br>S. Newlin                                  | M. Perisho<br>J. Perisho  | J. Barciauskas<br>P. Coffin                      | T. Rourke<br>R. Considine                      |
| Ushers   | 8 AM Terry Rourke<br>10 AM Terry Rourke           | 8 AM Ruth Griesel<br>10 AM Ruth Griesel                 | 8 AM Ruth Griesel<br>10 AM Ruth Griesel                             | 8 AM Terry Rourke<br>10 AM Terry Rourke          | 8 AM Ruth Griesel<br>10 AM Ruth Griesel        |
| Altar Guild  | Addie Krebs                                       | Betsy Wallingford                                       | Angela Crocker  | Gretchen Meeks                                   | Jeremy Perisho                                 |
| Coffee Server  |   |   |   |  |  |

# News from the Atriums by Donna Holdman

The Level III Atrium is full of children who are ready to study, discuss, and reflect during the Advent season. We have talked about the time of Advent as a time for waiting and a time for reconciliation for Christians. On a particular Sunday before Christmas, the Level III catechists were particularly amazed at the depth of discussion that started with the question: "What is reconciliation?" None of the children responded immediately with a definition. Most of them had heard the word but did not know its meaning. Within several minutes of lively discussion (without adult assistance), they came up with the notion that reconciliation means to reconsider. They surmised that when you are reconciling, you are reconsidering the way you do things, reconsidering the way you behave, reconsidering the way you talk to others. You may even reconsider the way you think about certain things.

A great parable to read during advent is the Parable of the Rich Fool (Luke 12:16-24). The children, as always, were asked to read the parable looking for clues to a deeper meaning. The rich fool is a man who stores all of his harvest in 3 barns. He only keeps his food for himself. He

decides that he must tear down the 3 barns and build bigger barns to store all of his belongings. When God calls for his soul, he still has not shared, for his goal was to get everything into storage so that he could eat, drink, and be merry. In the end, he has done nothing to express his richness toward God.

Our reflection questions included: Does the rich man ever give thanks for what he has? How does this parable remind us of what is important in life? What does this parable remind us about how we spend our time? Can we get by without collecting so much? Can children get by without having every item in a collection of toys? When is it a good time to give away some of your things? Could we spend more time sharing what we have and not holding onto the things we don't use?

Please ask your Level III child about the importance of reconciliation.

*Donna Holdman*

We have had a wonderful fall season in the Level II Atrium. Our walls are bursting with children! The deep sense of faith, enthusiasm and curiosity that the children bring to the atrium each week is truly amazing and we catechists feel blessed to be a part of it.

Our year began with a focus on Salvation History. We took the Fettucia ribbon outside to provide the children with a sensorial impression of the vastness of the history of Salvation, highlighting the moments of Creation, Redemption and Parousia. One child wondered about his place in God's history and another child wondered what Parousia will be like. We saw how the Bible can be used as a reference source for sacred history. We spent a few weeks working with the books of the Bible. We used our wooden Bible cabinet with its collection of individual books to explore how the Bible is set up and categorized. We then studied the geography of biblical stories using our pin maps of the Holy Land. We located many of the cities, mountains and bodies of water that played a significant part in Jesus' life. By mid November we were working on the gestures of Epiclesis and the Doxology, which brought us into Advent. During Advent we looked at the prophecy of the Hills and Valleys and the prophecy of the Peaceable Kingdom. Last but not least, we looked forward to celebrating the birth of Jesus!

So as you can see it was a very busy fall. We appreciate each and every volunteer we have had in the atrium. Your help allows us to work with the children in small groups which helps not only with group dynamics but gives us the opportunity to tailor the presentations to the group of children we are working with.

The Level II Catechists  
*Chris Howard*  
*Kihm Sanders*  
*Beth Santomenna*  
*Katie Walker*

# Volunteer Opportunities in COGS



## Help Needed January-June 2010

As many of you know, our wonderful COGS program can only take shape each year with the work of many parishioners helping us to do many jobs. We have consolidated our list of needs and thought we'd highlight those volunteer positions which need to be filled.

### In the immediate future, we need help with the following:

**BURY THE ALLELUIAS**-(1 or 2 volunteers) Print alleluia cards for children to decorate, arrange to have the cards buried in a can at the beginning of Lent and unearthed on the evening before Easter.

**MITE BOXES**- (1 or 2 volunteers) check in COGS resource room to see if there are enough Mite Boxes for the parish, coordinate distribution to St. E's children, arrange for collection of boxes at Easter, and arrange for donation to be made to the Episcopal Relief Development Fund.

**LITURGY OF LIGHT**-(1, 2, or 3 volunteers) Coordinate material preparation for this event, rehearse with children, and coordinate service for families which occurs on the eve of Easter.

### Ongoing volunteer needs are:

**MATERIALS HELPER**—(up to 6 volunteers needed) can be done on your own time or we may decide to work in a group to repair or make materials, laminate, or organize items for each atrium.

**FRESH FLOWER ANGELS**—(1 or 2 volunteers) watching the COGS calendar, find families to bring in fresh flowers for the prayer tables in the 3 atrium classrooms.

**RESOURCE ROOM ANGELS**— (1 or 2 volunteers) maintain order in the COGS resource room, paying attention to items needing to be repaired or purchased when supplies are low.

Please contact Donna Holdman at [drholdman@verizon.net](mailto:drholdman@verizon.net) if you are able to help us in any way.

## Men's Group meeting on January 16 at St. E's

The next meeting of the Men's Group will be on January 16 from 9–10:30 at St. Elizabeth's. Our sessions provide a great opportunity to share stories and reflections about our church life with a group of supportive men. If you have ideas for topics of discussion, please contact Jonas Barciauskas ([barciaus@bc.edu](mailto:barciaus@bc.edu)) or Walter Morgan ([walter.morgan@fiserv.com](mailto:walter.morgan@fiserv.com)) with your thoughts.



St. E's / St. J's  
Men's Group

In order that we can plan food and other material appropriately, please let Jonas or Walter know that you are coming.



## More Kitchen Angels Needed!

Our kitchen angels do a wonderful job of maintaining order in the kitchen, especially keeping the refrigerator clean. We could use a few more angels to share the load. Please consider joining this ministry, it only requires being assigned once or twice a year. If you are interested please contact Betsy Wallingford at 978-443-2579 or [twallingfo@aol.com](mailto:twallingfo@aol.com).



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

*Happy Birthday to YOU!*

### **The Mitchells are on the Move!**

We will be spending the next two years in sunny Florida.

Our new address is:  
Dave, Kristine, Nicole and Kyle Mitchell  
2920 Columbus Blvd.  
Coral Gables, FL 33134

email: [knkmitch@gmail.com](mailto:knkmitch@gmail.com)



Save the Date!  
St. Elizabeth's Spring Auction  
Saturday March 20, 2010  
5:00 pm – 7:30 pm

The Auction will Benefit:  
Appalachian Service Project (ASP)  
City Mission in Boston  
J2A Pilgrimage in 2011

The spring auction is the key fundraiser for all of our youth programs, and we count on EVERYONE in the parish to help in some way. The proceeds from the auction support the activities that help our youth grow into young adults and help to make us the strong church that we are. Please begin thinking about items or services that you could donate for this fundraising event. Some ideas that have been high producers in the past are vacation homes, events such as dinners cooked in the home, guided walks or canoeing trips, custom art or photography, visits to interesting workplaces, sport tickets, celebrity connections, hand made crafts and sought after items you might be able to purchase at an employee discount and then donate. Our children and youth will be contributing many items for sale as well.

Ask your favorite merchants or service providers now for donations; we'll happily supply a letter for you to give to them to tell them about how the proceeds will be used.

**Most importantly, please plan on attending the Auction on March 20th and bring your friends and neighbors, along with your checkbook!!**

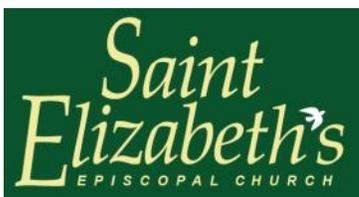
We'll need lots of volunteers to help with collecting donations from local merchants, creating baskets of goodies for the silent auction and helping with the event itself. If you're looking for a fun and not too time consuming activity to get you through the winter with a smile on your face, please contact Karyn Grant ([karyngrant@comcast.net](mailto:karyngrant@comcast.net) or 978.443.3098) or Janice Darias ([jjdarias@comcast.net](mailto:jjdarias@comcast.net) or 978-579-9962) and we'll be delighted for your help!



The **Appalachia Service Project** mission trip next summer will begin July 17<sup>th</sup> and end July 25<sup>th</sup>. At this time we have 19 high school youth, 1 young adult leader, and 8 adult leaders (5 men and 3 women) planning to go. We need one more adult woman. Trip preparation will occur over 6 Sundays and (ideally) an overnight at the Barbara Harris camp for tool training. Our first ASP prep session was held on December 6<sup>th</sup> and the next one will be in early January 2010.

Please contact Eric Kimble ([erickimble@comcast.net](mailto:erickimble@comcast.net)) or Barbara if you know of a high school-age youth interested in attending.

Welcome  
2010!



One Morse Rd., Sudbury, MA 01776 978-443-6035

The Rev. Barbara S. Williamson, Rector  
barbara\_williamson@st-elizabeths.org

The Rev. Valerie Bailey Fischer, Assistant Rector  
valerie\_bailey@st-elizabeths.org

Win Treese & Nancy Kimble, Co-Wardens  
wardens@st-elizabeths.org

Mary Sue Willie, Director of Music  
musicdirector@st-elizabeths.org

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

Dick Vanderlippe, Database & Comm. Coordinator  
rvanderlippe@st-elizabeths.org

Pat Coffin, Mantle Editor  
Submit articles to mantle@st-elizabeths.org

[www.st-elizabeths.org](http://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.*