

The Mantle



St. Elizabeth's Episcopal Church Sudbury, Massachusetts

February 2012

Top Ten Reasons to go to

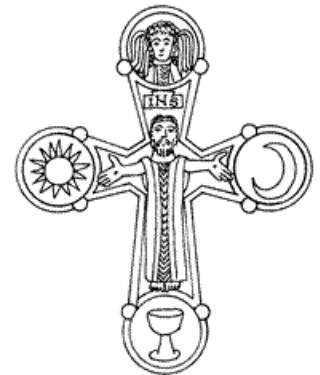


**Sunday, February 5th
Following the 10 am Service**

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. Bid Barbara farewell on her sabbatical
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 Meaning of the Cross

Feb 29, Mar 7, 14, 21, and 28
Dinner at 6:30 pm, Course from 7:30 to 9:00 pm
St. E's Parish Hall

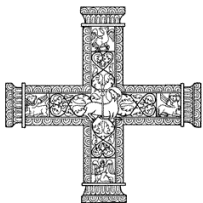


Why did it take Christians 500 years to finally portray Christ on the cross?
How did the crucifixion get associated with the Eucharist?
Why did crucifixes get more and more awful looking in the Middle Ages?
Why wasn't Jesus portrayed as dead on the cross until 700 years after it happened?
Why do Roman Catholics have crucifixes and Protestant churches have plain crosses?

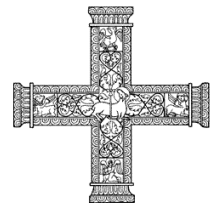
If the idea of Christ dying on the cross makes you wonder what in the world was God thinking when he decided this was the way to save us, this course is for you.

Each week we will explore a different way of looking at the cross. Roughly tracing the history of the cross's significance, the course will show how its meaning changed over time, and how those changes can help us today to understand what the cross means for each of us.

The course will use a variety of media, including art, music and poetry in its exploration. Discussion will be an integral part of what goes on. Older children are welcome and can provide some surprising insights.



Feb 29: The Cross as the Glory of God
Mar 7: The Cross as the Victory of the Lamb
March 14: The Cross as the Death of Christ
March 21: The Cross and Suffering
March 28: The Cross in the Age of Reason and the Holocaust



This course is open to all. A simple dinner of soup & salad will be served at 6.45 pm prior to the presentation at 7.30 pm. The cost of dinner and course is \$10 per person per week (family maximum of \$20). To attend just the course at 7.30pm, the cost is \$5 (family maximum of \$10). To sign up, call or email Chris Visminas at 508-820-7335 / cevisminas@juno.com. Checks should be made out to St Elizabeth's, with "Lent course" in the memo line.



From Our Rector

by The Rev. Barbara Williamson

At the Vestry meeting time of spiritual formation, we read the passage known as the "Christ hymn" from the Letter of Paul to the Philippians (2:1-11). The Philippians were precious to Paul for their support of him and his ministry. In his absence, he yearned for their well-being. He wanted so much for them to be of one mind in Christ Jesus, to watch out for each other, and in all humility to serve the greater good of the whole community. Similarly, the people of St. Elizabeth's are precious to me, and in my absence, I will yearn for your well-being. I, too, will want you to be of the same mind in Christ Jesus. The relevant text from the Letter to the Philippians follows:

²If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, ²make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. ⁵Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, ⁷ but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness.

Paul uses the phrase "the same mind" twice and "one mind" once in five verses. Clearly this was a point he wanted to make. We are not talking here about walking in lockstep or about the "hive mind" of the Borg collective from Star Trek. As John McNeill pointed out in the Vestry meeting after a particularly lively debate, to be of one mind in Christ Jesus is less about consensus of opinion. Rather it is to be united in a spirit of love and concern for the common good. Paul urges the congregation at Philippi to "do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves," and further exhorts them: "Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others" (2:3-4).

Paul then introduces the Christ hymn by saying, "Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus" (2:5). The phrase "in you" is plural (*en humin*), and perhaps better translated "among you." Paul envisions the life of the community being formed by the mind of Christ -- by a spirit of humility and loving service to one another rather than competition and grasping for power and control.

While I am gone it will be more important than ever for the leadership and members of the congregation to take care of one another and to serve the common good. The Rev. Gale Davis Morris will be working full time in my absence, but she will not be able to learn all your names let alone your stories in 15 weeks. She will depend upon you along with the Eucharistic Visitors to take up the mantle of pastoral care and to let her know of situations that need her priestly attention. Often the only way I know about a pastoral need is when someone else tells me. That will be even truer for her.

The congregation of St. Elizabeth's functions at a high level and I expect everything will hum along while I am gone. Still there may be the occasional hiccup. Be patient with one another and with the staff. Worship will be different with Gale as the Celebrant. Give her the benefit of the doubt. If you see something that needs doing, feel free to ask about it, and assuming it is appropriate, do it. Support Nancy Morgan and Win Treese, who as wardens will be in charge and who will carry the heaviest load. Keep them in your prayers and ask them how you can help. And finally, pray for me as I pray for you. I will miss you terribly and look forward to a happy homecoming.

Love in Christ,
Barbara

From Our Interim Priest

by The Rev. Gale Davis Morris



Greetings!

I am really looking forward to being among you while Barbara is on sabbatical! I have met with a few folks. I have attended staff meeting with Barbara, Peg, and Mary Sue. I have helped Mary Sue and Chris Visminas plan liturgies for Lent and Easter. I have been to a couple of Barbara's meetings with the wardens, all as I try to learn "the ropes". I look forward to hearing your stories and getting to know you, to worshipping and praying with you, learning with you, laughing and singing with you and I am delighted to be able to share Lent and Easter with you! I expect to have a wonderful time among wonderful people. I am in awe of all that goes on at and in the name of St. Elizabeth's and the number of creative, important and life giving ministries you together have that serve the world and each other so faithfully. I look forward to sharing those with you and being among you as you serve.

One of the things I would like to offer is an opportunity to "imagine and create" with me. I am wondering if there is a group of people who would like to meet with me to create what I would describe as a "Visual Haiku." What I envision is an artistic (or creative or arranged or in some way tangible) expression in the sanctuary each week during Lent that expresses the Gospel lesson for the week. It is my experience that when a group of folks get together and prayerfully imagine, wonderful things are conceived and created, things which one person could not possibly have thought of alone. Such creativity is one of the gifts of

living and being in a faith community and I hope that some of you would like to experience this creativity with me. If you would, please let me know (interimgale@aol.com or 978-828-6977), and we will set a time to meet. I expect that it will be during the first week that I am at St. Elizabeth's February 12-17.

Another thing I am going to offer is the opportunity for sermon feedback each Sunday during Lent. We will get a cup of coffee and then meet in the multi-purpose room and talk about what you heard, the questions or disagreements with or insights you might have about what I have said, or that you heard in the lessons that were not expressed or who knows? We will let the conversation, under the direction of the Spirit, lead us where it will!

I know there will be other things that come up that I will be able to bring and to offer, but from the vantage point of this learning curve that I am on as I try to get a handle on all that you are and do, that is the beginning. I know you join me in wishing Barbara and Peter a very blessed, refreshing, life filled, holy Sabbatical time, with a true sense of being renewed. Together we can give them that, just as we can give them a rousing welcome home when they return!

With much gratitude for your welcome and kindness,
Gale+

Safe Church Policy at St. Elizabeth's Church

All volunteers working with infants, children, adolescents, and young adults are required to complete either an online or group Safe Church training certified by the Diocese of Massachusetts. In addition volunteers working with at risk adult parishioners are also required to be trained and certified. Online training is available, at no cost, to all volunteers at St. Elizabeth's. If you have not received a letter with the web address and

Vestry Notes

by Stuart Hamilton, Co-Warden



At our January 23 meeting, Barbara asked us to spend most of our formation time reflecting on our hopes for and concerns about her sabbatical. Barbara spoke of a sense of personal loss over what she will miss while she is gone. The concerns that we expressed as we went around the table had less to do with the day-to-day affairs of the church and the worship services. These things will be different in Barbara's absence, but we are well prepared for them. The bigger concerns were for parishioners who have pastoral needs – whether new or ongoing – but who may be reluctant to try to develop a new relationship with Gale. It was easier to express our hopes for Barbara's sabbatical, namely that she take care of herself and her family as she seeks personal and spiritual renewal.

In the Rector's report, Barbara addressed two main topics:

The emergency response team is making great progress. This team is looking at the logistics and the issues involved with making the church a hospitable haven for parishioners during times of emergency, such as the August hurricane and the October snowstorm. We cannot be an official emergency shelter because we do not have a generator, showers or cots. So we are looking to start small by developing protocols for such items as checking in and out of the building, charging electronics, and the use of the kitchen. We are also working through such fundamental questions as how do we determine that the building is accessible and has power, and how do we communicate the availability of the building to those who do not have power themselves. Barbara commented that there is a long way to go, but that we are off to a great start.

Barbara is wrapping up loose ends prior to her departure. There are still some adult slots that need to be filled for the ASP trip this summer and there are some open items on the spring auction and the parish retreat in August. But liturgy plans have been completed with Gale through Easter at least, and Gale and Peg are up to date on everything.

In the Wardens' Report, Nancy led a discussion on the upcoming parish project that we will undertake while Barbara is away. In earlier discussions with the Vestry, we had been focusing on a topic of what our dreams are for St. Elizabeth's. In subsequent discussions with John Stevens, who has graciously volunteered to assist us, we were concerned that this topic was too broad for the timeframe in which we wanted to complete the project. Nancy and I suggested that we focus instead on the narrower topic of adult education and formation, including the development of increased opportunities for adult service projects and cross-generational projects. A good discussion followed on whether we had perhaps focused our project too narrowly. The consensus that seemed to emerge was that this was, in fact, a worthwhile project, but should be viewed as one of a series of ongoing projects that we should be undertaking, and that we shouldn't necessarily feel limited by artificial time constraints to complete them.

Larry Jobson then joined us for an update on the Outreach Committee. Larry reported briefly on some of the highlights for 2011, including the development of serving teams for the Miracle Kitchen, which greatly increased the number of parishioners who were involved with that project, and the Global Harvest project, in which St. E's established a relationship with Heifer International. Larry reported that the main concerns for 2012 focused mostly on continuing to develop leaders for the core programs and to develop better coordination and communication on the various projects.

In the Building & Grounds report, Ian Springsteel presented two bids for the replacement of the circulating pumps in the heating system. The Vestry approved the project, subject to obtaining a partial rebate on the cost of the pumps from N-Star. Electricity savings are likely to be in the range of \$1,000 per year. Ian also reported that the upstairs shower in the Rectory is leaking. The Vestry approved funds for emergency repairs.

Darlene Murphy then held the floor for the rest of the meeting. She first submitted the Treasurer's report and financial statements for November. After a brief discussion, we moved on to the Treasurer's report and financial statements for December, which contain the numbers that will be presented at the Annual Meeting. Some last minute changes are being made to the budget to reflect the spending for the capital projects discussed above and for the receipt of a last minute significant pledge. Subject to some small revisions, we finished 2011 ahead of budget. Thank you all for your support!!

It was a long but productive meeting. We adjourned the meeting with a prayer at about 9:45.

Stuart

Warden's Words by Nancy Morgan, Co-Warden



“Go Now in Peace, Go Now in Peace may the love of God Surround you ...everywhere. “

This was the closing song the Winter Weekend Crew sang as we concluded our service last weekend. The vibrant chorus of voices was joyous and uplifting as we sang this song in a round. Walter and I have been going on the Winter Weekend for about 17 years. This year had to be one of the best weekends we have shared with the St. E's community. Perhaps it was special because we had the opportunity to get to know five or six families that we see each Sunday in passing but have not had the chance to truly engage. There was a spirit of camaraderie I have not felt before. I left on Sunday wishing the weekend had been longer and thinking of other ways the parish can engage intergenerational time together.

In preparation for Barbara's departure the Vestry has been talking about the Parish Project we will be working on in her absence. At our Vestry meeting on Monday night our time of reflection included a scripture reading from Paul to the Philippians 2:1-11. "Make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing for selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard other as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to

your own interests, but to the interests of other. LET THE SAME MIND BE IN YOU THAT WAS IN CHRIST JESUS." Wow - that is a powerful challenge and almost impossible task especially with so many different opinions of what is important. The vestry's discussion was hearty and honest but open to listening to one another. We end each meeting with a time for meeting evaluation. One of the members shared this scripture again and concluded that even though we all have our own opinion, we are working together to fulfill Paul's challenge to be of like mind.

Reflecting on this weekend and Monday's Vestry Meeting I am inspired and encouraged. I have no doubt we will miss Barbara's presence. The good news is we have a greater bond that keeps us together. This will be a time of reflection for not only Barbara but for St. E's.

Barbara *“Go Now in Peace, Go Now in Peace, may the love of God Surround you everywhere”*

Nancy



Blessings on your special day!

Joanne Deshmuk, Gerald Cubelli, Jennifer Vesey, Lisa Ventre, Marc Bacon, Francesca Grossetti, Grace Comer, Dan Mullen, Anna Cass, Susan Herel, Liz Morgan, Ben Sugg, Andy Reinhard, Nicola Bacon, Ann Brackett, Phoebe Colket, Alicia Wagner, Karl Von Goeler, Bill Smith, Jill Fishel, Andrew Kenney, Brooke Robak, Dick Bell, Bob Torgerson, Chase Reinhard, Ryan Kenney, Stephen Hotchkin, Betsy Wallingford, Barbara Bell, Robert Kornblum, Thomas Small, Kiersten Varner, Sarah Romain, Jack Romain, Katherine Varner, and Isabella Varner



From the Organ Bench

by Mary Sue Willie,

Director of Music

Barbara is going on sabbatical and we shall miss her fiercely! However, I am delighted to tell you that Gale Davis Morris, our sabbatical priest, has been meeting with Chris Visminas and me several times now as we plan liturgy and music from Sunday, February 12 through Pentecost Sunday and she is great fun to work with; full of ideas and creative suggestions. I am sure that you will enjoy her presence, preaching and sermon talk-backs following the 10 o'clock service.

Our plans for the season of Lent include a service booklet like the one created for our congregation to use during Advent. The theme for this season is "Carrying Your Cross". We will be singing one verse each week of the hymn "Take up your cross" (# 675) as our hymn of praise. The Sanctus will come from WLP # 852, a simple setting familiar to many.

Start preparing your presentation at the Annual Talent Show on Tuesday, February 21st. This follows the Annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper that begins at 5:30 pm with the Talent Show starting at 7:00 pm. The Youth Choir will be singing selections from the Muppet Show to begin and end the evening. We know that there are many talented members of St. E's with heretofore hidden abilities. The performances are suggested to be 3 - 5 minutes to allow as many people as possible a chance to sing, dance, play an instrument, juggle, demonstrate yoga or magic tricks or perform in a skit. Please let Mary Sue know what you plan to do, with titles and names of performers and approximate length of performance so that we may organize this amazing yearly entertainment.

There are openings in the choirs for singers in all parts. The Youth Choir welcomes new singers ages six to twelve. Singing through the season of Lent and Easter is a wonderful ways to become a part of these wonderful groups who enjoy singing together to the Glory of God. Let Mary Sue know if you are interested or have questions. At (978) 369-2363 or

cvmswillie@comcast.net.

Mary Sue

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper



and Talent Show February 21

Lent's theme: Take up your cross

by The Rev. Chris Visminas

The theme for Lent this year is the rather stark and unpleasant phrase, "Take up your cross." The theme comes from one of Jesus' sayings: "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me." It is a saying that we, as Christians, have to take seriously, if only because Matthew, Mark and Luke together repeat the saying five times.

We usually associate "take up your cross" with bearing burdens, as in

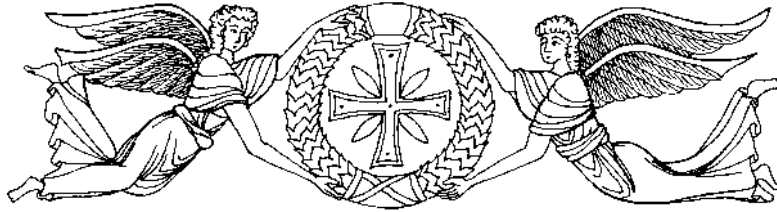
"That's her cross to bear," whether it's family dysfunction, illness, financial straits or just a plain hard life. We figure if we were pretty well set, then, thank God, we have no cross to bear. However - there's always a "however" with these kinds of phrases - that may not be what Jesus had in mind. It helps to look at the contexts in which Jesus said to take up the cross.

Three times the context is how Jesus, as the Messiah, must suffer. The other two times "take up the cross" occurs

when Jesus is talking about discipleship. The context here is phrases like "those who lose their life for my sake will find it" and "Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple."

Thus, the more one looks at "taking up your cross," the starker it gets, and the less it seems to be about bearing some awful burden like cancer. Rather it's about being a disciple; it's about

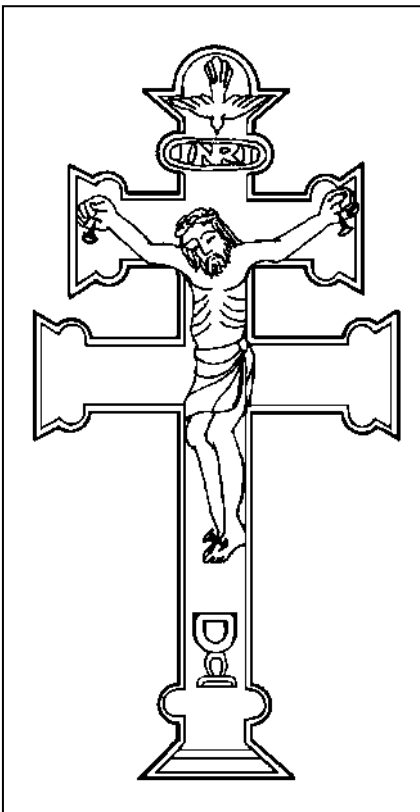
(Continued on page 7)



following Jesus. So what does taking up the cross have to do with discipleship? Is it about suffering for the sake of suffering? Is it just masochistic? One clue to the meaning is in the phrase it is paired with: "let them deny themselves and take up their cross daily."

The Greek word for 'denial' means much the same as the English word except for one difference. Denial in the New Testament is always a denial of a person, not a thing or an idea or a feeling. Thus, one can deny Christ or deny oneself. Denial isn't about whether something is true, but about whether someone is faithful. Peter denies Christ, not Christ's ideas. Peter is unfaithful to Christ, not to Christ's precepts. Faith, like denial, is about a person, not a doctrine.

Thus to deny oneself and take up the cross means to be faithful to someone other than yourself and all your own wants and desires. Denying one's self means that you no longer want to order your life according to your own "devices and desires", but according to Christ's way. This change in direction requires a radical renunciation, even to the point of killing our old self-centered ways of thinking, feeling, doing and being, which is why Jesus uses the cross metaphor. The cross is an instrument of death. For us to take up our cross means we are willing to let our exaggerated faith in ourselves die, in order to be faithful to Christ. Note that taking up our cross does not require us to kill anything, rather it signals our willingness to let God do the work. When Jesus says "take up your cross daily" he understands the protracted (lifelong) process of doing it; thankfully he doesn't leave us alone; rather, he says "and follow me."



The cross is a difficult thing for us to swallow; it smacks too much of hair shirts and crawling on our knees. But it is a central image to our faith. Our theme for Lent calls us to explore the image individually and collectively. The Lenten Series [see the course announcement] will help to provide a basis for both. For those who wish for other resources, I recommend the following:

Seeing the cross from Jewish eyes: *Broken Continuities: "Night" and "White Crucifixion"* by Karl A. Plank, found at

<http://www.religion-online.org/showarticle.asp?title=1069>

A new look at the theology of the cross by S. Mark Heim is found in these 2 articles he wrote for Christian Century:

First read *Why Does Jesus' Death Matter?* at <http://www.religion-online.org/showarticle.asp?title=2138>

Then *Christ's Death to End Sacrifice* at <http://www.religion-online.org/showarticle.asp?title=2141>

For a Greek Orthodox view of "take up your cross" by Fr. George Nicozisin: <http://www.goarch.org/resources/sermons/sermons/sermon25>

For those who like multi-media and animations go to: http://www.rejesus.co.uk/site/module/steps_of_faith/P7/

Explore the site! It's quite different from what we're used to.

February 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist II - Church 9:45 AM Church School (COGS, Rite 13 & J2A) 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist II - Church 11:10 AM Youth Choir Rehearsal (Starts approximately 10 minutes after 2nd service) 11:15 AM Festive coffee hour for children & youth with Barbara (PH) 4:00 PM YAC Meeting	30 3:30 PM EFM practice (J2A RM) 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM Girl Scout Leaders Meeting (PH)	31 9:45 AM - 10:45 AM Bible Study (CNF) 11:00 AM Staff Meeting (CNF)	1 4:30 PM Warden's Meeting (CNF) 6:45 PM - 8:15 PM S.T.O.P. (Congregation Beth El)	2 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM Barbara out of the office at Fresh Start 10:00 AM Tai Chi (PH) 3:30 PM Healing Prayer & Study Group (CNF) 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM Cub Scout Meeting (PH) 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal (MPR) 7:30 PM J2A Chili making (Kitchen)	3	4 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM J2A Chili making (Kitchen)
5 YAC CANCELLED 9:45 AM Church School (COGS, Rite 13 & J2A) 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist II - Church 11:30 AM Annual Meeting (PH)	6 3:30 PM EFM practice (J2A RM) 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM Girl Scout Leaders Meeting (PH)	7 9:45 AM - 10:45 AM Bible Study (CNF) 11:00 AM Staff Meeting (CNF)	8 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM Brownie troop #72440 (MPR) 6:45 PM - 8:15 PM S.T.O.P. Program (St. Elizabeths, Parish Hall) 7:00 PM Finance Committee Meeting (CNF)	9 10:00 AM Tai Chi (PH) 3:30 PM Healing Prayer & Study Group (CNF) 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal (MPR)	10 3:30 PM - 5:30 PM Brownie Troop #72487 (MPR)	11 8:30 AM - 3:30 PM Vestry Retreat (MPR) 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM Family Day at St. Paul's Cathedral (Boston) 5:00 PM J2A Church lock-in
12 Barbara on Sabbatical 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist II - Church 9:00 AM COGS Meeting (MPR) 9:45 AM Church School (COGS, Rite 13 & J2A) 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist II - Church 11:10 AM Youth Choir Rehearsal (Starts approximately 10 minutes after 2nd service) 11:15 AM Sermon talk-back (J2A room) 11:45 AM - 12:30 PM Outreach Meeting (MPR) 4:00 PM ASP Prep session (PH)	13	14 Miracle Kitchen 9:45 AM - 10:45 AM Bible Study (CNF) 11:00 AM Staff Meeting (CNF)	15 6:45 PM - 8:15 PM No S.T.O.P.	16 March Mantle articles due 10:00 AM Tai Chi (PH) 3:30 PM Healing Prayer & Study Group (CNF) 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal (MPR)	17	18 9:00 AM Men's Breakfast Group (St. John Lutheran)
19 No Church School School Vacation Week YAC CANCELLED 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist II - Church 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist II - Church 11:10 AM Youth Choir Rehearsal (Starts approximately 10 minutes after 2nd service) 11:15 AM Sermon talk-back (MPR)	20 Presidents day - Office Closed School Vacation Week	21 School Vacation Week 9:45 AM - 10:45 AM Bible Study (CNF) 11:00 AM Staff Meeting (CNF) 5:30 PM Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper and Talent Show	22 Ash Wednesday School Vacation Week 6:30 AM Holy Eucharist II (Church) 6:45 PM - 8:15 PM No S.T.O.P. 7:30 PM Holy Eucharist II (Church)	23 School Vacation Week 10:00 AM Tai Chi (PH) 3:30 PM Healing Prayer & Study Group (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) 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist II - Church 11:10 AM Youth Choir Rehearsal (Starts approximately 10 minutes after 2nd service) 11:15 AM Sermon talk-back (MPR) 4:00 PM YAC (Kitchen)	27 3:30 PM EFM practice (J2A RM) 6:50 PM Vestry Meeting (MPR)	28 9:45 AM - 10:45 AM Bible Study (CNF) 11:00 AM Staff Meeting (CNF) 2:00 PM - 10:00 PM Parish Directory photography sessions (MPR, Rt13 & YAC rooms)	29 2:00 PM - 9:30 PM Parish Directory photography sessions (MPR, Rt13 & YAC rooms) 6:30 PM The Meaning of the Cross (PH) 6:45 PM - 8:15 PM S.T.O.P. (Islamic Center of Boston in Wayland)	1 10:00 AM Tai Chi (PH) 3:30 PM Healing Prayer & Study Group (CNF) 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal (MPR)	2	3 Diocesan Spring Event

<p>Kitchen Angel for February: Louise Bendel</p> <p>Miracle Kitchen Coordinator: Maria Congleton</p>	<p>February 5 The Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany</p>	<p>February 12 The Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany</p>	<p>February 19 The Last Sunday after the Epiphany (School Vacation Week)</p>	<p>February 22 Ash Wednesday</p>	<p>February 26 The First Sunday in Lent</p>
<p>Euch. Min.</p>	<p>8:00 John Brackett</p> <p>10:00 Harry Ainsworth Ryan Kenney</p>	<p>8:00 Peter Gonze</p> <p>10:00 Steve Davies Madison Herel</p>	<p>8:00 Ruth Griesel</p> <p>10:00 Jim Peters Barbara Bell</p>	<p>6:30 AM Harry Ainsworth</p> <p>7:30 PM Ruth Griesel Betsy Wallingford</p>	<p>8:00 John Brackett</p> <p>10:00 Susan Newlin Stuart Hamilton</p>
<p>Breadbearer & Third Station</p>	<p>Stuart Hamilton/ Larry Stewart Jim Peters</p>	<p>Jay Holdman/ John Howard Sam Sugg</p>			<p>Dan Knaul/ TBA Jim Peters</p>
<p>Lector</p>		<p>Bob Torgerson</p>	<p>Craig Stafford</p>	<p>7:30 PM Walter Morgan</p>	<p>Larry Stewart</p>
<p>Acolyte</p>	<p>Ben Lepordo</p>	<p>Adam Howard</p>	<p>Hannah Knaul</p>		<p>Emily Dewey</p>
<p>Healing Minister</p>	<p>Mandy Fleming</p>				
<p>V.P.O.D.</p>	<p>Debbie Flagg</p>	<p>Darlene Murphy</p>	<p>Nancy Morgan</p>		<p>Ian Springsteel</p>
<p>Ushers</p>	<p>John & Arlene Stevens</p>	<p>Steve & Ryan Kenney</p>	<p>Ray Considine & Pat Coffin</p>		<p>Mike & Jeremy Perisho</p>
<p>Altar Guild</p>	<p>Terry Rourke</p>	<p>Clare Perry</p>	<p>Terry Rourke</p>	<p>Terry Rourke</p>	<p>Clare Perry</p>
<p>Coffee Server</p>	<p>Carolyn Bacon</p>	<p>Gratia Morgan</p>	<p>Jeremy Perisho</p>		<p>Betsy Wallingford</p>



Catechesis of The Good Shepherd Atrium News

Compiled by Susan Berry

Transitional Atrium

(Catechists and Assistant Catechists: Clare Perry, Beth Santomena, Susan Dewey)

In February, the children will hear the presentation of the Parable of the Mustard Seed which introduces the idea that greatness often comes from littleness. Growth is a mystery and the growth of the Kingdom of God even more so. Then, Psalm 23 is introduced to the children. This work invites the child to wonder and prayer, inviting a personal relationship with Jesus, the Good Shepherd. God is searching for us and calls us. These two presentations may fill all of February atrium time, or Gesture \ Sign of the Cross may be introduced at the end of February. Gestures are a silent language that allows us a special way to pray with our bodies. The sign of the cross is a reminder of Christ's death and resurrection and is made at the reading of the Gospel in recognition of Christ's presence there.

Level I

(Catechists and Assistant Catechists: Ruth Griesel, Kris Wile, Suzie Kornblum, Derek Zurn)

February in the Level I atrium will include presentations of the Mustard Seed, the Good Shepherd – The Found Sheep, and on February 26th (the first Sunday in Lent) the changing of colors to purple with a meditation on the season of Lent.

The Parable of the Mustard Seed helps children experience wonder and joy at the mystery of the contrast between smallness and the greatness to which the seed grows. We experience wonder and awe at the vital force that must be contained in the small seed and recognize this as creative force within the universe placed there by God.

The presentation, The Found Sheep, helps the child understand that God's love for us is total and everlasting. The Good Shepherd is Christ who cares for us and protects us always. God is always calling and caring for us even if we stray from God.

Level II

(Catechists and Assistant Catechists: Kihm Sanders, Christine Howard, Mara Huston, Samantha Truex, Meg Striepe)

Presentations in Level II in February include The True Vine (Part 2) and Moral Maxims (Parts 1 and 2). The foundational cornerstone of the Level II atrium is the true vine, with God as the vine and his people as the branches. Part 1 of The True Vine introduced the idea that branches that produce fruit remain on the vine and branches that do not produce fruit are cut from the vine. Part 2 is a further exploration of the connectivity between us and God and the pruning of the branches that produce fruit. Pruning causes more fruit to grow, and can be linked with purification. Distancing from God is caused by sin, and purification is linked to forgiveness and absolution.

The Moral Maxims are not laws but are gifts from God to us to discern God's law and order and to apply them to our lives. Humanity, like creation, is subject to natural order and laws and our obedience to these laws is involuntary. Humanity alone is accountable to laws that require voluntary obedience: to love God and our neighbor.

Level III

(Catechists and Assistant Catechists: Lisa Kenney, Marcy Wilkins, Kris Wile)

In Level III in February, the atrium will be focusing on Bible study, in particular the book of Exodus, the story of Moses and the Gift of the Law. Through the familiar Old Testament story, children will see how God's plan to bring all of creation to a fullness of life has been present from the beginning. The prophet Moses is a model of what it means to listen and respond to God's call, and to place trust in God. Throughout this Bible study, the children will also gain an appreciation of the historical significance of Exodus in our Judeo-Christian tradition.

Did You Know?

By The Rev.
Chris Visminis

The first historical reference to Lent comes from the Council of Nicaea held in 325 – this is the same council that gave us the Nicene Creed. The mention of Lent comes in a piece of legislation about how to

appeal a sentence of excommunication, which was considered a serious business back then. The legislation says that a group of bishops will meet twice a year to pass judgment on such cases. It then goes on to say: *“And let these meetings be held, the one before Lent, (that the pure Gift may be offered to God after all bitterness has been put away), and let the second be held about autumn.”*

When doing research into the origins of things, this is the kind of off-hand remark that provides the clues to how things began. The “pure Gift” that is to be offered to God is the Easter Eucharist. The “bitterness” that *“has been put away”* refers to what Lent was about: If someone was excommunicated, they would have to do a public penance during Lent before they could again receive the Eucharist. And public penance, as you can imagine, could be a bitter experience.

Another early aspect of Lent was as a preparatory time for those who were to be baptized. In the first 500 years or so of Christianity, adult baptism was a normal thing and, as Tertullian, a third century scholar, wrote, *“The Passover [Easter] affords a more than usually solemn day for baptism, because it commemorates the completion of the Lord’s passion, into which we are baptized.”* Thus, Lent would be the time for adults to prepare spiritually for what was then called the “Christian Mysteries” that is, baptism and the Eucharist.

Today we don't think of Lent as especially bitter, public penance being non-existent. Seldom do we have adults to baptize, and we certainly don't refer to the Eucharist at Easter either as a *“pure Gift offered to God”* or a *“Christian Mystery.”* So what is Lent for us? Is it just a time when we “give up something for Lent” like chocolate? Or maybe a time when we feel a little sorrier than usual for the things we do wrong?

The Ash Wednesday service in the Book of Common Prayer clarifies what Lent is today. After mentioning both preparatory and the penitential aspects of Lent in the early Church, it then talks *“of the need which all Christians continually have to renew their repentance and faith.”* It then calls us *“to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God’s holy Word.”*

First of all, what is repentance? Well, it is a lot more than just saying you're sorry for bad things that you have done. Nor does it mean that if you consider yourself to be an upright, moral person you don't need to repent. A person can be as upright and moral as possible, and still need a great deal of repentance, because repentance really isn't about trying to be a good person. Rather, repentance is about journeying in the right direction. In the Bible the words for repentance mean “to change direction.” To repent means to turn around, to turn toward God and away from those things that take you away from God. Though uprightness and moral goodness is by-product of going in a God-ward direction, either can actually take you away from God.

To repent is not a trivial thing. It has little to do with “giving up something for Lent.” It has everything to do with re-ordering your life, to do what the Prayer book calls *“self-examination.”* This is much like the re-ordering one does when moving to a new house. Stuff that is old and worn needs to be thrown out. Stuff that is no longer used needs to be given away. The remaining stuff needs to be ordered into boxes so that all goes to the right rooms. This is what Lent is about. It's about moving to a new house, the house of God, and it's about cleaning out the old house. We need to see what is worn out in our lives and throw it away. We need to look at who we are in relation to God and give away or let go of that which keeps us from God. We need to see what we have and what we are so that, once again, we can start life afresh in God's new house.

Repentance is the cleaning out of habits or attitudes, desires we see as needs, or needs that we want to deny. We repent of them and receive God's forgiveness, that is, we receive God's reassurance that we can begin again and God will welcome us. Repentance is a life-long activity for any Christian. Lent is the time of year when we take a closer look at our relation with God. *“Prayer, fasting and self-denial”* is an intimate part of repentance, because these help us to do the cleaning of our hearts that is the essence of repentance.

Secondly, the Prayer Book calls us to renewal of faith. What is faith? Having faith is not a matter of being the Little Engine That Could: “I believe I can, I believe I can.” Nor is it believing in things that don't make sense. Rather faith is about depending on God, for absolutely everything. Hebrews 11 says of faith: *“The fundamental fact of existence is that this trust in God, this faith, is the firm foundation under everything that makes life worth living.”* [Eugene Peterson's The Message translation] To put it another

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way, the meaning of our lives is found in God, not in our jobs or families or possessions.

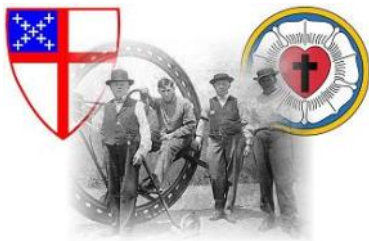
Faith, like repentance, is about direction. It's about who or what we trust. Do you trust in God? Or do you trust in those things that are so prominent in our lives: electronics, efficiency, achievement, or wealth? Marshall Soulful Jones, who was part of the second place team in the National Poetry Slam, gives a perceptive look at the role electronics plays in our lives, comparing it to the apple in Eden: <http://www.wimp.com/uploadedhug/>. Do this strike a chord?

Faith is nourished by familiarity. Just as in advertising, the more one sees or hears a commercial, the more it rings in our head, so it is with faith. If one is not exposed to the

sources of faith, the Bible or Church's worship services on a regular basis, faith fades from our hearts and minds; it dies a slow death. This is why "reading and meditating on God's holy Word" is important. Reading the Bible is about familiarizing ourselves with who God is and how God works in the world. Attending the church's worship services on Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday immerses us in what Lent is about and exposes us to that which is necessary to our faith.

Lent is a special time for Christians, a time to slow-down and turn to God. We can do this giving up those things that do not involve us with God – Facebook time? Computer games? TV? We can involve ourselves in those things that would draw us nearer to God – reading the Bible? Doing daily devotions? More attendance at church? By doing these things we can appreciate more

MEN'S BREAKFAST ON FEBRUARY 18 AT ST. JOHN



The next Men's Breakfast for St. Elizabeth and St. John will be on Saturday, February 18, at St. John, starting at 9:00. We are blessed to have Pastor Gordon Schultz, a former pastor at St. John, with us to present a program for insight and discussion. His topic is "Jonah, the prophet for America". Gordon will help us look at some of the themes in Jonah and see if they have relevance to our lives today. Jonah is a short book and we are asked to read it before the breakfast. It will take 8 to 10 minutes. Please contact Jonas Barciauskas (jonas.barciauskas@bc.edu) or Walter Morgan (walter.morgan@fiserv.com) if you plan on coming.

NOW PLAYING

On your MP3 Player—Listen at home or on the go

MP3 Prayer at <http://www.pray-as-you-go.org/>

St. E's Sunday's Gospel reading and sermon, <http://www.st-elizabeths.org/audio/>

WE NEED YOU
IN THE 2012 ST. E'S PHOTO DIRECTORY!

(And we need your photos of past parish activities, too)

Have you ever sat in church, looked across the aisle, and seen someone whose name you didn't know but felt that you should? You feel embarrassed. You go home, you look at your five-year-old parish photo directory, but they aren't there. Well, we are about to solve this problem.

In the next few months, we will be creating a new parish photo directory. This new directory is so important, not only to document who we are and what we do, but because it is a wonderful way for everyone, especially newcomers, to know other members of our community.

SAVE THESE DATES:

Photos will be taken on

Tuesday, February 28 (2 - 9:30pm),
Wednesday, February 29 (2 - 9:30pm),
Friday, March 30 (2 - 9:30pm),
Saturday, March 31 (9:30am - 5:30pm).

We want everyone in the directory - including you and your family. Please make an appointment to have your family/household's photo taken. You can:

⇒ Go to our website (www.st-elizabeths.org) and register online.

OR

⇒ Signup at Church:

Sunday, February 12 - 9 - 10 am, AND at Coffee Hour after 10 am Service
Sunday, February 19 - Coffee Hour after 10:00 Service
Sunday, February 26 - 9 - 10 am, AND at Coffee Hour after 10 am Service
Sunday, March 4 - 9 - 10 am, AND at Coffee Hour after 10 am Service
Sunday, March 11 - 9 - 10 am, AND at Coffee Hour after 10 am Service
Sunday, March 18 9 - 10 am, AND at Coffee Hour after 10 am Service

Every participating family/household that has their photo taken will receive a free directory. If you choose to purchase more photos for yourself, you will receive a \$25 gift certificate towards your purchase. If you cannot make one of the scheduled photography dates, please contact Mara or Scott (contact info below). We want everyone included.

Do you have any fun pictures of our life at St E's? There will be several pages in the directory dedicated to parish activities. This includes any photos of worship, music, outreach, fellowship, Christian formation, Mission/Pilgrimage trips, buildings & grounds, flower and altar guilds, etc. You can email all photos to Mara at Mara@HustonFam.Net

Please contact Mara Huston (978-443-3278) or Scott Fisher (978-443-8077) if you have any questions or if you would like to help with this project.

***A picture is worth a 1000 words. A directory is priceless.
We want you included!***



Soup Kitchen News

Maria Congleton is one of our soup kitchen coordinators, and she, her two daughters, and husband have been cooking and serving at the Soup Kitchen for the past three years.

Last fall Mandy, her 16 year old daughter, decided that for her birthday instead of receiving gifts she wanted all participants at her party to make contributions to the Miracle Kitchen. During the Christmas season she sent a check for \$380 to Salvation Army to benefit the Miracle Kitchen.

Jimmy Williams, our contact on staff at Soup Kitchen, was thrilled. He had a letter to the editor published in the *MetroWest Daily News* which is printed below. The facts are not exactly correct, but it is recognition of Mandy's generosity and support of this wonderful outreach program.

Christmas miracle at Miracle Kitchen

What could be dubbed a mini Christmas Miracle, occurred recently in downtown Framingham. It happened at the Miracle Kitchen, which is administered by the Salvation Army. The Kitchen offers free meals to the unfortunate souls and street people of our community who are in need of some help. The only requirement is need.

On this particular night one of the local churches was preparing and serving the evening meal and 13-year-old Mandy and her mother were helping as volunteers in the kitchen. Mandy was so touched by what she saw and partici-

pated in that she determined to do something more. Subsequently her family had planned on giving her a party for her upcoming birthday. The idea dawned on her to request all participants to her party to make contributions to the Miracle Kitchen rather than gifts to her personally. Because of that loving act of generosity, a Christmas gift of \$380 was given to the Miracle Kitchen.

Yes Mandy, there is a Santa Claus and he is you!

Thank you.

BOB GRACI
Millis



DOING
THE MOST
GOODSM



Shake off the winter doldrums at
Family Day at St. Paul's Cathedral

We're kicking off our celebration of the 100th anniversary of the Cathedral Church of St. Paul and *you're* invited! Children, teens, parents, and educators – Join in the fun and learn about our Cathedral's rich history and ministry!

Saturday, February 11th
10 am to 2 pm
Cathedral Church of St. Paul
138 Tremont St., Boston

Conversation & photos with Bishop Tom Shaw and Bishop Barbara Harris
(on the anniversary of her consecration) (10-10:30 am)

Crafts and fun activities for children (pre-school and older)

Dean's discussion time for teens

Abundant Life Garden Project demonstrations by Episcopal Relief and
Development for educators, kids, and parents (11 am and 12:30 pm)

Songs & prayers for the Cathedral

And lots more, including **birthday cake!**



Come for part or all of the day!

Small children welcome with caretakers, but no childcare will be available.

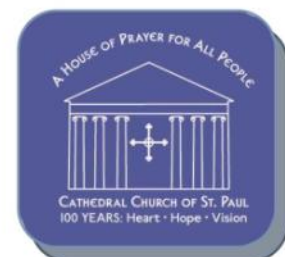
Snacks & coffee available in the morning.

Light snack lunch provided or bring your own.

This event is free and no registration required, but knowing that you are coming will help us plan well. RSVP to Ethel Crawford at cathedral@diomass.org or 617-482-5800 x221.

Take the T to Park Street or
park in the Boston Common Garage for \$5.00!

Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts



The Mantle

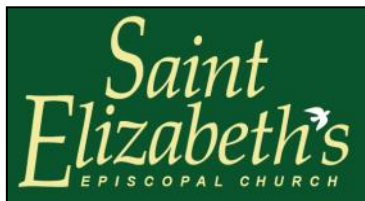


Submit articles and suggestions for the March Mantle
by midnight, February 16th to:

mantle@st-elizabeths.org

**Reminder: St. E's Annual Meeting will be held
following the 10:00 service on February 5.**

**Coming Attraction
SAVE THE DATE!
St. E's 2012 Spring Auction
March 24**



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

The Rev. Barbara S. Williamson, Rector
barbara_williamson@st-elizabeths.org

The Rev. Gale Davis Morris, Sabbatical Priest
interimgale@aol.com

Nancy Morgan & Stuart Hamilton, Co-Wardens
wardens@st-elizabeths.org

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

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

Submit articles to mantle@st-elizabeths.org

INVITING
FORMING
SENDING
SERVING

St. Elizabeth's Episcopal Church invites seekers to share the joys and challenges of a journey of faith. Following the teachings of Jesus Christ and guided by scripture, tradition, and reason, we proclaim by word and action the love of God. We seek to serve and praise Christ in all people by celebrating the greatness of God's creation and all its creatures, helping those in need, and striving for justice and peace in all areas of our common life.

www.st-elizabeths.org