

*A Profile of
Historic
St. Margaret's Church,
Westminster Parish
Episcopal*

Annapolis, Maryland



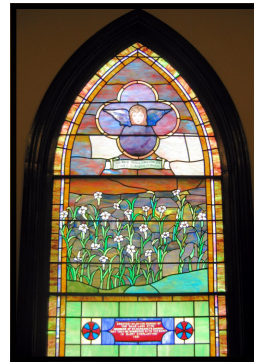


Here are many fibers that have knitted together over three centuries to create the community of St. Margaret's. Our table has seated revolutionary fighters with agents of the Crown, slave owners and abolitionists. Today soldiers, sailors and defense industry employees share the bread and wine with peace activists, politicians, artists and educators.

The fabric of St. Margaret's has been strained and repaired. It has also grown stronger with new threads. It has wrapped in comfort the shoulders of the defeated and the hurt and been raised as a banner to celebrate God's wholeness, oneness, in our midst. God has supported us through our struggles and helped us to restore our knitted fabric when it frays, and we embrace the expansion of this cloth for centuries to come.



M I S S I O N



Our Mission

St. Margaret's Church Westminster Parish is a caring community of faithful people created by God, redeemed by the Son, and empowered by the Holy Spirit. Our mission is to joyfully radiate God's love and to live our lives in Christ.

We do this by

- ✧ Worshiping together in the Episcopal tradition of common prayer and sacraments
 - ✧ Nurturing each other in our spiritual growth and ministries
 - ✧ Offering our God-given gifts and talents to serve Christ in all the world
 - ✧ Sharing God's great bounty as stewards of God's creation
- ✧ Seeking knowledge of God for ourselves, our children and others by listening to, learning about, and teaching the Gospel, the tradition, and the hope of God's people
 - ✧ Engaging in God's work of reconciliation

We invite, welcome, and challenge others to join us in following Jesus Christ

Approved by the Congregation of St. Margaret's on January 1 1996, and reaffirmed in March 2009



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Introduction

Included in this profile presented is a short history of St. Margaret's Church; demographic information that compares the makeup of St. Margaret's to the local area and the nation; and the results of a member survey administered in the summer of 2009 that reveals what draws us to St. Margaret's, our priorities, and concerns for the future, and the gifts and attributes that we seek in our clerical and lay leadership. It also describes how we worship, our Christian formation program for young people and adults, our ministries inside the church and how we reach out to know and serve others in our immediate area and the world.





A Profile of Historic St. Margaret's Church, Westminster Parish



The following brief profile offers a glimpse of the present composition, the hopes and the issues that incorporate the parish known as St. Margaret's Church. St. Margaret's came into being in 1692 as a small country church that served the settlers of the beautiful surroundings on the Broadneck Peninsula. Over the years, and most particularly in the past fifteen or twenty years, the parish has become an important part of the spiritual vitality to an increasing number of residents of the area. In spite of the growing list of parishioners, the warmth and sense of community of a small country church has been kept alive and well by St. Margaret's parishioners.

Seven years ago, our membership of 600 had expanded from 300 over the prior nine years. Today St. Margaret's membership is over 1,000. The parish has long since grown out of the definition of "a small country church," but the size of a church is not the predominant factor that draws people to a particular place of worship. Even as the parish has continued to grow, the larger congregation has neither inhibited nor detracted from drawing new people into the fold.

The wonderful church campus that is such an important asset to our spiritual growth and worship at St. Margaret's is partially due to the work and wisdom of only a remaining handful of our long-standing parishioners. Most of us have had little to do with any new construction. The present facilities are in place for our use because of the foresight and planning of those who came before us. With the blessings that abound at St. Margaret's - its strong sense of community, its physical beauty, its welcoming nature and most importantly, its focus on our spiritual development and meaningful worship - it is hard to imagine that growth will not continue. It is our duty not only to resolve our immediate needs, but to consider the long-range issues for our children and our children's children.

God has blessed our parish in so many ways over so many years, and with God's help, we will move forward in meeting the current challenges that have been created because of His blessings upon us.

Yours in Christ,

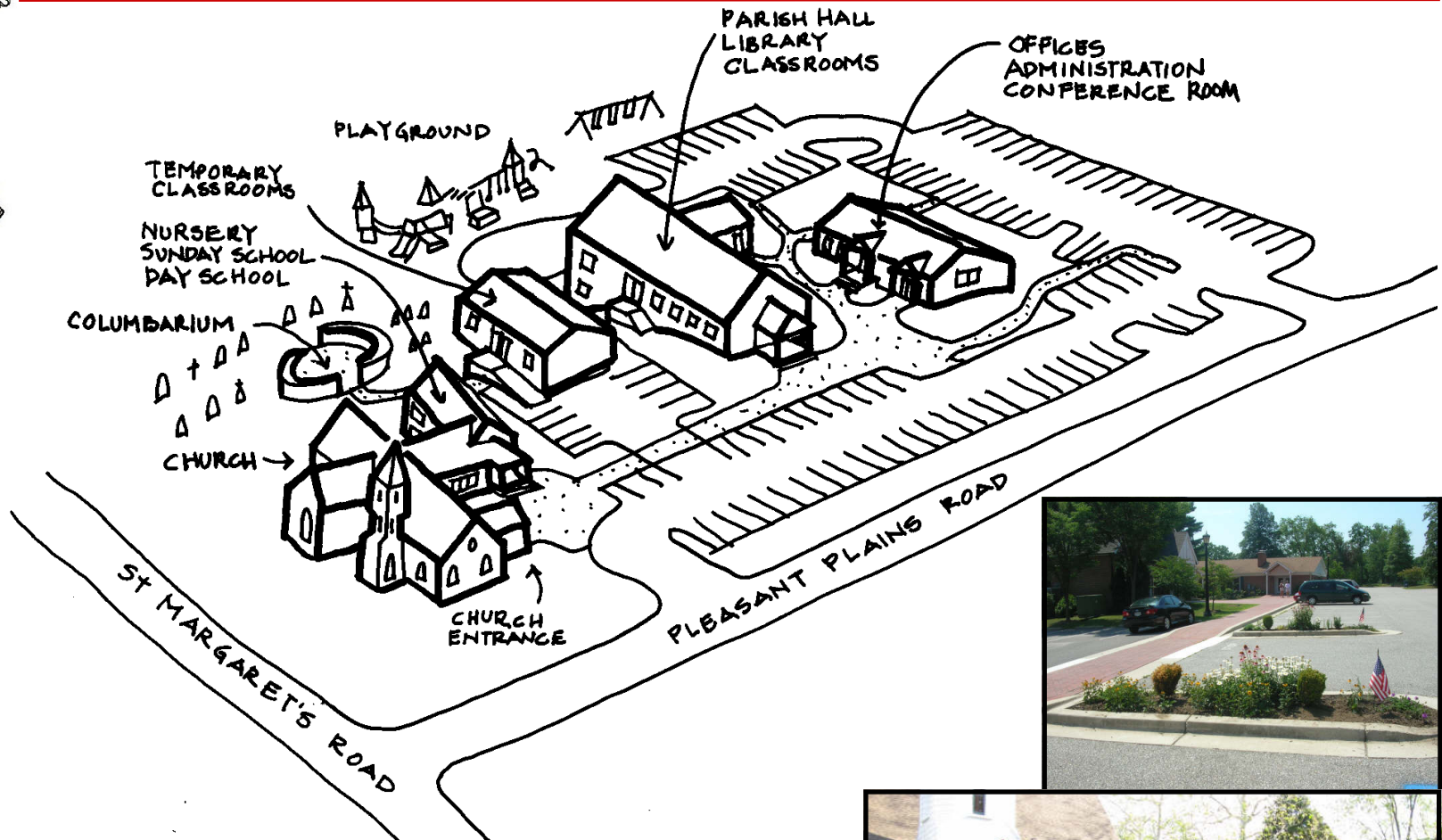
Fred H. "Bud" Billups
Senior Warden

ST. MARGARET'S
CHURCH



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A History of St. Margaret's

The congregation has worshipped in five church buildings over the years. The founding Anglican settlers shared the Puritans' Old Meeting House on the banks of the Magothy River, traveling to worship by boat when the few rutted roads became impassable. The second building, and the first St. Margaret's could call its own, was built between 1731-34 on the banks of the Severn River.

H I S T O R Y

St. Margaret's Church, whose clapboard sanctuary building stands proudly on Broadneck Peninsula just north and east of Annapolis, Maryland, is one of the oldest continuously operating congregations in America. The church was founded in 1692, along with nineteen other Anglican parishes in the crown colony of Maryland. That was nearly 50 years before Thomas Jefferson's parents began courting. A silver chalice and paten presented to St. Margaret's during the Colonial era is still being used on special occasions.

That building burned in 1803, and it wasn't until May 1827 that a new frame church was erected on the land occupied by St. Margaret's today – land nearer the center of the peninsula. Only 24 years passed before that building, too, was razed by fire. The congregation again rebuilt, on the same site, but this time they used brick! Even that wasn't enough. The building was damaged by yet another severe fire in 1892, and was rebuilt as a white, clapboard structure on the foundation of the previous building.

That building served St. Margaret's well until the last half of the 20th Century, when the structure had to be renovated and somewhat expanded. Today St. Margaret's occupies a 10-acre campus that includes the addition of an education wing to the main structure, a separate parish hall and a separate administration building.



But the history of a church is not the history of its buildings. St. Margaret's has swelled from serving a circle of hardy settlers to well over 1,000 thoroughly modern souls. Suburban tracts now surround the church instead of tobacco farms, and cars fill its parking lots without a boat in sight. Even so, horse pastures are in the neighborhood and every July St. Margaret's is host to a jousting tournament that celebrates the state sport of Maryland on our grounds.

While proud of their history, the members of St. Margaret's strive to live the Gospel, our most cherished legacy from the past, our guide for today and our beacon for tomorrow.



G R O W T H

We Are growing Rapidly

We take great joy in the increasing numbers that have joined our worship community, while maintaining the warmth, intimacy, sense of community and belonging that characterizes, and is clearly cherished by, the St. Margaret's congregation.

The number of active, baptized communicants of St. Margaret's has grown steadily. For a seemingly small country church, we are now the fifth largest parish in the Diocese of Maryland and are in close competition for the second largest average Sunday attendance. Last year alone the number of St. Margaret's parishioners grew from 882 to 1,065, a growth of over 20% from the year before. We have over 400 attending Sunday services on an average Sunday with a nave designed to seat 250. From time to time folding chairs are needed at our 9:00 and 11:15am services. We have occasional Sundays, not just at Christmas or Easter, when standing room only is available to latecomers. Sadly, some come to our doors only to depart when there is no room. On Easter of 2008, over nine hundred worshipers attended services at St. Margaret's.

Of our 1,065 communicants, almost 300 or 27% are under the age of 16. Our Sunday school rolls grew from 175 to 225 students in 2008, a growth of 28% in one year alone. While the degree of growth that year was unusual, the reality is that we want to continue to foster a vibrant youth ministry to serve our younger congregants and to ensure their place in our church family.

The number of liturgies, educational activities, and other ministries that are ongoing at St. Margaret's severely strains our limited worship and meeting space. Trailer facilities were added last year to help alleviate the shortage of classroom and meeting space. Over the past several years, we have looked at expanding our campus facilities over a number





G R O W T H

of years and have had architectural renderings developed for new nave, class room, meeting, and administrative facilities to complement or expand those we currently enjoy.

While most recognize the necessity of expanding our facilities, we have not been able to prioritize our needs, develop a phased financial and construction plan, or begin a major capital fund raising campaign toward alleviating our current pressing needs and those that we foresee in the future. The vestry and congregation as a whole have yet to make firm decisions about how to proceed. This is based in part on a deep sense of attachment to the historic church building that is both a spiritual home and a source of many memories for our congregation. Displacing or replacing the present church facility is something many are not yet ready to accept. An additional influence is the “sticker shock” associated with building costs. An executable financial plan and fund raising plan that will support it are fundamental to our moving forward. Yet another cause for hesitation in moving forward is the fear that building a larger church facility will cost us the sense of close community that we all share at St. Margaret’s.

Our recent survey indicates that about 60% of our members are aware that we must meet the demands of growth that we are experiencing and are willing to move ahead. Others are less inclined or even opposed to change (15%). The pressure that growth is imposing on our ability to minister to all comers is increasingly evident and growing.

Our Setting



St. Margaret’s church is located on the Broadneck Peninsula bounded on the north by the Magothy River, on the south by the Severn River, and on the east by the Chesapeake Bay. The Broadneck Peninsula has a population of about 16,000 households and 44,000 people, and the population is not projected to grow over the next five years. In the Broadneck area we are overwhelmingly white (87%), 6% African-American, 3% Hispanic, and 4% Asian-American. These ethnic proportions are also expected to remain fairly constant. Our median age is 40 years old. We are affluent, with 77.6% (as opposed to a national average of 15.1%) with a median household income of \$117,000, expected to grow to \$135,000 in coming years. We are a highly educated group with 25% of the population having baccalaureate and graduate degrees. We are primarily (76%) engaged in white collar professional and managerial pursuits. Being in close proximity to the Naval Academy and other large military installations, 38.5% of our population has close ties with the military in one form or another. The largest Broadneck faith group identification is Roman Catholic (35%). Another 4.2 % of the Broadneck population surveyed identify themselves as Episcopalian, against a national average of 2.9%.



W O R S H I P

Our Worship Experience

Worship is the very heart of St. Margaret's. St. Margaret's congregants worship regularly. Average Sunday attendance at services is four hundred, a number matched by few other parishes in the Diocese of Maryland. All three Sunday services are Holy Eucharist. In 2008, 156 Sunday Eucharists were celebrated along with another 61 weekday Eucharists and 76 home communions delivered by Eucharistic visitors. In addition to the interim rector, we have an associate rector and a permanent deacon to preside at our liturgies. An active Altar Guild works behind the scenes to perform altar-related duties necessary to help carry out worship services, weddings, funerals, and other services as needed. Lay ministry is key to our worship in the form of lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, crucifers, acolytes, and ushers who are present for every service.

Our services are universally considered to be welcoming, accessible, spiritually up-lifting, active and comfortable. Lay members assume responsibility in all services (ushers, chalicists, readers, altar guild, etc). Members enthusiastically accept the challenge at the end of each service "To go forth and serve the Lord" before exiting our narthex doors appropriately marked "Servants Entrance."





W O R S H I P

Our Services

- ✧ We have three Sunday services — 7:30, 9:00 and 11:15am. The early service is Rite One, while the other two are Rite Two. A ministry of healing is provided during Communion two Sundays each month. Childcare is provided from 8:45am-12:30 pm each Sunday.
- ✧ The early service does not generally have music incorporated into the liturgy. The other two Sunday services have hymns and choral music as part of the liturgy. Once a month, we experience more contemporary music featuring guitar, wind, percussion, and string instruments known as the Third Sunday Band. In addition to two adult choirs, we have a children's choir known as "The Spirit Singers." Occasionally we have services that feature special musical performances such as a Bluegrass Mass, and a Dixieland Mass on All Saints' Day.
- ✧ There is a Eucharist at 7:00am on Wednesdays.
- ✧ Christmas services include a Christmas Eve children's pageant and later that night a Festival Eucharist preceded by a special music program. There is also a service held on Christmas Day.
- ✧ Holy Week is observed with special attention to Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Great Vigil of Easter. Maundy Thursday features the Stripping of the Altar, followed by a prayer vigil through the night. The evening service on Good Friday 2009 included the Fauré Requiem by our combined choirs. The Easter Vigil is a moving experience as the lights come on and the "alleluias" are shouted for the first time since Ash Wednesday!





Music at St. Margaret's

The Music Program at St. Margaret's focuses on enhancing the worship experience of all congregants at St. Margaret's through a rigorous devotion to musical diversity. From traditional Anglican anthems and hymns to music from earliest days of the American church to masterworks of the great composers to Celtic music, Bluegrass, Jazz, Gospel and Contemporary Christian songs, every Sunday presents a new aural palate to parishioners. Most parishioners identify our music program as one of our most outstanding features.

St. Margaret's distinguishes itself by offering the same music at both of the later services each Sunday. Usually, the first Sunday of the month the Chancel Choir offers traditional Protestant Anthems. On the second Sunday of the month, the Motet Ensemble offers music from the Renaissance and Baroque periods. St. Margaret's own Third Sunday Band offers contemporary music every third Sunday. Fourth and fifth Sundays are covered either by the Chancel Choir, small ensembles, or The Spirit Singers, a children's choir. Under the supervision of Music Director, James R. Fitzpatrick, this unique approach to musical diversity has worked well in raising the attendance at the later service and preventing congregational division based on music preference.

Special worship services include Advent Lessons and Carols, Christmas Lessons and Carols, and a complete set of Holy Week services with either a special service of Tenebrae or a major work like Faure's Requiem offered. Over the past four years, All Saints' Sunday has used the music from New Orleans Funerals as the inspiration for a joyous and poignant service of remembrance and celebration. Additionally music from India, Honduras, and other countries has enriched the diverse offerings in worship.

A concert series offering a mix of international artists, nationally known musicians and performers, and local artists of excellence has presented Grammy winners The Afro-Bop Alliance, Broadway star Mary Stout, Lyra from St. Petersburg Russia, Van Cliburn Piano Competition Winner Michael Berkovsky, and the early music international sensation Ensemble Galilei among others. This outreach to the community has brought many people to St. Margaret's.

Additionally, several music teachers make use of space at the church to offer lessons in singing, piano, and other instruments at a discount to St. Margaret's parishioners. A new state of the art sound system and a brilliant new piano make good use of the fine acoustics in the church. The replacement of a legacy electronic organ has yet to be accomplished.



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Children and Youth Programs

With almost 30% of our congregation under the age of 16, a real emphasis is placed on children's and youth programs.

- ☞ *Nursery Care* is provided for infants-two year olds on Sundays.
- ☞ *Children's Chapel* is held during the Liturgy of the Word portions of our Sunday services. Children are divided into two groups; Dragons aged 3-5 and Saints from kindergarten through fifth grade. Our children hear the same Biblical stories as their adult counterparts, but in ways that are more age appropriate. Bible stories, music, painting and drawing, games, and play acting are all options for cracking open the mysteries of God's word with this age group.
- ☞ *Sunday School* classes meet between the 9:00 and 11:15am services. *Godly Play* for ages 3-6 uses Biblical stories and a variety of simple objects to unfold the mysteries of our faith with young children using a Montessori-based program of story telling, imagination, patience and the gift of wonder. *Seasons of the Spirit* for ages 7-11 provides Biblical lessons and activities for children at these formative ages.
- ☞ *Youth Group* for middle and high school students meets every Sunday afternoon and incorporates a many-faceted activity and service program for the youth of our parish. Rite 13, J2A (Journey to Adulthood) and YAC (Young Adults in Church) activities ensure that every age in this dynamic and fast moving time of life can face their challenges together as a community of faith. Confirmation classes are held annually in the fall for those ready to be formally received into the church.
- ☞ *Vacation Bible School*. This year our Vacation Bible School attracted 80 children from third through fifth grade and 30 teenage and adult volunteers. Together they explored the wonders of God's Word for a week of activities from 9:00am until 12:30pm, including lunch.





St. Margaret's Day School

St. Margaret's has long had a Day School offering two classes of half-day 2's, 3's, 4's, a pre-k and kindergarten. Enrollment stands at slightly more than a hundred. Each class has two qualified teachers. Volunteers also work throughout the Day School structure to keep the school alive and thriving.

The daily schedule includes, among other age appropriate lessons, physical education, Chapel, and Spanish language instruction. Field trips and special educational activities are included in the curriculum. The school features a challenging playground with a rubber mulch play area to ensure safety.

The St. Margaret's Day School is financially independent of the parish operating budget. It has a board which oversees financial planning and the budget among its many responsibilities. An energetic Parent Teacher Organization raises funds through a number of events to provide funds for the school in addition to what is raised through tuition and fees. The associate rector, Stewart Lucas, serves as the Day School chaplain and is a very visible key link to St. Margaret's parish.

A seven-week theme-based summer camp includes field trips and water activities almost every day, weather permitting.

Day School Philosophy

Young children are eager to learn. Our school exposes children to learning experiences and gives them ample opportunity to explore, to think, to experiment, to create and to feel successful. A young child needs to have the opportunity to grow in relationships with other children of similar ages socially, emotionally, physically, intellectually, and spiritually. These goals are best achieved in a warm open learning environment - facilitated by caring people. St. Margaret's Day School provides experiences that help children become self-reliant, self-motivated, and self-assured. We encourage children to reach their fullest potential in a safe environment filled with friends.



Parish Commissions

Various commissions oversee and coordinate many of the vibrant ministries at work at St. Margaret's. Almost all are lay led with clergy involvement as needed or desired.

Christian Formation Commission

There are many opportunities for adult education at St. Margaret's, from informal Bible studies to more formalized study of our faith in all its dimensions. Our Christian Formation Commission ensures that ample and diverse opportunities exist for reflection and enhanced growth spiritually, intellectually, and communally. These activities and experiences form us as disciples of Christ, but are distinct from worship, fellowship and mission. At the same time, these opportunities integrate into our life of worship, fellowship, and mission helping us to "grow into the full stature of Christ" (BCP, p302) on our life journey.

Christian Formation activities include the following:

- ✧ *Education for Ministry (EfM)* enrolls parishioners in a comprehensive course that meets weekly to study scripture and theology, and to reflect theologically on various calls to ministry. The EfM program involves intensive mentor training and is administered through the School of Theology at the University of the South in Sewanee, Tennessee.
- ✧ *Living the Questions* is a 21 week course of open-minded questions that avoids trying to give participants all the answers and instead strives to create an environment where





participants can interact with one another in exploring what's next for Christianity. In small group study, participants explore beyond the traditions and theologies in which so many seem to be stuck.

- ✧ *Summer Mission Experiences* offer intensive exploration of God's call to minister where there is deep need in the world around us. Some youth and adults travel to Honduras where St. Margaret's has a special relationship with the *El Hogar* Episcopal School (orphanage) and church. Others labor at the Episcopal Appalachian Ministry work camp.

- ✧ *Adult Sunday School*

Adult Forums are held during the Sunday morning coffee hour and feature guest speakers and parish wide formation opportunities.

The Heretics is an adult study and discussion group that meets on Sunday mornings to discuss a book or other thought provoking reading on theological and biblical subjects.

The tenets of other religions, such as Islam, and the relationship of science and faith are some of the subjects that have been explored, as well as books of the Old and New Testaments. The group calls itself *The Heretics* because all points of view are welcomed and examined. Experiences in individual faith journeys are freely exchanged and expand our perception of our common humanity and the wonder of God's creation.

A *Lectionary Based Bible Study* is also offered for adults during the Sunday school hour. Both of these classes are lay led and welcome all comers.

Lay Pastoral Care Commission

The Lay Pastoral Care Ministries assists the clergy in caring for the needs of parishioners. These ministries include Communicare, the Prayer Shawl Ministry, Bereavement group, Intercessory Prayer Ministry, Altar Flower delivery, Food Aid and Transportation. Each of these ministries is led by a dedicated volunteer who recruits assistants as necessary.





As one example, the Prayer Shawl Ministry comprises over 30 parishioners who knit prayer shawls which are presented to every newly baptized person and to patients who are hospitalized.

Missions Commission

The Missions Commission is the outreach arm for St. Margaret's. Commission members meet throughout the year and deal with the complexities of three sources of funding available for mission: endowment money directed to the Grants Committee by the Vestry; restricted funds; and budgeted outreach money. The Commission oversees and evaluates St. Margaret's corporate support and response to both long-term and immediate outreach requests for serving our community and beyond. Priorities for outreach include: (a) endowing the poor and hungry with the means to feed, clothe, and shelter themselves; (b) restoring the ill to health and healing the broken; (c) promoting, preserving and sustaining environmental health; and (d) improving access to educational opportunities.

Endowment Grants Committee

St. Margaret's was the beneficiary of a sizable bequest from the estate of Edwin and Zoe Hall in 1995. After two years of careful deliberation over what to do with the money, the Vestry decided that the annual proceeds of the principal of the endowment should be distributed for capital improvements and to others in need in the form of outreach grants. St. Margaret's solicits funding requests from many sources annually. Once received, a committee of twelve parishioners (each serving three years or less) reviews the requests against the criteria cited for mission outreach and determines which to recommend to the Vestry for grant allocation. St. Margaret's has been fortunate to be able to distribute on average over \$100,000 a year to very deserving recipients both locally and worldwide. Recipients of grants report on the use of the funds and their results. Grants are normally for one year duration. Over the past eleven years, St. Margaret's has distributed in excess of \$1.25 million dollars to meet the urgent needs of 183 grant recipients at home and abroad.

Newcomers Commission

The Newcomers Commission welcomes visitors to St. Margaret's Church, identifies those visitors with a desire to join the congregation, and develops and manages the process through which visitors would become members. We generally have at least one new family or person each week that fills out a

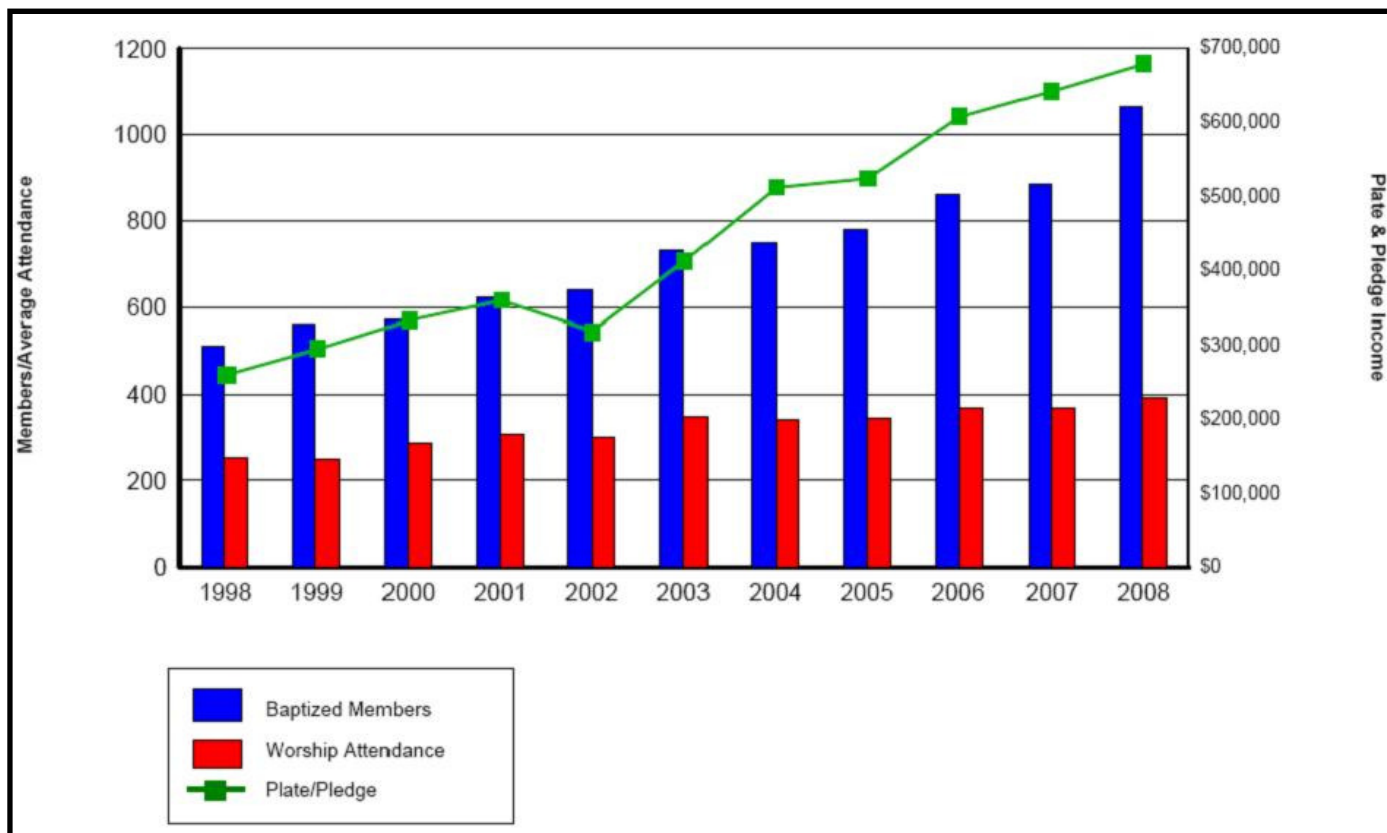




visitor's card. Many have been added to our mailing lists, attend services regularly and are participating in one or more of our many ministries. Parishioners host Newcomers Dinners quarterly and personal contacts are cemented. In addition a Newcomers' kit is a resource for anyone interested in joining St. Margaret's as it provides more information about our many groups and programs.

Stewardship Commission

The Stewardship Commission serves to educate the congregation about stewardship and to plan and execute a pledge campaign for the forthcoming budget (calendar) year. With the help of the commission's published articles, mailings and personal contact reaching out to all our members, St. Margaret's has received over 255 pledge units for \$600,000 in pledges for 2009 (a 5% increase over the previous year). Together with the plate collection and other donations and income, St. Margaret's has an operating budget of over \$700,000, all of which is carefully budgeted and managed.





Buildings and Grounds Commission

The Buildings and Grounds Commission, overseen by the Junior Warden, is charged with overseeing the maintenance, operation, and upkeep of our buildings, grounds and other infrastructure at St. Margaret's. A Landscaping Committee, enhanced by the guidance of a Master Gardener, is responsible for the beauty of the flower beds and the landscaping on this large and inviting campus.

The Churchyard Committee

St. Margaret's has a sizable and historic cemetery as a portion of its grounds. Some of the graves date from the colonial period. Some of those interred at St. Margaret's are unknown to us and lie in unmarked graves. Some were laid to rest in pauper's graves. Others were slaves. The cemetery, largely filled now, is complemented by a columbarium that is tastefully designed and placed at the head of the cemetery grounds close to the church. The upkeep and administration of the cemetery is the responsibility of the Churchyard Committee. Funding for the maintenance and upkeep of the cemetery is provided by a separate fund comprised of receipts from the sale of plots and columbarium niches.

Environmental Missions Commission

The Environmental Missions Commission was established to raise the awareness of our congregation as to various roles they can play as stewards of God's great creation. This mission seeks to incorporate consideration of the effects on the environment into decisions made and actions taken within St. Margaret's campus as well as to educate parishioners about these decisions and impacts in their everyday lives through presentations and attendance at environmental programs.





Other St. Margaret's Activities and Groups

The *Brotherhood of St. Andrew* is an organization of men and youth over 16 years of age who place a strong emphasis on shared Bible study, prayer, and service to the parish and the broader diocesan community. Members are very active in buildings and grounds maintenance and fund raising activities that help support scholarships for Camp Claggett and other worthy projects.

The St. Margaret's Guild is very active. Meetings include speakers and other educational as well as social and fund raising activities. Proceeds from seasonal flower sales and other projects go to support church needs and community charities from hospice care, to Meals on Wheels, to the Salvation Army, the Bishop Claggett Center and many more worthy causes.

The Daughters of the King. The local chapter of Order of the Daughters of the King, known as All Saints in Prayer, was instituted in Annapolis in 2006 and is a greater Annapolis regional Episcopal women's organization based at St. Philip's Episcopal Church. The chapter is open to women who are communicants of the Episcopal Church, or a church within the historic Episcopate. Every Daughter undertakes a Rule of Life, which is composed of a personal Rule of Prayer and Rule of Service. A two month formation and training class precedes the taking of vows, which are a reaffirmation of our baptismal vows. Daughters are committed to strengthening the spiritual life of their parishes and to providing fellowship for each other as they share the joys and challenges of their individual journeys.

The Joust

Honoring St. Margaret's past, we annually hold an official ring-joust tournament on our grounds under the auspices of the Maryland Jousting Tournament Association. This is a unique event that harkens back to a time when the surrounding lands were farmed, and generally under threat





from 'King & Crowne.' Martial skills such as fighting from horseback were highly valued. While capturing a ring on a lance when riding a horse may seem anachronistic, the tradition of outdoor tournaments, crafts sales, fun and games is timeless. Competitors come from all over the state for the day long event. Crafters set up their tents and 'peddle their wares,' and musicians stroll the grounds entertaining the folk who come to enjoy this remarkable community event. Food and drink is available and a picnic atmosphere prevails. Our joust has been held off and on since the mid-1800's and will celebrate it's 12th anniversary in 'The Modern Era,' July 10, 2010. This is the only general fundraiser held for St. Margaret's, and all proceeds go to church operating funds.

Health Care

St. Margaret's is most fortunate to have the ministry of a parish nurse who works directly with parishioners and their families on a variety of health related issues. Blood pressure screenings are offered monthly, seasonal flu vaccinations are administered, and blood drives hosted. Parishioners have been trained in the use of the Automated External Defibrillator kept in the nave and in CPR administration. Programs to promote healthy living, such as the Walk to Bethlehem, and other activities are instituted from time to time. Health information is offered to parishioners by e-mail, referrals, newsletter articles, and the electronic weekly parish bulletins.





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Where We Want To Go

In a series of focus group meetings and through a parish survey, the parishioners of St. Margaret's gave their input on how they would like to see the parish develop. Several themes emerged that found strong voice and repetition. Briefly stated they are:

Managing Growth. St. Margaret's now meets the size criteria to be classified as a corporate or resource-sized church. Growth is likely to be an issue for some time to come, while perhaps not as fast as the growth experienced last year. As more people come to our doors, we must ensure that there is room for all. While the population of our area is not projected to continue to grow in the immediate future, there are many "unchurched" or "scattered" Christians within our reach that may well find a church home at St. Margaret's.

The Vestry is committed to addressing the issues presented by congregational growth. The hard decisions as to how to proceed are now being evaluated.

Managing our growth may require not only expanding and improving our facilities, but also adding the clergy and support staff necessary to develop the programs and to meet the pastoral needs of a larger congregation.

Youth Program Development. There is a clear need to continue to emphasize engaging programs for the Christian formation and development of our younger members, and that will attract other young people and families to St. Margaret's. In the past we have had a clergy person dedicated to youth



ministry who worked with lay volunteers. At present our youth program is being led by faithful lay people, but we are feeling the need to once again provide a dedicated clergy person or a professional lay youth minister to help our youth navigate the stresses inherent in their lives. This is one of our highest priorities.

Diversity. St. Margaret's is not a very diverse congregation in terms of race, ethnic background, or economic status. We recognize that we will all benefit by increasing the diversity in our pews, reflecting the great diversity in God's creation and reminding us that we are "all one in Christ." While the demographics of our area are not projected to change much in the next five years, we hope to attract and welcome more newcomers of diverse backgrounds to St. Margaret's.

Outreach. While we have a very active outreach ministry, we hope to find more opportunities for outreach in our local community and the Annapolis area in which parishioners can participate, especially humanitarian efforts dealing with the homeless, disadvantaged and marginalized.

Ecumenism. St. Margaret's would like to form closer ties to other Episcopal parishes and churches in the Annapolis area with whom we share the basics of Christian community, and with other faiths with whom we share common roots in the scriptures and form the basis of our respective identities. This could take many forms including but not limited to shared charitable and relief efforts, pulpit exchanges, shared youth activities, and educational exchanges.





Profile Of A Rector For St. Margaret's Church

We have sought to know and understand our parish through the strengths of our community, the challenges we face at present, and the dreams we have for the future. Through a series of focus group discussions and other means, we have begun to imagine the qualities which we hope our future rector will embody.

We are looking for someone who.....

- ✧ **Is gifted in preaching, teaching and leading worship.** He or she should lead vibrant, spiritually nourishing and inspiring worship services. He or she should preach the scriptures with a goal of translating them into meaningful lessons and guidelines for the conduct of our daily lives, while challenging the congregation to walk in the footsteps of Jesus and fulfill the calling of our Christian faith.
- ✧ **Is capable of leading congregational growth.** He or she should be adept at building broad support among our present and future members of a commonly shared vision for where we need to go as a parish and the means for attaining those ends. Importantly, he or she needs to be able to foster our sense of close community, while nurturing a common sense of momentum as we continue to grow in numbers, expanding Christian outlook, and facilities development to meet our growing ministerial requirements. We need someone who will help us move forward with efforts to expand our facilities without sacrificing what we feel is our identity while avoiding getting caught up in the negative forces of the fear and uncertainty of change. Experience in leading, or actively participating in, a substantial church expansion or new building and fund raising campaign would be an added plus.
- ✧ **Is proficient in leading and mentoring staff and lay leaders.** This includes attracting, developing, and empowering a strong team of clergy, staff, and lay leaders with complementary gifts and contributions. He or she should be accomplished at building consensus and communication across the many ministries and communities extant at St. Margaret's. We are looking for

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a rector whose leadership style is collaborative rather than directive, a person who will work alongside us to achieve common goals and aspirations.

- ✧ **Is sensitive to the needs of youth ministry.** In particular, he or she should be adept at developing clergy and staff to implement, and overseeing a vibrant youth ministry program that will meet the needs of our younger members and imbue them with both a sense of Christian commitment and their important place in our church family.
- ✧ **Is experienced in and sensitive to the daily and emergent needs of the congregation.** He or she should freely reach out and embrace the members of the congregation and their loved ones, sharing God's unconditional love and lifting spirits in time of special need or bereavement.
- ✧ **Is a sponsor and is supportive of outreach to the broader community.** He or she should be a dynamic leader in expanding our vision and reach beyond the confines of our parish; to join others -- locally and globally--to live the great commandment to "love others as ourselves" and to serve the world.



Search Committee Members

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