

# The

St. Margaret's Church - Annapolis

# Spire

Summer 2017— Volume XII, Issue IV



## Summertime with God

By The Rev. Peter W. Mayer, Rector

*"I got a blank space baby, and I'll write your name." –Taylor Swift, "Blank Space"*

Like other songs, this one got stuck in my head two summers ago when it was on heavy rotation in the gym. Bubblegum pop can be good for background, but it typically doesn't stand up to scrutiny. But I've grown to love the song, and Ryan Adams' version of it even more so, mostly because it reminds me of loves that we have during summers.

Think of other summertime jams that inspired love -- "Summer Nights" from Grease, "My Sharona" by the Knack, or even "Vacation" by the Go-Gos (although that was more of a breakup song). They may recall a face, or a name, but more likely a feeling of excitement and exuberance, of daring and stealing something that is hidden away.

In the book of the prophet Jeremiah, the young man laments to God about the work of the prophet. He's abused, and in prison, and he fears for his life. He cries out to God that he didn't want this, but God wooed him, seduced him even, to speak truth to power, no matter the cost. Jeremiah, and some of the other minor prophets, tell us that our relationship with God is like one of lovers. How can God be like a lover?

Without getting too specific, ask yourself how God has called to you in love. For some of us, it's a love that might have started with a nudge, a wink, a note passed in class. 'God tapped me on the shoulder, and I decided I wanted to learn more.' So you start spending time together, you begin to trust each other more and more, and you learn about each other.

Perhaps there are times when the affair cools, or erupts in anger. Sometimes other lovers will come and go and draw us away. I have found that those other lovers never last for long. They may look good, smell good, and make us feel good for a moment, but they do not last. They do not comfort us when we are not our best, they do not forgive us when we hurt them, nor do they call us to be our best selves. Only God does this.

So consider a summertime fling with God. Yeah, I just suggested that. How can we do that? Well, start by talking and listening. Start by spending time with God where you are. Then make a date. Make a date to spend an hour on Sunday in church. Show God you want to be faithful. Tell the other gods to take the summer off, you're with bae now. God wants to write the name of the One who will always love you on your blank space.

Transforming Lives in Christ through worship, formation, and giving.

# Vestry Notes

## Long-Term Planning for SMC

Last summer, our Rector and Senior Warden gathered a group of parishioners and asked that they provide advice and support to our Vestry for the decision-making in 2018 and 2019.

Parishioners serving on the this committee (LTPC) were Bud Billups, Ann Lallande, George Saroch, Tiffany Davenport, Brian Williams, Teresa Todd, Ernie Tucker, Jeff Macris, Fran Becker, Anne Sessions and Peter Mayer. For many months the LTPC interviewed parishioners and staff through focus groups, surveys and one-on-one meetings. They discerned four primary areas to focus future planning: our church mission of transforming lives in Christ, our structures and beautiful campus, our worship and formation, and, arching over all these areas, the church's future sustainability.



At our annual meeting in January, there was a brief presentation on the LTPC work towards making St. Margaret's a "Better Church" through our commitments to our Day School, community, Endowed Grant's Program and most importantly to you, our parishioners. Subsequent to the annual meeting, the LTPC presented the Vestry with their recommended priorities and at the Vestry's annual retreat in March, the following priorities were approved.

- Authorize a new study of existing campus that considers future growth; our mission statement; the discernment on the future of campus property (e.g. parking, church buildings, rental house, cemetery, outdoor space, Day School); commissions/program use of buildings; and increased sanctuary seating options. Vestry members Maggy Cullman, Tom Wenz, Nellie Bowers, Al Todd and parishioners Bud Billups, Teresa Todd and Phil Graham are meeting to develop specific strategies for this priority.
- Set fiscal priorities and benchmarks, including: endowment management; maintenance fund; budget priorities (e.g. mission, formation, compensation); building debt; shared expenses with St. Margaret's Day School; income use of buildings, to give us a map to where we think our budget/giving/percentages should be in 2018 and 2019. Our Vestry, clergy, staff and parishioners, including Peter Mayer, Doug Seybert, Tim Parker, Julia Drooff, Anne Sessions, Charlie Lang, Elizabeth Radley, and George Saroch are having serious discussions to set these priorities and benchmarks.
- Develop stronger lay leadership that enhances the spiritual growth of parishioners (including families in crisis and seniors) through enhanced communications, education and scripture-based references about our commissions' awareness and impacts. Helping with this priority are Vestry members Trish Schilling, Ruth McVey Harmon, Fran Becker, Valery Weekley, Christine Feldmann, Al Todd, Paul O'Donnell, Gwen Davis.

Please follow the progress on each of these priorities through our weekly Dragon Tales email. Our next Spire will include a more comprehensive report. Please feel free to contact Fran Becker, [fran.becker10@gmail.com](mailto:fran.becker10@gmail.com) with any questions or comments.

## Lessons Learned

By Anne Sessions, Senior Warden

12 year old me: Daaaaad?!? Another exhibit of ecclesiastical vestments?

Dad: Anne, some day you'll thank me.

Me: Doubt it.

*Decades later...*

14 year old daughter to me: Really Mom? You cannot seriously be reading those museum labels.

Me: I'm enjoying this. Please don't block that label, I'm reading it.

Daughter: It's in Arabic, for crying out loud.

Me: I have Google translate.

Lessons learned:

History repeats

History requires context

History demands accurate retelling or else

History teaches

History is fleeting

History has heroes and goats



Mark Your Calendar for our  
325th Anniversary Celebration Weekend:  
October 20-22, 2017

The weekend of **October 20 through the 22** we will be celebrating St. Margaret's 325th Anniversary and our history on the Broade Necke Peninsula.

**Some context:** 325 years ago the real greatest witch-hunt launched in Salem. And the desert libraries of Timbuktu, Mali, were the repositories of some of the greatest ideas on the planet. No overdue fines, very helpful librarians. British colonies had no combustion engines, no indoor plumbing, no penicillin. No human rights, no deodorant, no Old Bay. There were lively horse races, abundant flying squirrels, and the first writ of habeas corpus as of 1679.

**Retelling:** The History and Archives Committee, which has been recovering, restoring, and preserving records and artifacts of St. Margaret's history for years now will be able show you, over the coming months, how a congregation built through the sweat of farm families, enslaved workers, and some traveling ecclesiastical support has survived, served, and thrived.

**Teaching:** They will show us context, conflict, struggle, celebration, tradition and growth, within the microcosm that is our Parish. There are tales of snakes in the organ, bats in the belfry, body snatching, and jousting. I think that just covers the first 200 years. Make room for wars and victories, depression and recovery, knights and bishops.

**Heroes:** On this occasion we will also be looking forward – asking, "What have we learned? Who have we touched? Where can we continue to serve?" This is the genesis of **Project 3.25**. The Missions Commission is focusing St. Margaret's missions, and outreach efforts, on an area that is within 3.25 miles of our front door. That radius touches water, farms, innumerable schools, communities of diversity, wealth and poverty. It brings us into contact with other faith communities, other rooms in our Father's house. It challenges us to strengthen and deepen our roots, to share, and serve our neighbors.

As to the **goats**, I'm sure there have been goats at some time or another grazing on St. Margaret's grounds. And if not, I'm going to hear about it.

**Project 3.25** will send us forth into the next 325 years. History is the foundation that anchors us, and service is how we reach deep into our community to keep faith strong.

# Music Notes

By James R. Fitzpatrick  
Director of Music



It is with sadness that I announce the Music at St. Margaret's Concert Series has reached the end of its eleven year run and will be suspended going forward. Attendance at the recitals has fallen in recent years and combined with increased costs, even with a generous grant, this year's season was not able to break even. The concert series has always been self-sustaining and to avoid being a burden on St. Margaret's budget, it must be ended.

When I first came to St. Margaret's in 2004, I was told that there was \$1,500.00 in a concert series fund account. That money had been raised at a benefit concert given by the late Judith Werle Meeder accompanied by Louise Carlson and a string quartet put together by Judith's daughter, Laurie. I immediately proposed establishing a concert series as a way to accomplish the following:

- Raising the expectation of quality musical performance in the church.
- Bringing under performed music to a listening audience.
- Enhancing the reputation of St. Margaret's as a music center in the community.
- Providing opportunity to local musicians.
- Providing a place where families could bring children to learn about music at low to no cost.
- Providing refreshment of the soul and ordering of the mind through an aesthetic experience.

At the time, the Reverend Wm. Mark Wastler, suggested waiting until there was significant support for the series before beginning it. Additionally, the piano available for accompaniment in the church was sub-standard and needed replacement. A Gala Fund Raising concert called "I Love a Piano" was given in 2005 and a 7 foot conservatory Yamaha grand was brought in for the occasion. The line-up for the concert was impressive, including Broadway star Mary Stout. The church was sold out and by the end of the evening, all the funds necessary to purchase the piano were in hand, so the instrument never had to leave St. Margaret's again.

Planning for a concert series began in earnest and in May 2006, a test concert was given featuring James Woolwine on piano and guitar. Mr. Woolwine had recently graduated from the Berklee College of Music in Boston, MA. He is the son of Ms. Myrna Bein, a long time parishioner at St. Margaret's. The turnout for Mr. Woolwine's appearance was significant and indicated that the parish was ready for a full concert series.

The next fall we began the series and over the ensuing years have brought name talent from the International and National stages, as well as fine local talent, including Grammy Award nominees and winners, stars from Broadway and Opera, and international jazz artists.

At first the concert series operated on a free will donation basis, but with the economic downturn of the Great Recession, proceeds began dropping off and the series became a subscription series with set prices. Subsequently the series began relying on generous donations as much as ticket sales.

While the formal series may be at its end, we will continue to have some musical events at the church like Vespers and Evensongs provided by our choirs. Individual artists who wish may use the church for recitals, as will happen this late summer when jazz guitarist Tony Romano will do a CD launch recital.

And if anyone would like to sponsor a recital or concert, please see me. We love having concerts here, where our beautiful church and its excellent acoustics delight all listeners.

# Upcoming Musical Events

## **Todd Marcus, Jazz Clarinet** **in concert on Saturday, June 17, 7:30 p.m.**

**Tickets \$20**

**Purchase at the door by cash or check**

**Purchase by credit card @ [st-margarets.org](http://st-margarets.org)**

Baltimore bass clarinetist, composer, and arranger Todd Marcus is one of the few jazz artists worldwide to focus exclusively on use of the bass clarinet as a solo instrument. While most uses of bass clarinet in jazz typically lean towards avant-garde and free-music styles, Marcus' playing presents the instrument with a modern straight-ahead jazz approach.



We are taking a group to nearby Children's Theatre of Annapolis for a New York quality performance of the musical Godspell on **Thursday, July 13 at 2 p.m.**

We need to have group reservations made by June 11. Cost of the ticket is \$30 and payment can be made by check to "St. Margaret's Church" with "Godspell tickets" in the memo line for the collection plate or by credit card on our website (look for the "Giving" tab at the top).



*A family-friendly musical story  
from parishioner Phil Meeder*

*Sunday, June 11 - 10:20 a.m.  
in the Parish Hall*



**KARAOKE**  
*night*

Saturday, July 29  
7 p.m. in the Parish Hall

Want to sing a tune?  
Email [wenzt@yahoo.com](mailto:wenzt@yahoo.com)



## Summer LEGO Bible Camp

@ St. Margaret's

June 26-30 - 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Fee: \$25 includes t-shirt

For children entering K - 6th grade

All spots are filled - To be placed on a wait list, email Jenelle Mejia at [jenelle@st-margarets.org](mailto:jenelle@st-margarets.org).

Volunteers are needed for a decoration team.  
Contact Jenelle if interested.

There will be a meeting for all youth and adult station leaders on **Sunday, June 11 at 11:30 a.m. in Formation Rooms E and C.** We will plan to go over the camp songs, procedures when working with young children, background checks, safety training and end with directions for each brick build. Snacks will be provided.



Thanks to members of our Altar Guild for recently providing members of our K-1 Godly Play class with a tour of the sanctuary and lessons about the Eucharist and liturgy they see on Sunday mornings.

## THANK YOU, VOLUNTEERS!

Thank you to those people who volunteered their time and talents this school year with our children and youth. Many will return next school year and some are off to new ministries. We wish those not returning, our best, in whatever exciting plan God has next. We are grateful for the time and love you have given the students in our formation program!

### Godly Play - Story Teller

Gwen Davis, Dalyn Huntley, Ruth Harmon, Matt Chasse, Tommy Bowers, Tim Parker, Jeanne Nardi

### Door Greeters

Jennifer Albanese, Lindsay Morgan, Luke Morgan, Angela Carpita, Lisa Moylan, Sydney Davis, Sarah Balcom, David Benson, Stephen Calder, Melody Moore, Natalie McDowell, Morgan Van Arsdall, Tracy Seybert, Shannon Harig-Blaine, Jennifer Fleischer

### 2nd and 3rd Grade Teachers

Tammy Anderson, Doreen Campbell, Lisa Body

### 4th and 5th Grade Teachers

Stephanie Ceruolo, Nancy Saroch, Tracy Blamphin

### Middle School Teachers

Julie Svendsen, Kurt Svendsen, Catherine Kelly

### High School

Tim Parker, Elizabeth Parker, Kirsten Tolley, Richard Schwappach

### Children's Chapel

Jennifer Albanese, Ernie Tucker, Ella Tomko, Pam Roth, Arvilla Wubbenhorst, Danielle Rubino, Froggi Jackson, Myrna Bein, Sydney Davis, Sarah Balcom, Teresa Todd, Al Todd

### Nursery Volunteers

Sarah Westcott, Brook Kopack-Ware

### Nursery Staff

Karina Rospigliosi, Tonya Farran, Zoie Wilson, Jen Stelmach, Liz Stelmach

### Acolytes

Tom Bein, George Breeden

### Formation Vestry Liasons

Gwen Davis, Ruth Harmon, Nellie Bowers, Julia Droof

## Welcome NEW Volunteers

### NEW Godly Play Story Tellers

Jennifer Albanese, D'Anna Farrell, Lindsay Morgan, Jenna Lane

### NEW Godly Play Door Greeters

Lydia Goldthwait

### NEW 4th and 5th Grade Teachers

Erica Snook, Dana Timmer, Paul O'Donnell  
\_\_\_\_\_ (*your name could go here!*)

### NEW Middle School Teacher

Joanie Crossman

### NEW High School Teacher

Chris Craft

### NEW Children's Chapel Volunteers

Emily DelCorso, Cory Greene

We are still in need of ONE MORE 4th and 5th grade teacher. If you've been hearing the call and ignoring it, now's the time to let us know! Curriculum and training is provided. Contact [Jenelle@st-margarets.org](mailto:Jenelle@st-margarets.org) to sign up or for more information!



Members of our Youth Group served dinner to residents of the Light House shelter in Annapolis recently.

## Youth Summer Fun!



We have some upcoming fun days scheduled to keep the momentum of the youth group moving during the summer months. If you are a youth and are in town, make plans to attend, hang out with your youth group friends and maybe make some new ones. You must let the individuals planning the events know if you are interested in attending and if you are interested in hosting an additional date/activity, please email [jenelle@st-margarets.org](mailto:jenelle@st-margarets.org) to get on our schedule.

### June 16th: Pizza, Volleyball and Swimming!

The Canuel family is hosting a get-together at the Admiral's Heights' Swim Club (160 Porter Dr, Annapolis, MD 21401) between 6:30 and 8:30 pm on Friday June 16. Contact Stacy at [dublin26pt2@gmail.com](mailto:dublin26pt2@gmail.com) if you plan to attend.

**July 9th: Bowling!** The Tomko's are hosting a bowling night and they want you to join them from 1-3 p.m. on Sunday, July 9 at Severna Park Lanes. Contact Laurie at [laurietomko@gmail.com](mailto:laurietomko@gmail.com) if you plan to attend.

**July 21st: Pool party!** Dana Timmer and Stacy Mulder are opening their pool to the Youth Group towards the end of July. You *KNOW* it will be hot then - perfect time for a dip and a chance to see some friends you might not have seen as much over the summer. Expect to see some communication from them with more details (time, address, etc.). Contact Dana at [dana.timmer@gmail.com](mailto:dana.timmer@gmail.com) if you plan to attend.

**August 13th: Outdoor Cooking!** 4:00 to 8:00 pm, behind the Formation Building on the St. Margaret's campus: Come experience **cooking in the outdoors** with parishioner Len Morgan, longtime Boy Scout leader. Learn how to safely use a variety of camp cooking equipment, prepare and eat dinner and dessert, and finish off the evening by roasting marshmallows over the fire. Just want to watch and eat? That's OK, too. RSVP to [lenmorgan@yahoo.com](mailto:lenmorgan@yahoo.com) by August 11.

# Formation

## Don't ever believe these kids are anything less than amazing!

From Jenelle Mejia, Director of Children's Ministries

I don't think I knew how sad it would be wrapping up our first year of Monday night youth group. Your students welcomed the night and even started to bring their friends to share in the fun. I have learned so much about these amazing young people during this time, things I think you all need to know.

1. They are funny.
2. They are creative and talented.
3. They like breakfast cereal.
4. They have a lot of good opinions.
5. They see the world with their hearts.
6. Sometimes the world breaks their hearts.
7. They are loud and like to talk.
8. They are stressed.
9. They can categorize bags of chips by type in record time.
10. They still like to play games of their younger youth—tag, cards, games where you act things out.
11. They don't always brush their teeth before bed.
12. They yearn for a break sometimes.
13. They know how to do dishes (without a dishwasher).
14. They can cut with sharp knives.
15. They are kind and loving towards those who are different from them.
16. They are good friends.
17. They are a light in a dark world.
18. Some of them like sports.
19. Some of them dislike their bodies.
20. Some of them are vegetarians, pescatarians or vegans and others ask a lot of questions about what that means.
21. They're content when there is wifi and phone chargers.
22. They know how to put down their phones and talk and listen to each other.
23. They are often disappointed by adults.
24. They are insightful and have lots of questions.
25. They make our lives and this world more beautiful.

Thank you parents for sharing them with us! We look forward to some summer meet ups and more memory making next year.



## Mark Your Calendars

### Episcopal Night @ Camden Yards Friday, August 4, 7:05 p.m.



Join other Episcopalians around the Diocese for a great night of Orioles baseball on Friday, August 4. St. Margaret's has a limited number of group discount tickets available that can be purchased on a first-come, first-serve basis. Deadline for ticket orders is July 11. Tickets will be available for pick up in the office starting July 11. Tickets are reserved only by payment, no reservations will be taken by email or phone. Purchase tickets by check made out to "St. Margaret's Church" with "Orioles" in the memo line for \$14 or by credit card on the church website for \$15.





The EfM program invites you to join small, mentored communities that help us understand our lives and share our actions as we deepen our Christian faith. Through readings and discussions, we shape and define our personal ministry and spiritual growth. The setting is more “sharing” and discovery than “teaching”. We learn and reflect through each other while having the advantage of texts to guide us. It is a safe, compassionate, and non-judgmental environment.

Part of our class time is sharing what we have read that week, not a book report, but how the reading touched us in some way. The chapter lessons have a common theme that crosses the four-year study. Another part of our discussion is called "Theological Reflections" in which we discuss sometimes words, sometimes issues, sometimes concepts.

St. Margaret’s EfM meets on Wednesdays from 9 am until 11:30 weekly September through May in the Formation Building. Please contact Karen Engelke (karenengelke@aol.com and 410-562-3624) or Jim Hall (jhhall1942@verizon.net or 410-956-5120). The cost is \$375 and includes all texts. Scholarship help is available. Students who have completed a year or more previously are encouraged to rejoin the program; or if you want to explore EfM through the new texts, you are very welcome.

## *Conrats* GRADS!

### High School

Harrison Brown  
Son of David and Brenda Brown

Jacob Craft  
Son of Christ Craft

Hunter Davis  
Son of Melanie Hartwig-Davis and Lance Davis

Julia Drooff  
Daughter of Eric and Leah Drooff

John Macris  
Son of Jeff and Jen Macris

Maddie Nardi  
Daughter of Pete and Jeanne Nardi

Brigid Saroch  
Daughter of George and Nancy Saroch

Carl Tucker  
Son of Ernest Tucker and Sarah Hyde

### College

Bethany Blamphin  
Daughter of John and Tracy Blamphin

Kathryn Bussey  
Granddaughter of Doris Bussey

Francesca Gargano  
Daughter of Peter and Wendy Gargano

Sara Johns  
Daughter of Janet Levitas

Hayden Pingle  
Grandson of Rex and Casey Pingle

Olivia Williams  
Granddaughter of Norman and Joyce Hall

Maddie Zuschnitt  
Daughter of Brad and Kate Callahan

# Day School



The Day School would like to thank the PTO board for all their hard work and support this year with Day School and fundraising events. Thanks also to all who attended our annual silent auction and bid on our donations. We appreciate all parishioners and community businesses for their generous donations.

We celebrated spring by growing and watching butterflies, ladybugs, praying mantises and plants. We celebrated Earth Day. We also celebrated our Moms with breakfast and muffins and ended our year with a fabulous field day and awesome snowball truck.

Our STEM (Science Technology Engineering Math) program ends this year with a rocket launch on June 2.

As we say goodbye to another school year, we will host our annual Kindergarten graduation and end-of-the-year family picnic on Tuesday, June 6. Our festivities will begin at 10 a.m. with the graduation of our Kindergarteners. Our fun-filled family day will once again be bittersweet but lots of fun, complete with ponies, picnic fare, face painting and a moonbounce.

Our outdoor classroom, which has been developed with the help of staff, students, and parents, was recently certified by the National Wildlife Federation as an official Schoolyard Habitat. To learn more about the program, visit the NWF's website.

We are still accepting summer camp applications, though we currently have over 115 students registered! Our fun-filled weeks of theme-based camps focus on space, pirates, legos, and more! Download an application from our website at [www.stmargaretsdayschool.org](http://www.stmargaretsdayschool.org).

This has been a fabulous year at the Day School, thanks to all the families, church staff and parishioners and most importantly the children for making this a wonderful year!



<https://www.facebook.com/StMargaretsDaySchool/>



A big congrats to Sharon Toms, our head Kindergarten teacher, for being nominated for an Anne Arundel County Excellence in Education Award for 2017! We are so proud!



SMC parishioners and Day School parents Hillary Bolea and Lindsay Schwappach strike a pose for the Day School "red carpet" auction.



SMC parishioner and Naval Academy professor Kristen Castonguay provided a recent presentation during a STEM program rocket launch.



Director Tricia McVeigh worked with students on planting on Earth Day at the Day School.

# Thank you, volunteers!

On Sunday, May 21, we took time to celebrate the volunteer service of all our parishioners with an appreciation luncheon. More than 125 people enjoyed a sumptuous meal prepared by our staff. Our vestry initiated a new tradition honoring 31 parishioners (most pictured below) for their extraordinary contribution to transforming lives in Christ through church-related volunteer activities. The honorees have contributed countless hours of service through a myriad of ways: worship, missions, choir, formation, planning, buildings and grounds, stewardship, administrative and Vestry service. The average length of service is 20 years! Later this summer, their names will be placed on a Wall of Honor in our Formation building.



[Picture caption] Front Row: Rev. Peter Mayer, Barbara Breeden, Beth Knor, Arvilla Wubbenhorst, Jane Piche, Teresa Todd, Kirsten Tolley. Second Row: Kathy Polk, Bud Billups, John Purguson, Mike Winn, Leah Drooff, Jean Clarke, Wendy Gargano, George Saroch, Ann Lallande. Third Row: Bill Bird, Tug Knor, Jim Hall, Gordon Piche, Dave Boyce Jim Ferguson, Mark Torrence, John Goldthwait. Missing from photo: Tom Bein, George Breeden, Phil Graham, Judy Hall, Dalyn Huntley, Jeanne Nardi, Joan Rich and George Tolley.

*“Every volunteer position along the way has brought so much joy in to my life. I have learned to do new things and more importantly, I have come to know and love so many people I would otherwise never get a chance to meet. I am not a passive listener sitting in the pew on Sunday; I am part of a great gift God has given me- a feeling of family every time I step on campus.”*

*“I feel so lucky to have such a wonderful church home. St. Margaret’s has walked every step of my spiritual journey with me for over thirty years, and nothing I can do for our church can begin to repay it for all it has given me – a stronger faith, beloved friends, intellectual challenge, opportunities for personal growth.”*

# Volunteer Opportunities

## Food Drive This July — Help Stock the Light House Food Pantry



Throughout the entire month of July, St. Margaret's is charged with helping to stock the food pantry of the Light House shelter in Annapolis. Please leave donations in the designated box in the narthex of the sanctuary.

Suggested Items:

Canned Goods—Oatmeal—Coffee—Peanut Butter—Fruit Juice—Ramen Noodles —Tea Bags—Pasta—Syrup—Jelly—Canned Tuna—Cereal—Rice—Salad Dressing — Applesauce



## SMC Volunteers Needed for Light House Dinners



Join fellow parishioners [adults and/or families] on any 4th SUNDAY OF THE MONTH at the Light House Shelter and Homeless Prevention Center. We gather at 4:30 pm to cook dinner for 60 residents which we serve starting at 5:45 pm. Parishioners are invited to join the residents for dinner and conversation. Our next dinner is SUNDAY JUNE 25. We particularly need help during the summer months. Email Bill Saur at [wgsaur@gmail.com](mailto:wgsaur@gmail.com) for more information and/or to receive our monthly email.

## Volunteers Needed for Camp Allen

The 17th annual Camp Allen will be held on July 31-August 4 at the Allen Apartments in the Parole area of Annapolis. It is a half-day day camp for the mostly Hispanic children of the low-income housing in and around the apartment complex. The children look forward to Camp Allen as a highlight of their summer. To put on this very successful program, we are seeking volunteers for a wide variety of jobs at the camp. We need youth counselors, Spanish speakers to help with registration on Monday and Tuesday, other volunteers to help with purchasing, preparing and serving snacks and lunches, people with large vehicles to help with transportation of tables and supplies, people to help with crafts and games on Monday or Tuesday or to help chaperone field trips on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. We always also need extra hands to do whatever needs to be done. Any amount of time you would like to devote to the program, we can put you to work! Please contact Sarah Hyde at 410 280-6737 (home) or 410 562-9904 (cell) or by e-mail at [smhyde@aol.com](mailto:smhyde@aol.com).

# STEWARDSHIP 2017-18



Thank you to all of you who pledged to last year's Stewardship campaign! We stretched for an ambitious goal and very nearly achieved it, setting a new Stewardship record in the process. THANK YOU!

Next year's Stewardship team of Doug Seybert, Brad Callahan, Sarah Viscardi, Greg Smith and Dave Boyce are in the early stages of planning. We are working closely with the Finance Committee to determine how next year's campaign can best support St. Margaret's mission to "Transform lives in Christ through worship, formation and giving."

Similar to last year, Stewardship will kick off the first week of September and conclude October 27th. And while our team is ready for the challenge, please let us know if you'd be willing to be an "Ambassador" who can help us inform the congregation of the Stewardship effort.

Stay tuned for more details, and as Peter mentioned in a recent sermon, we look forward to continuing the "God thing" we have going on at St. Margaret's.

## VOLUNTEER SIGN UP NOW AVAILABLE!



We are looking for some volunteers to help us with keeping our native plant landscaping looking good. We need some Weed Warriors! All we ask is that you consider choosing a week between now and October and volunteer to stop by the church and pull some weeds for one hour. You can do it any time of day, any day of the week you choose. Weeding can be meditative, a good time for prayer, and give you a sense of accomplishment! Many hands will make light work! Just sign up through the Sign Up Genius on the web link on the homepage of the church website (scroll down to the bottom).



# Missions News

## Bringing Shelter to the Underserved

By Harry Caldwell

Since 1992, a growing number of Anne Arundel County churches and synagogues have cooperatively provided shelter for the homeless as part of the Winter Relief Program administered by the Arundel House of Hope. St. Margaret's has participated in this coalition of 70 churches and synagogues for the past four years, with as many as 140 parishioners involved each year. Several of our homeless guests have found shelter, employment, and a renewed sense of hope and self-esteem through the efforts of so many of our parishioners.



This 70-church coalition has now extended its partnership in a more substantive way to help individuals and families obtain more permanent housing solutions. The coalition has established a program through the Community Foundation of Anne Arundel County to provide security deposit grants for individuals vetted and qualified by housing authorities to seek permanent housing in public or privately available housing facilities. Stable housing is consistent with the widely accepted principle of social service organizations that the key to long term personal stability is "housing first". For many, it will be the first time in their lives they have had the opportunity to occupy a space of their own, a fact barely conceivable to most of our congregation.

Through this program, participating churches will partner with county agencies and non-profits who use professional case workers to qualify and mentor Anne Arundel County residents seeking to obtain affordable housing. Both the currently homeless, as well as those living often in less than desirable housing conditions, will be eligible. By joining forces with other churches, SMC will be able to leverage its resources to bring real change to people's lives.

SMC has been asked to participate in this ministry of shelter by donating \$500 this calendar year to help reach the \$10,000 minimum necessary at the Community Foundation to begin making grants. Each church is then asked to contribute \$1,000 annually thereafter to sustain the program. Even if only half the 70 churches involved are able to commit to that nominal level of annual funding, we will be in a position to help many individuals and families achieve their dream of independent living in a home of their own making.

A Governing Board comprised of the Arundel House of Hope and representatives selected from participating faith communities will determine the grant allocations to be made from the fund. We have undertaken several coordinating meetings with the housing agencies to prepare for the challenges of dealing with chronically underserved individuals, including many with multiple personal, emotional, and legal problems, to ensure that the program, while compassionate in nature, is also undertaken objectively with success and results in mind. Those of us who have worked with the Winter Relief Program and social service agencies over the years have seen an increasing number of individuals and families who desire, and need stable shelter to improve their lives, but have little or no cash reserves. This program is a compassionate, transparent, and focused effort to help these citizens, our neighbors, as they struggle to stabilize and improve their lives.

If you wish further information or to become more involved with this program, please contact Harry Caldwell at 443 926-1439 or at [hbcaldwell@comcast.net](mailto:hbcaldwell@comcast.net). Through this effort you will transform the lives of others, and in so doing, transform your own.

## Be a Bay-Wise Homeowner

By Gail Morton

Composting has multiple benefits: for your garden, for the environment and for your commitment to stewardship of God's creation. Creating compost from your yard and kitchen waste returns beneficial organic nutrients to the soil, cuts down on landfill and gives you a great sense of satisfaction.



To get started:

- Choose your method- open piles, built frame or purchased bin. All work on the same principle. Suit your personal preference.
- Gather leaves, grass clippings, shredded paper and vegetable based food scraps. Don't ever add meat, pet droppings, pesticides or herbicide treated materials.
- Be careful with including weeds. Your compost pile must be very hot, not just warm, to kill the seeds. If in doubt, err on the side of caution. Discard questionable materials in your regular curbside trash pick up.
- Turn your pile as often as possible, the more the faster the process works.
- Add some moisture each time you add a new layer.
- Give your compost a chance to work. Add compost to your garden every few weeks before planting. Mix it in and let it sit before you plant.
- Too much? Divide and conquer. Start a new pile and take from the original while the new material decomposes.
- Don't worry about bugs. Most are ok. You want worms. They speed up the decomposition process. Leave them in the compost when you move it to your garden. Your plants will benefit from the improved soil texture and aeration the worms provide.
- The compost process works best at temperatures between 120 and 150 degrees. If you are a beginner, warm summer months are easier to get things going properly. Start now.

Composting isn't really the work or inconvenience you might think. We keep a ceramic canister near the sink. All appropriate scraps get scrapped into it and every day or two it gets dumped into our secured plastic compost bin to keep wildlife from scrounging in it. Yard waste goes into it's own pile, turned occasionally and sprinkled with lime when we remember to do it. Both sources provide excellent compost for our flowers and vegetables, producing more than I have the time or knees to cultivate. Between composting and recycling, we have very little waste going into a landfill. By using our rain barrels to water the gardens as well, we feel that we are returning as much as we are given. And that is what stewardship is all about. Good luck. Get started.

**Over the last two months of 2016, 13.8% of our energy in the new formation building came from the solar panels. From February through April, we're averaging 23.3% a month.**



# ST. MARGARET'S CHURCH

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