

# The Spire

Vol. XI, Issue V  
*seasonal newsletter*

Advent/Christmas 2016

## A Step Toward the Process

By The Rev. Peter W. Mayer, Rector



I heard once of a diner, somewhere off an interstate in North Carolina. It was a thin place where heaven and earth seemed to mesh, and you couldn't quite tell where one began and the other ended. Well, the story goes that a person walked in and sat down. Before looking at the menu, she began to look around and saw that the diner was inhabited by white men, black men, Asian women, Palestinian children, and Central American people. Some wore baseball caps. Some were clean shaven, or dressed up and others had on work clothes. Different languages blended and spoke in and out of themselves. The smells coming from the kitchen were otherworldly.

She thought to herself, the kingdom of God has come near. Had she died? No, this was this world, our world. What was this place?

I think of that story often when I bring myself to talk about justice, peace and equality. It's something I've spoken of much in the last year. I believe that the Gospel compels us to go beyond tolerance, and perhaps even beyond understanding to a place where we live peaceably with all. You ask 'how is that possible?' I only know as much as I've said so far: that it won't be easy, that it will take some hard truths to be told and in order to be a kingdom people, we have to be willing to leave some things behind.

I am thrilled and honored to welcome Pastor Stephen Tillett of Asbury Broadneck United Methodist Church to St. Margaret's on Sunday, November 27. Pastor Tillett has been at Asbury Broadneck for twelve and a half years. He has not only served as a chaplain to the Air National Guard at Andrews Air Force Base, but he is also the current President of the Anne Arundel Chapter of the NAACP. As part of the work we are doing towards racial reconciliation in our nation, on the Peninsula and in our hearts, I believe it is necessary to hear voices different than our own. I know you will join me in welcoming him.

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## Christmas @ St. Margaret's



### Christmas Eve

4 p.m.  
Church & Parish Hall

7:30 p.m. - Choral Prelude  
8 p.m. - Service

10:30 p.m. - Choral Prelude  
11 p.m. - service

### Christmas Day

10 a.m.

### New Year's Day

7:30, 9, 11:15 a.m.  
10:20 Potluck Brunch

### Epiphany Pageant

Jan. 8 - 10:20 a.m.



By The Rev. Jane M. Hague  
Associate Rector



“Prepare the Way of the Lord;  
make his paths straight.”  
—Mark 1:1-2



When I was a little girl my grandmother from Delaware would come visit for Christmas. Our preparations for her arrival rivaled a visitation of the Queen. Our rooms had to be neat and tidy; the shoes in our closet arranged in order; our sweaters folded neatly on the shelf.

How would you prepare for a visit from Christ? Perhaps rearranging your closet is not on the list, but what do you do in anticipation for Jesus' coming?

May I suggest preparing your heart by celebrating a season of giving to others? We offer many opportunities to serve others this season. Offer to prepare holiday baskets for Thanksgiving and Christmas. Mark on your calendar our week of Winter Relief (February 13-February 20, 2017) and plan to chaperone, cook for or transport our homeless guests. See other articles in this issue that discuss ways to give back.

It is also a special time to read the accounts of preparation in the Bible. Our Advent book, Awaiting the Already offers Bible passages upon which we can meditate. Our Bible Women study on Thursday mornings will discuss Mary, the mother of Jesus, and Elizabeth, her cousin, as we prepare for Christ's coming.

## REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT FORUM

Thank you to all the parishioners who attended our recent forum on supporting world refugees. Pam Roth and Sarah Balcom described their experiences as volunteers who help refugee families with resettlement in Anne Arundel County. Check our website (Missions) and Facebook members group for more information on how you can become involved.

St. Margaret's designated day for serving dinner at the Light House shelter in Annapolis is the fourth Sunday evening of every month. In December, that happens to be Christmas Day.

We need to assess whether we can provide enough volunteers from St. Margaret's to be able to meet this need. If you are able and willing to participate in this mission effort, please contact Bill Saur at wgsaur@gmail.com or the Rev. Jane Hague at jane@st-margarets.org.

### Financial Notes on End-of-Year Giving

*from the church office*

Deadlines for contributions to be recorded for 2016 taxes are as follows:

**Stock or bond sales need to be initiated by Thursday, December 1.** This is because it may take 2-3 weeks for the transaction to be processed and for our bank to receive the proceeds from the sale.

**Automatic drafts from your bank need to be scheduled by you no later than Monday, December 19.** It can take six to seven business days to process and then mail the checks to our office.

**We have to receive all checks by 2 p.m. on December 28 to meet processing deadlines.** Any financial contributions of any kind that are received after 2 p.m. December 28th will have to be credited to fiscal year 2017.





Members of our parish will provide holiday meals to needy families and seniors this Thanksgiving and Christmas. We have received names from our partner Windsor Farm Elementary School and the A.A. County Dept. of Social Services of those needing help in purchasing their holiday dinners. The list includes both seniors and families with children. The Mission Commission will provide the turkeys and hams: you and your family will provide the fixings for the rest of the meal and deliver the food basket to the recipient a few days BEFORE the holiday date. **No cooking is involved!** Baskets will be available for pick-up in the Parish Hall the Sunday before each holiday or by separate arrangement. In advance, you will receive the name of your recipient and delivery instructions. To participate, call Barbara Marder at 410-518-9978 or [scubaesc@aol.com](mailto:scubaesc@aol.com).



## Winter Relief Appeal

As the winter season begins, St. Margaret's once again will need parishioner volunteers to assist those in our community who do not have shelter from the cold through Arundel House of Hope's winter relief program.

### **Assistance for St. Philip's**

First, we need volunteers who can assist the St. Philip's community during their shelter week of Jan. 14. Specifically, volunteers are needed for meal preparation and transportation.

### **Providing Shelter the Week of February 12th**

The week of February 12, St. Margaret's will provide shelter using the new formation building. We will have many volunteer needs including set up and clean up, check in and out, meals, guest liaisons, transportation, overnight chaperoning, etc.

For a link to volunteer, look on the front page of our website starting the first week of December.

## Grant Liaisons Needed

To date, from an Endowment gift of parishioners Edward and Zoe Hall, St. Margaret's Church has given over \$1 million to nonprofits both local and around the world for nearly 20 years.

The St. Margaret's Endowment Grants Program is soon getting underway for the 2017 giving year. Applicants are now mailing in grant applications which are due with a postmark by November 30. The Grants Committee will begin reviewing and discussing all the applications in January. As part of the review process the committee depends on other members of the congregation to help out by being liaisons between the applicant and the church.

If you are curious about who applies and for what, get involved by being a liaison. The "job" is short term, not difficult, possibly life changing and always interesting! We need over 30 people for this task. Could you be one of them? Training will take place between services on Sunday February 5, but we need to know long before whether you are interested in doing this if you have not already signed up. Please call Izzy Winn, grants administrator, to find out more and hopefully to sign up as a liaison — 410-849-2605 or e-mail [ewinn421@verizon.net](mailto:ewinn421@verizon.net).

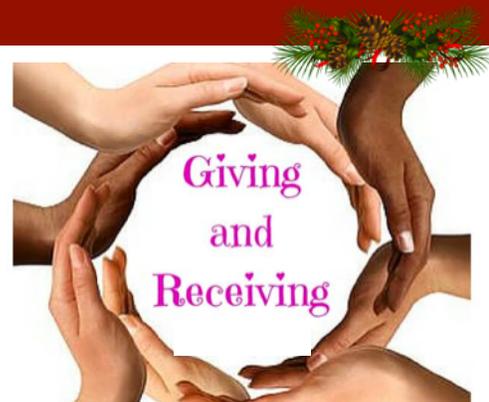


**Endowment Grants  
Application  
Deadline:  
Nov. 30**

### Transforming Gifts

By Anne Sessions

On October 6, there was an incident at Annapolis High School. One student went to the hospital, one was arrested, some detained for questioning. Later, in her monthly meeting with parents the AHS Principal emphasized this was about students in need of support systems, and the issues started long before high school.



We can stand on our side of the Severn and point at Annapolis and say, "We're not like that." But we are. We have very high levels of students qualifying for Free And Reduced Meals (FARM) in the Broadneck feeder schools, a sure indication of poverty and need. The 2012 Anne Arundel County Needs Assessment, produced by the Community Foundation of Anne Arundel County, notes: *...according to 2010-2011 MSA scores, only 76.2% of Anne Arundel County 8<sup>th</sup> grade FARMS students scored proficient in reading in comparison with 87.2% of all students. For Math proficiency the gap is much wider with only 51.3% of 8<sup>th</sup> grade FARMS students scoring proficient or advanced as opposed to 71.2% of all students.*

St. Margaret's Mission Commission has responded to this by partnering with Windsor Farm Elementary School, in the Broadneck Feeder System, to offer tutoring, non-perishable food for weekends, and breakfast snacks for morning tutoring groups. This partnership is a powerful sign of our commitment to support children as they strive to learn. It's an effort to head off discouragement before it manifests as an arrest. It's also a transforming gift, one we give *and* receive.

Ask Jean Clarke ([jeanmclarke@msn.com](mailto:jeanmclarke@msn.com)), Missions Commission leader for this effort, three questions:

- 1) Can St. Margaret's make a difference?
- 2) What happens when we tell our children, families, teachers, "We've got you."
- 3) Do you have enough fingers and toes to count the ways this commitment transforms us all?

### Mark Your Calendar - Annual Meeting - January 29

**Parish Hall 12:45 to 1:45 p.m. - Parish potluck lunch after the 11:15 a.m. service**

Join parishioners of St. Margaret's who will be presented with information on the activities of various groups of the parish, discuss the 2016 budget, and elect new vestry members.

**Committees and organizations should submit their 2016 information for the Annual Report by Friday, Jan. 13 to [info@st-margarets.org](mailto:info@st-margarets.org).**

# ANNUAL MEETING

### Vestry Candidates Now Being Sought

The Vestry's nominating committee is gathering names of parishioners who wish to serve on the Vestry. The Vestry is the elected board of lay (non-clergy) representatives of the congregation that lead the church along with the Rector. Vestry members will serve three-year terms beginning in February of 2017. Responsibilities include attending monthly meetings, annual retreats, and a conference in the second year of service. If you are interested in learning more about this leadership opportunity, please contact Ernie Tucker at [est4@aol.com](mailto:est4@aol.com).

As many of you know, the theme of this year's stewardship campaign was "more church." We like themes, so we've decided the theme of this stewardship update is "**again.**" The Stewardship Committee would like to thank everyone who has generously supported this year's stewardship campaign. As of November



To date, we have 203 pledges for a total of \$782,722. You may think the campaign is over, but stewardship is a continuing way of life.

Our goal for this year's campaign is \$890K. We are so close to that goal. Here are some important points about giving to St. Margaret's:

-A pledge is not a contract, but a spiritual commitment to continued support and growth of St. Margaret's. If you have not made a pledge but support the church financially through offering or other support, please support the church again by making a pledge. We need a pledge to plan for 2017.

-If you've pledged in previous years, thank you for that support. We do not automatically renew previous years' pledges, so we ask you to please renew or increase your pledge.

-If your capital campaign support is paid in full, thank you **again** for that support. Please consider pledging that same amount **again** to this year.

If you're still not sure how to pledge, check out our stewardship video located on the stewardship page under the "Giving" tab on our website.

-Mail or deliver pledge cards to the church office.

-Pledge online. **Again**, to do this, go to [st-margarets.org](http://st-margarets.org). The Stewardship Campaign link is under the "Giving" tab on the home page.

-Place pledge card in the offering plate on Sunday.

Thank you (**again**) for your continued support of St. Margaret's. All kidding aside, we are humbled by your generosity and support. We are blessed to be part of the St. Margaret's community. We thank you for helping us reach our 2017 stewardship goal so we don't have to update you...."**again.**"



### Ending Where We Begin

By James R. Fitzpatrick  
Director of Music



The beginning of our Liturgical year always coincides with the ending of our calendar year, and Advent through Epiphany always presents an opportunity for music about ending and well as beginning. So let us present some special music events and services that highlight both beginnings and endings.

Our Liturgical Year ends on November 20 (Christ the King Sunday) with services accompanied by the Third Sunday Band. The new Liturgical Year begins on November 27 with Advent I. Our Spirit Singers and Chancel Choir join forces to present an old English masterpiece anthem by Maurice Greene: Thou Visiteth the Earth.

Advent II, December 4, features our service of Advent Lessons and Carols at 5 p.m. Each year I describe this service in the same way: the antidote to commercial Christmas practices. The music this year will reflect the progression of our faith towards the light of Christ and ends with the other worldly "Seek Him that Maketh the Seven Stars" by composer Jonathan Dove.

Christmas Eve music will feature the St. Margaret's Chorale and Spirit Singers at 4 p.m. plus young volunteers from the congregation who play or sing Christmas songs they have prepared. If you have a young artist in your family that would like to play even the simplest song for the prelude, please let me know in advance. We want as many as possible to participate in our two service locations.

Later Christmas Eve services will feature voices from both of our adult choirs in choral preludes that begin at 7:30 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. respectively. Each candlelit service will feature the beauty of the Baystrings Quartet.

Christmas Day will have one service being offered at 10 a.m. and services the following week on New Year's Day will consist of great carols by request. Start making your list now! (We will try to honor as many as we can.)

Then do not miss the Suspicious Cheese Lords in their return to St. Margaret's on January 14 at 7:30 p.m. This all male choral group delighted our audiences when they appeared three years ago. Now they make the perfect choral bookend to our winter season of music. Tickets for the concert series performances are \$20 each and can be purchased in



### Concert Series Next Concert



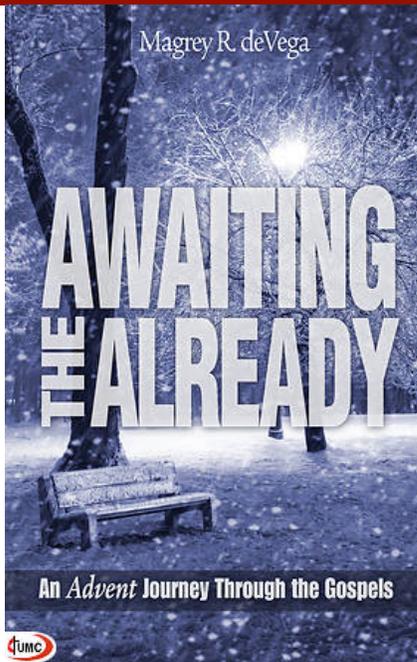
Suspicious Cheese Lords  
Sat, Jan 14, 2017 at 7:30 p.m.



SERVICE OF  
ADVENT  
*Lessons & Carols*

*featuring the St. Margaret's Choirs*

**Sunday, Dec. 4 @ 5 p.m.**  
Child care provided



## Advent Book Study Coming Soon

The Christmas story we know so well is really a compilation of accounts found in each of the Gospels. Although the four books present the event somewhat differently, each of them leads us on the Advent journey of preparation for Christ's coming. *Awaiting the Already* by Magrey deVega takes us on a tour through the Gospel narratives, showing us what parts of the Christmas story come from which Gospel, and helps us to recognize that each Gospel writer invites us to encounter a fresh experience of the birth of Christ.

A limited number of books are available for purchase during Sunday morning coffeeshour or in the church office. You can also order a copy on Amazon.com.

Study Sessions—

Monday Morning - 10 a.m. - Classroom E - with the Rev. Jane Hague - Nov. 28, Dec. 5, 12, 19

Monday Evening - 6:45 p.m. - Classroom E - with Valery Weekley - Nov. 28, Dec. 5, 12, 19

Sunday Mornings - 10:20 a.m. - Fellowship Hall with the Rev. Peter Mayer - Dec. 4, 11, 18

## Church Leaders Offer New Advent Devotionals

Episcopal Church Presiding Bishop and Primate Michael Curry joined the leaders of the Anglican Church of Canada, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America in preparing new Advent Devotionals for the upcoming liturgical season titled "Liberated by God's Grace."

Copies during Advent will be available in the narthex, in the church office, and online on our website.



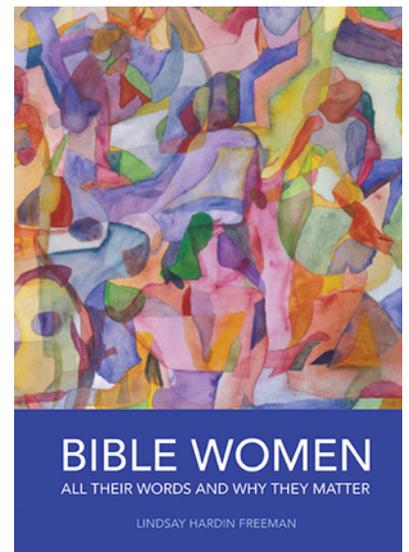
## SMC Bible Women Study

*Join the Group - See the Bible in a New Way*

Desperate mothers, middle of the night shenanigans, powerful women of grace - a short summary of just some of the trials of the Biblical characters that many in our church are discovering as we go through the book "Bible Women: All Their Words and Why They Matter."

It has been fascinating hearing the discussions of parishioners of all age groups as we continue our Bible Women study this fall. Many of these female characters were not known by members, not ever discussed in Sunday School.

We meet regularly on Thursday mornings, 9:15 a.m., in the formation building (child care provided), and we have begun our monthly sharing sessions on the third Sunday of the month during coffeeshour (next one on Nov. 20 in the new Fellowship Hall). We also post a weekly video of a parishioner with the Rev. Jane Hague discussing the characters in each week's readings and sharing it in our Bible Women Facebook group for those who can't attend a class regularly. In Advent, we will skip ahead to the stories of Elizabeth and Mary. Please join us at any time!



Books are available through Amazon.com.



**Advent Season: Get Ready, Get Set, Go!**  
By Jenelle Mejia, Director of Family Ministries

It's the season to get ready! Let us help your family get ready for the coming of something very special. Join us for upcoming events that will help you create space in your homes and hearts for Advent.

Bring your entire family to the Parish Hall between the services on Sunday, November 27. We will kick off Advent by making a wreath to help celebrate the season.

Cost is \$15 and includes all supplies to create a live Advent wreath as well as a family Advent study booklet that invites families to explore a Biblical story each of the four weeks of Advent and consider what these stories mean to their lives. There is a limit of 40 total wreath kits so secure yours now! You can pre-pay using a credit card online on our website (click on the "Giving" tab at the top) by Monday, November 21 or at the door.

Help is still needed for set up and clean up the morning of November 27. If you are available to help or would like more detailed info, email [Jenelle@st-margarets.org](mailto:Jenelle@st-margarets.org). This is a quick and short-term volunteer project.

Please make plans to donate greens for the wreath-making that day. Greens of all types—evergreen, boxwood, holly, fir as well as pinecones can be left in front of the Parish Hall doors on Saturday, November 26 or Sunday, November the 27 before 8:30 a.m.

### Join us on Monday Nights

Starting November 28, we will begin Advent crafts for the children during the season between 5 and 6 p.m. We will also set up giant Advent posters to encourage multi-generational coloring during this time. Come meet a child and prepare your hearts alongside them.

#### Schedule

Nov. 21	Jan. 2 NO F&F
Nov. 28	Jan. 9
Dec. 5	Jan. 16 NO F&F
Dec. 12	Jan. 23
Dec. 19	Jan. 30
Dec. 26 NO F&F	



**Youth Groups Taking Off**  
By Jeff Conover, Leader

The St. Margaret's youth program has gotten off to a terrific start this year! With an average of 14 youth showing up each

Monday night for Youth Group, and full Middle and High School classes each Sunday, we have great participation.

Diogenes, the Greek philosopher of the 300s BC said that, "The foundation of every state is the education of its youth." The ideas we focus on in the youth program at St. Margaret's focus on God's love for all of creation. This focus manifests itself by exploring the idea of community: what does it mean to be in a community, what are the communities to which we belong, and how do we treat both fellow members of our community, or those who are not necessarily part of it? You would be proud and excited to hear the thoughts and opinions our youth have! The foundation of our future seems to be well-built!

The next step is to move outside of the walls of St. Margaret's and engage the wider world in little ways. Among many other things, we will be serving at the Light House shelter and My Brother's Pantry, we will be exploring the world of microfinance as a way to improve the lives of others around the world, and we are reaching out to other church youth organizations in the area to pool resources and expand opportunities. I am excited to think about the opportunities our youth have, and I look forward to sharing them with you in the future.



**Family Advent Wreathmaking**  
**Sunday, Nov. 27**  
**10:20 to 11 a.m.**  
**in the Parish Hall**



Volunteers are needed for preparation and clean up.  
 Email [jenelle@st-margarets.org](mailto:jenelle@st-margarets.org) if you can help.

Donated greens are welcome!  
 Please leave them near the parish hall doors on Sat., Nov. 26.



*Sunday, Dec. 18*

*Leave campus after Sunday School*  
*Sing for our seniors/shut-ins*

*Help us make cards at F&F*  
*Monday Night arts & crafts time*

*Please contact Jenelle if you*  
*plan to participate*



## Annual Epiphany Pageant

Dress Rehearsal- Sat., Jan. 7, 9 a.m.  
 Performance- Sun., Jan. 8, 10:20 a.m.  
 Parish Hall  
 \*\*No Sunday School that day\*\*

Adult volunteers needed for:  
 Pageant Assistance  
 Costume Assistance

If your child wishes to participate,  
 contact Jenelle Mejia at  
[jenelle@st-margarets.org](mailto:jenelle@st-margarets.org).



**Province III Youth Event — Jan. 6-8—Claggett Center**  
**Guest Speaker: The Rev. Randy Callander, St. Philip's**

**Cost: \$85**

**Registration Deadline: Dec. 14**

St. Margaret's middle and high school youth are invited to a weekend of faith and fellowship at Claggett Center, including music, a Poke hunt and ziplining! The weekend includes youth from 13 dioceses who will explore what it means to be a Christian through worship, prayer, and reflection. Contact Jeff Conover, Youth Ministries Leader, at [jeff@st-margarets.org](mailto:jeff@st-margarets.org) for more information.



## Upcoming Dates

The following days are available for Holy Baptism (for adults and children) at St. Margaret's during an upcoming worship service. If you wish to schedule your baptism, please contact the Rev. Peter at [Peter@st-margarets.org](mailto:Peter@st-margarets.org) and fill out a baptism info form on our Baptism page under the "About Us" tab on our website.

January 8

February 26

April 15 - 8 p.m. - Easter Vigil Service

April 23

June 4

## Welcome to Winter

By Tricia McVeigh, Director

Thank you to everyone at St. Margaret's Church who visited our recent successful Scholastic Book Fair! It raised thousands of dollars for our learning programs. As we write this, we are busily planning our Thanksgiving feasts for our classes the week before our Thanksgiving break. Our "pilgrims" and "Indians" will sit down to a huge meal courtesy of our Day School parent volunteers.

December is a very exciting month for Day School students. We will once again sponsor a month-long drive for the county's emergency baby pantry. Our older classes will depart on our annual field trip to Chevy's restaurant on December 6 & 7. The students love to get an up close and personal tour on how food is prepared and then get to enjoy a meal together.

Our annual Christmas Pageant will be held on December 20, both in the morning and in the afternoon. The students are joyfully preparing the Christmas carols they will perform that day for their families.

Always a favorite event in early January, we will allow our students to get warm and cozy with our annual Pajama Days on January 5 & 6. Day School fathers will be visiting and enjoying some time with their children during our Breakfast with Dad event on January 12 & 13. Our Open House will be held on January 18 & 19 from 9:15-11:15 a.m. Registration for the 2017-2018 school year will begin on January 27.



Halloween Parade



Fall Trip to the Farm



## Dec. 21 & 22

9 a.m. to 12 p.m.  
Ages 2 & 3

9 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
Ages 3 & up

\*Christmas & Snowman  
Themes

Before/After Care  
Available

Sign up for 1 or both days

Cost: \$60 per child full day  
\$55 for 2 or more children  
\$40/\$35 half day

Register at  
[stmargaretsdayschool.org](http://stmargaretsdayschool.org)



St. Margaret's Day School recently received a generous gift from a parent and purchased "musical" instruments for its outdoor classroom including this "whale drum" and cedar-based xylophones and chimes.

# Diversity Through the Eyes of a Child

By Jenelle Mejia - Director of Family Ministries

Recently I spent three days in Washington, DC, at a Godly Play training alongside parishioner Gwen Davis. It was an eye opening experience that reinforced the beautiful things we are doing here at St. Margaret's Church. Godly Play is the curriculum we use with our 3-6 year-olds on Sunday morning. I hesitate to call it curriculum because it is actually much more than that. Godly Play is a way of teaching and creating a nurturing environment that uses best practices for our youngest disciples. It is rich in spiritual learning in a language that young children can understand.

There is one thing in particular about Godly Play that stood out to me this weekend. It wasn't something that I read in a manual or that was brought to my attention by the trainers. Godly Play teaches children about acceptance and diversity. The Godly Play space is a shared space for all children, no matter how you learn best or how still you can sit for a story. The space allows for the child to learn at their own pace, quiet or loud, by being still or moving. It allows them to explore the ways of God in a way that works for all. Godly Play uses figures and manipulatives to tell a story. The figures are simple and different shades of color. When telling a story, no one figure stands out more than another. Each figure is allowed an equal chance to be Moses or Miriam or Isaac or Sarah or whoever the character is in the day's story. Also, pronouns are never used in Godly Play. One day a child who had been participating in Godly Play for nearly eight years said to her mother with a perplexed look on her face, "Mom, did you know some people think God is a man?"

***And he said: "Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven." Matthew 18:3.***

Become like little children? Suddenly the above scripture took on new meaning. I have spent over 24 years of my life working with youth and small children and not until today have I realized how difficult it is to become like little children. God is not giving us easy work to do, but the cumbersome job of re-learning what it's like to be a blank slate. A slate that sees dark brown, brown and peach as all shades of the same color. A slate that has no preconceived notions of what it is like to be gay or straight or male or female. It means having a mindset that no matter what your skin color you have just as much privilege to be in front as the others. It means that your gender should not dictate your job, your passion or your place in this world. It means you take care and share a safe space with those that are different from you, and that it takes diversity to make it that special space it truly is.

We set Godly Play classrooms up to be mini churches where we develop ourselves alongside others, but how can we continue this growth outside of our classroom doors? We can start by honoring our baptismal covenant as written on our new banner. We can stand for justice for populations that our earthly world has told us are undeserving. To do this, we must leave the comfortable pews and work and live alongside our brothers and sisters as allies. And when we do show up to worship, we ensure it's a welcoming place for all shapes, colors and types of families.

We celebrate two mommies, two daddies, grandmoms and grandpops. We experience Jesus equally through the sounds of hymns and contemporary song, as well as shouts of toddlers and cries of hungry babies. We smile at the teenagers who shove each other in the pews. We rub the backs of the elderly who mourn the loss of family and friends. And we embrace it all because it's what makes God's kingdom complete. Then one day we hope that our work outside of our church again brings in a whole new vibrancy to our Sunday morning space and diversifies our church even more. And then once again, we embrace it because each and every piece is as significant as the piece next to it. When our minds are open and accepting like that of a child, then, and only then, will we enter the kingdom of heaven. The time to do this is now.



In 2013, the Right Reverend Eugene Sutton, bishop of the Diocese of Maryland, invited St. Margaret's Church, Westminster Parish to become one site on the diocesan-wide 2014 TRAIL OF SOULS: A Pilgrimage Toward Truth & Reconciliation.

In addition to research, writing, teaching, and preparing a video production, St. Margaret's Church placed five handcrafted historical markers along its own pilgrimage route to commemorate more than 170 years (1692-1864) of living with slavery, first in the royal colony, then in the proprietary colony, and later in the state of Maryland.

Our intent within the 2014 TRAIL OF SOULS report was to provide an account of baptisms, marriages, and burials conducted by St. Margaret's Church clergymen for unnamed persons described in the annual parochial reports as colored, dating from the first recorded services in 1825 through the end of chattel slavery November 1, 1864.

We included information from 1870 through 1884, the year before the death of St. Margaret's Church rector the Reverend Samuel Ridout, M.D., because we could. The sources we found for the data through 1884 led us to other sources, and we then found 263 records with names, dates, and families for services (baptisms, marriages, and burials) provided for persons of color by clergyman at St. Margaret's Church from 1867 through 1939.

We share this new information without comment, looking to others to explain the history. We welcome discussions, corrections, astonishment. We have looked at the data and have tried to visualize each child, each immediate family member, each extended family, each neighborhood and community connected with St. Margaret's Church for a short time — and then no more.

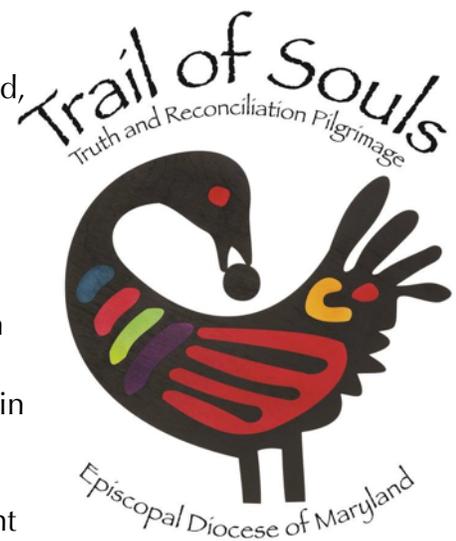
While St. Margaret's Church clergymen baptized, married, and conducted burial services for persons of color — few services within the church building itself, no burials in the churchyard — this parish apparently put forward no person of color for the sacrament of Confirmation.

Confirmation meant membership in the church, worshipping within the church building, and sharing the communion bread and wine with white members of the worshipping congregation.

We wonder what St. Margaret's Church could have become if persons of color became participating members starting in the 1800s? If all persons were welcome to walk through the front door of the church building? If all persons were welcomed into worship and encouraged to become members? What if we had been able to establish a very special diverse worshipping community that regrettably St. Margaret's Church could not envision 150 years ago.

Persons who were not members, who could not become members, who did not look like members, who were uninvited, still somehow found their way to St. Margaret's Church and to its clergy. Their descendants have gone elsewhere. They are not here!

There is grave sadness at opportunities lost to our past. There is an urgency for our future.

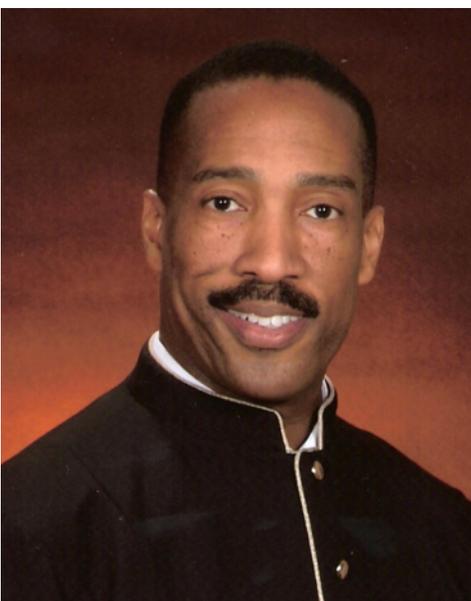


Listening to others is a step in the process. A next step would be attending the Diocesan anti-racism training to be held at St. Margaret's on Saturday, January 14 and 21 from 9 a.m. through 4 p.m. I thought this was a lot of time to spend on something that I thought I pretty much had handled, but when I did the training nearly three years ago up in Baltimore, it was the best church training I've been to. It was challenging, thoughtful and engaging. Please consider signing up.

A further step could be attending the book study that will be offered on Monday evenings early next year. We will be studying the book "Waking Up White" by Debby Irving. Many of us who don't have a lot of experience around diversity will find some common ground with Ms. Irving. But her story can offer us a decent roadmap to follow towards being better people.

Finally, let me say pastorally that I know that it's hard to talk about race. I understand it can be uncomfortable. But from African-Americans I know, living with racism as a daily canvas is so much harder and uncomfortable. If we are called to transform our lives, it means challenging ourselves to step out of our comfort zones. I am so proud of this congregation in that many times we have been called to do that, and we have never shied away from that challenge. I don't know that we may ever look like that diner in North Carolina, but we will never know until we take the steps that lead us towards our best selves. —Peter

A Pulpit Visit from  
Pastor Stephen Tillett  
of  
Asbury Broadneck UMC  
Sunday, Nov. 27  
9:00 & 11:15 a.m.  
Meet and Greet  
10:20 to 11:00 a.m.  
in the Parish Hall



Stephen Andrew Tillett was born and reared in Washington, D.C. He graduated from St. John's College High School in Washington and attended Asbury United Methodist Church. Pastor Tillett received a B.A. from the School of Government and Public Administration at The American University and attended the Howard University School of Divinity where he received the Master's of Divinity degree. He has served as the pastor of First United Methodist Church (UMC), Bradbury Heights in Washington, D.C. He was appointed to serve as pastor of Mt. Zion UMC in Baltimore, MD in July 1996.

Pastor Tillett was commissioned as a Chaplain in the Air National Guard in December 1996. Lt Col Tillett served as the Wing Chaplain for the 113th Air Wing, which is located at Andrews Air Force Base, where he functioned as the senior pastor for a "congregation" of over eleven hundred men and women. He was also the Deputy State Chaplain for Air for the DC National Guard. In May of 2012, Lt Col Tillett transferred to the US Air Force Reserve as an IMA (Individual Mobilization Augmentee) to the Wing Chaplain at the 4th Fighter Wing at Seymour Johnson AFB in Goldsboro, NC.

In July 2004, Rev. Tillett was appointed as the pastor of Asbury Broadneck UMC in the Broadneck area. He currently serves as President of the NAACP chapter in Anne Arundel County. He has been blessed with three children. A key area of focus of his ministry is to address the inequities in the criminal justice system by establishing a comprehensive and sustainable ministry to those who are incarcerated and mentorship for their young family members.

## Seeing the Face of God in Each Other

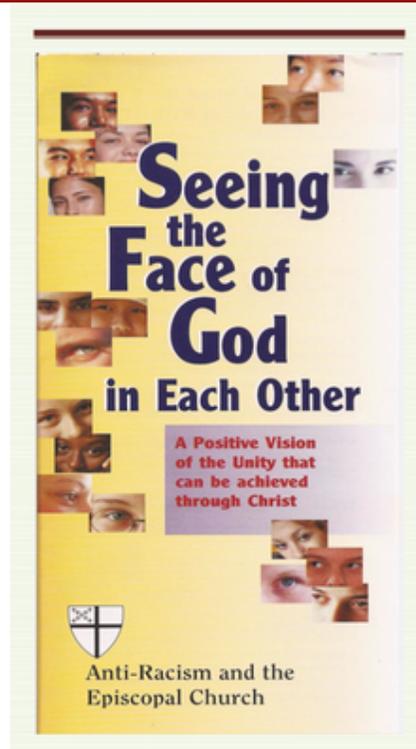
### Anti-Racism Training from the Episcopal Church

Jan. 14 & 21, 2017 (Snow date: Jan. 28)

@St. Margaret's Church

*Seeing the Face of God in Each Other* is the Episcopal Church's approved anti-racism workshop. It focuses on concepts of power, privilege, class, race, racism and internalized racial oppression. Participants are asked to explore topics at the personal, interpersonal, institutional and systemic levels. Dedicated and trained workshop facilitators lead participants to explore these sometimes challenging concepts using didactic and experiential methods such as small and large group discussions, videos, and interactive exercises designed to bring the concepts to life. The Episcopal Church mandates this training for vestry members, officers, committee members, and others lay leaders in churches.

**Registration is required and participation numbers are limited. A link for registration is located on the homepage of our website and the Maryland Diocese website ([episcopalmaryland.org](http://episcopalmaryland.org)).**



### Women's Retreat - January 13-16, 2017

A weekend retreat for women interested in reading and discussing scripture and how it relates to their lives and their relationships with others. Women bond with each other through small group Bible study and discussions related to the retreat theme, as well as in large group gatherings, sharing, singing, fellowship and worship. There is time for relaxation, exercise, meditation, and spending time with friends, all in the relaxed and beautiful setting of Claggett Center. This Women's Retreat is a small gathering of women and usually has an average attendance of 25-30.

### Men's Retreat - February 3-5, 2017

Looking for a weekend tailored to the unique challenges of being a Christian man in a world that pulls you in too many directions? Join us at Claggett Center for a winter retreat for men, by men. The weekend provides an opportunity for men to go deeper in their spiritual journey, no matter where along this path they find themselves. A combination of holy conversation, fellowship, music, good food and fun to help you live into your relationship with God, and the man you are. The Men's Weekend offers space for personal growth in a safe and private setting, through individual and group activities. The retreat begins with dinner on Friday evening and closes Sunday before lunch, long before the "big game" begins! The Rev. Krisopher Lind-Payne, rector of Epiphany Episcopal Church, Timonium, is this year's keynote speaker. Online registration coming soon.

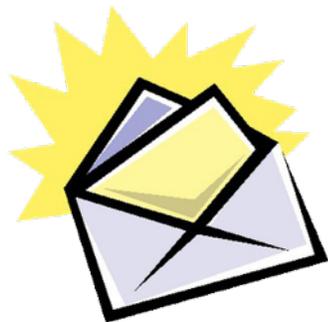
### Women's Weekend - January 20-22, 2017

This is a weekend for all women who wish to get away in the winter to a beautiful place, enjoy creative workshops and quiet meditation, and gather with old friends while making new ones. The Women's Weekend, started in 2002, consistently offers attendees a wide variety of activities, from the contemplative to the active. Online registration starts soon. The 2017 Women's Weekend theme is JOY. Keynote speaker is The Rt. Rev. Chilton Knudsen, Assistant Bishop of Maryland.

[www.claggettcenter.org](http://www.claggettcenter.org)

# Holy Folders

Mailing Volunteers Needed  
Tuesday, November 30  
10 a.m.  
Admin. Conference Room



Refreshments & great  
fellowship promised!



## Friday, November 18, 2016

Loews Annapolis Hotel  
126 West Street, Annapolis, MD 21401  
7-10 p.m.  
A "Blue" Tie Event  
to benefit The Light House shelter  
Tickets \$100  
[www.friendslhs.org](http://www.friendslhs.org)

Wear blue to support The Light House!

Anything will do—  
blue jeans, a blue tuxedo, blue suede  
shoes.

Music, Cuisine from Local Chefs, Open  
Bar, Live & Silent Auction

*Newcomers'*  
*Sunday*  
*Welcome*  
*to our Church*  
*All services*  
*Nov. 20*

New to St. Margaret's this year? Join us for a special welcome for newcomers at each service on Sunday, Nov. 20. You will be formally welcomed to our church family with special prayers and a gift. Please let the Rev. Peter know if you wish to participate ([peter@st-margarets.org](mailto:peter@st-margarets.org)) or call the church office.

## Foyers' Christmas Party



*Sunday, Dec. 4 at 3 p.m.*  
*in the Parish Hall*

*All foyers participants invited!*

*Please bring an appetizer or  
dessert to share.*

*For more information, contact  
Jane Piche, [star2d2@aol.com](mailto:star2d2@aol.com).*

**Please note:**

**The church office will be  
closed Dec. 26 & Jan. 2.**

# St. Margaret's Guild Annual Christmas Luncheon

**Thursday, Dec. 8**  
**Cafe Mezzanotte**

11:30 a.m. - Meet and Greet  
12:00 p.m. - Lunch/Short Meeting  
Tickets are \$30  
Purchasing deadline is Dec. 2  
Checks to "St. Margaret's Church"  
"Guild Luncheon" in memo line



*Poinsettia Sale*  
sponsored by St. Margaret's Guild  
Sunday, Dec. 4 & 11  
in the Parish Hall



# JANUARY

# GUILD MEETING



Jan. 4, 2017 - Fellowship Hall  
Lunch at Noon - program & meeting after  
Presentation on National Parks Travel  
All Welcome!



## Call for Christmas Greens

Once again, the Flower Guild needs fresh greens for church Christmas decorations.

Parishioners are encouraged to donate greens from their yards, including holly (especially variegated holly), magnolia, pine, boxwood, and pine roping.

Please leave donations outside of the church annex doors (building next to church) by December 23.



ST. MARGARET'S CHURCH  
ANNAPOLIS • MARYLAND • ESTABLISHED 1692

## Holiday Bazaar



**Saturday, November 19**

9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

St. Margaret's Parish Hall  
1601 Pleasant Plains Road

Crafters \* Vendors \* Raffles \* Food &



**WHITE ELEPHANT SALE**

Vendors include:

Melissa & Natalie's Boutique \* Vintage Finds \* LulaRoe \* SimpLeigh Divine Creations \* Thirty One \* Jo's Plates \* Joyful Celebrations \* Elaina Dolls Clothes, Tastefully Simple \* Snope Run \* Twinkle Candle Co. \* Mary Made in the USA \* Quilts by Lee \* Luscious Ladybug \* Longaberger \* Stampin Up \* Mary Kay \* Fusion Ltd. \* Pampered Chef & **MORE!**

### A Quiet Christmas Service of Reflection

Wednesday, Dec. 21  
7 p.m.



'Tis the season for busy schedules, rushed activities, and too few hours in a day. We offer a service to be still and know God and to rest in the hope of Christ's coming.

*A Blue Christmas Service and Tea Reception*  
Wednesday, Dec. 14  
3 p.m.

*For those who are mourning a loss or dealing with sickness*

*With scriptural promises of hope and healing prayer*



### New Year's Day Worship & Fellowship



We will resume regular services on New Year's Day @

- 7:30 a.m.
- 9:00 a.m.
- 11:15 a.m.



Bring your favorite breakfast casserole dish!  
10:20 a.m.-11 a.m.  
Parish Hall



### Honor a Loved One w/Poinsettias & Wreaths @ SMC This Christmas



Parishioners are invited to make a donation to provide poinsettias or wreaths for the sanctuary this Christmas season in memory of a loved one or in thanksgiving for someone special. These donations will be notated in Christmas-related bulletins. Poinsettias cost \$25 and wreaths are \$45. Complete this form and make checks out to "St. Margaret's Church" notating "Christmas flowers" on the memo line.

Purchases can also be made by credit card on the church's website.

Deadline for purchases is Sunday, December 18th.

Enclosed is \$\_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_poinsettias and/or \_\_\_\_\_wreaths

in loving memory of \_\_\_\_\_ or in thanksgiving of \_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_

### Be a Bay-wise Homeowner

By Gail Morton, Anne Arundel Watershed Steward

#### #9- Conscious conservation recipes

Fall gardening chores may be over but your conservation responsibilities are year round. Take advantage of the winter lull to explore your home for ways to make environmental improvements. Is your furnace running more because heat is leaking out? Can you use less water in your toilet, showers or washing machine. Do you use biodegradable cleaning products? Are you remiss in “scooping the poop”? Even in winter it degrades and pollutes your storm water runoff.

This winter, try some homemade “recipes” to replace polluting products. They save the environment, cost less and reduce disposables. Making these products in-house is a fun family activity.



- All Purpose cleaner- Mix 1 tsp baking soda, ½ tsp dish soap, 2 tbsp vinegar, in a spray bottle. Shake well.. Let sit 1 minute. Fill with warm water and shake again Add essential oil if you want a scent.
- Glass cleaner- ¼ cp vinegar, 4 cups warm water in spray bottle
- Tub and Tile- 1 2/3 cp baking soda, ½ cup vegetable oil based liquid soap, ½ cp water, 2 tbsp vinegar. Shake. Apply with cloth. Rinse well.
- Scouring powder- 1 cp baking soda, 1 cp borax, 1 cp kosher salt in a jar. Sprinkle, scrub and rinse.
- Toilet bowl- Mix ¼ borax or baking soda and 1 cp vinegar in toilet. Let sit at least 15 minutes, scrub and flush.
- Drain cleaner- Pour ½ cp baking soda into drain followed by 1 cp vinegar. Let stand to fizz at least 15 minutes. Rinse with boiling water. Repeat if needed or leave mixture in overnight.
- Garbage disposer freshener- Take pulp and piece of the peel from a lemon you have squeezed for something else. Run water and turn on disposal.
- Sink and stove cleaner- Put 1/3 cp baking soda in a bowl. Mix in enough warm water to make a nice paste. Apply to sponge or brush and scrub away.
- Metal polishes- Olive oil retards brass tarnishing. Polish chrome with baby oil. Soak silver in boiling water with baking soda, salt and aluminum foil. For copper use paste of lemon juice and cream of tartar, leave 5 minutes, wash in warm water.
- Insecticide- use boric acid
- Deodorizer- baking soda, cornstarch or zeolite, a non toxic mineral that absorbs mold, bacteria and odors.

- Laundry stains- Blood use cold water, club soda or hydrogen peroxide; perspiration use weak solution of water and vinegar or lemon juice; ink use cream of tartar and lemon juice; chocolate soak in club soda
- Mothballs- substitute cedar chips
- Oven cleaner- apply baking soda paste. Let stand 1 hour to overnight.
- Wool Wash I- Place 4 cps soap flakes in 4 cps boiling water. Add 1 cp denatured alcohol and 1 tbsp essential oil if you want scent. Mix well. Let sit overnight to jell.
- Wool Wash II- 1 cp hot water, ¼ tsp lanolin, ¼ tsp baby shampoo, 1-2 drops essential oil.
- Wool Wash III- 4 tbsp soap flakes, 1 cp boiling water, 1 cp hair conditioner, 10 drops essential oil.

Hopefully, by the time you head out to the garden in the spring, these will be old and dependable friends you use all the time.





St. Margaret's Church  
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Annapolis, MD 21409  
Phone (410) 974-0200

Emergency Pastoral No. (443) 867-5463  
[www.st-margarets.org](http://www.st-margarets.org)

Office Hours:

Mon-Thurs 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Fridays 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Contacts:

The Rev. Peter W. Mayer, Rector  
The Rev. Jane M. Hague, Associate Rector  
Elizabeth Radley, Senior Administrator  
James Fitzpatrick, Director of Music  
Jenelle Mejia, Children & Family Ministries Dir.  
Jeff Conover, Youth Ministries Leader  
Laura Tayman, Communications Assistant  
Tricia McVeigh, Director of Day School  
Izzy Winn, Endowment Grants Director

Anne Sessions, Senior Warden  
Steve Brennan, Junior Warden

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