

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

# The Spire

Advent/Christmas 2019



## Behind the Scenes at St. Margaret's

By the Rev. Peter W. Mayer, Rector

Anxiety woke me up last night with a dream in which an unknown parishioner wanted to know when I met with people to tell them my schedule for the week. I think this is tied to a question I often get from people: what do I do all week? This is also related to a sentiment many have of the clergy: they only work one day a week. What I've come to find out through my years of ministry is that 95% of the work happens quietly.

For example, many parishioners might not be aware that St. Margaret's has an endowment. Fewer know that the vestry used over a million dollars to bridge the gap between gifts and construction costs of the formation building. Quietly this summer, several parishioners gave over \$40,000 to effectively retire the remaining debt, and the vestry voted to pay it off before it turned into a mortgage. Not enough fanfare was made at the time, but it's a pretty big deal for a church to raise over \$3M and own its buildings outright. Thanks be to God for your generosity.

Another example of the quiet work of leadership at St. Margaret's is the rental property at the south end of our property. For over a year, we have discerned a use for the land and the house, as renting the house was no longer our will. Pending approval from the diocese, the vestry will put the property up for sale this month, and proceeds will be placed back into the endowment, which eventually will result in an increase in funds available for grants. I feel this was a prudent decision that many leaders were involved in making, and I'm proud of the quiet action taken by the vestry.

Not so quietly, many of you have received annoying emails from someone posing as me, usually from a gmail account that looks like mine. This is a practice known as whaling, where a fake email is sent from the 'whale' (the leader of an organization, to lend it more importance) asking for help, a favor, gift cards, etc. Here's what you need to know: 1. Do not respond to the email, but please let the office know. 2. I will not use an gmail account to contact you; I will only use st-margarets.org or Realm. 3. There is almost nothing we can do to stop these emails from happening, so vigilance is the best course of action.

I'd like to invite you to attend our Sunday morning Advent class in the fellowship hall on Sundays, December 8, 15 and 22. On the 1st, we'll be learning about the practice of the Advent Wreath and making our own in the parish hall. I'd also like to let you know about a new group for those living with grief. We will gather in the All Saints Memorial Lounge on the third Sundays of each month at 2 p.m. Please see Patti or myself for more information.

As you can see, and maybe as you can feel, there are many things going on at our church. Much of it is done quietly, behind the scenes. What gives me faith is that God is always working in us, and in this place. That lessens that anxiety that we're not moving ahead, or not moving fast enough. If I can trust that God is with us, it is easier to trust that we're right where we're supposed to be.

# Counting Down to Christmas



LOTS of Information to Know this Holiday!  
By the Rev. Patti Sachs, Assistant Rector



Well, if I wasn't busy enough before...now it's the holidays!! During these oh-so-busy days, it is even more important to take a few minutes each day to STOP! Just stop and breathe. Please! Do this for yourselves. Do this as a thank-you to God for all the blessings of the day. Make it a practice!

We are starting a [grief group](#) for those who have suffered loss and need some spiritual support – some quiet time to meet together, pray and talk. Our first meeting is [November 17th](#), a Sunday. We'll meet in the All Saints Lounge (lower level of the annex, by the nursery) from 2 – 4 p.m. We'll meet on the third Sunday in December and in January also, same time and place. Please consider joining us. Feel free to call me with any questions (410-974-0200 x. 112).

On [November 18th](#), we'll have our last Faith and Fellowship gathering before Thanksgiving. It will be a special night! We will be joined by [Karen Gonzalez](#), the author of the book of immigration stories we've been studying. Also with us will be [Suzanne Martin](#), president of [Annapolis Immigration Justice Network](#). And, [Karina Rospigliosi](#), who hails from Peru (and is our newest American citizen! - you've seen her in the nursery), will be cooking with [Allison Mayer](#) to make a Peruvian dinner for us. Sounds good to me! Join us in the Parish Hall at 6:15. We say grace at 6:20. All are welcome!

Advent wreaths - (The floral foam kind!) [We will be making wreaths on Sunday, December 1st during coffee hour](#). We will need greens donations from parishioners delivered to the Parish Hall doors that weekend by 8:30 a.m. Sunday morning. We'll have the kits ready. The Rev. Peter Mayer will walk families through the importance of and way to use the Advent Wreath. See you in the Parish Hall at 10:20 a.m.!

[Our St. Nicolas Day is Sunday, December 22nd](#). This year, [St. Nick will read a story and sit for pictures with young children](#). So dress up, clean your best camera lens and join us in the Parish Hall at 10:30 a.m. We will be happy to take pictures of your family, and St. Nick will take gift requests from little ones.

[Monday night's Faith and Fellowship study group](#) will have a chance to explore the world of the icon during December. [Rowan Williams](#), the last Archbishop of Canterbury, has written two books about praying with icons. Using one of these books as a guide, we will take an in-depth look at what it means and has meant throughout history to pray with icons. We will have two sessions on this topic – Dec. 2 and Dec. 16. The book, ["Ponder These Things – Praying with Icons of the Virgin Mary"](#) is available online. We will have a few to sell in the church office.

[At F&F on December 9th](#), we are honored to have the chefs from the [Culinary Arts Program at the Light House](#) join us – in fact, [they will cook dinner for us!](#) Come and eat (more) delicious food and [learn about one of the most impactful enterprises in our community](#). To end the cycle of homelessness, people need to have sustainable employment skills that allow them to make a living wage so they can afford permanent housing. The Building Employment Success Training (B.E.S.T.) Program trains students to work in the high demand fields of culinary arts and building trades, providing both classroom training and a paid work experience with employers. [Joanne Mattson](#), Executive Director of the Light House, will be our presenter for the evening.

So, keep an eye on the calendar – there is plenty to do here at St. M's this Christmas season!





By Jim Douglas, Director of Music

It is hard to imagine that the Thanksgiving holiday is just around the corner, and, before we know it, Christmas! Aside from the shopping, baking, and traveling involved for us all around the holidays, much happens in the life of the church between Thanksgiving and Christmas. The liturgical year ends on Christ the King Sunday, usually the last Sunday of November, and new liturgical year begins with the first Sunday of Advent. In recent times, there has been an increased awareness of the season of Advent across the greater Church, in particular its significance as a season completely distinct from that of Christmas. Each Sunday in Advent has a general theme (Advent 1-Patriarchs, Advent 2-Prophets, Advent 3-John the Baptist, Advent 4-Mary) that builds up to the birth of the Christ child on Christmas. As I like to say, "You can't have Christmas without Advent!" A special tradition here at St Margaret's weaves and highlights these themes in a more customized way at our annual Advent Lessons and Carols service, taking place this year on Sunday, December 8 at 5 p.m. The evening prior, Saturday December 7 at 7 p.m, our own Third Sunday Band will offer their Advent/Christmas holiday concert.

On Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, we will offer the following in celebration of the birth of Jesus:

### Christmas Eve

3 p.m Eucharist with traditional congregational Christmas carols

5p.m. Eucharist featuring our Spirit Singers and Youth Chorale (music of Natalie Sleeth, Hans Leo Hassler & Peter Warlock)

7:30/10:30pm Special Prelude Music featuring our Chancel Choir, Motet Ensemble, the Annapolis Bay Strings and harpist Anna Dunlap (music of Handel, Vaughan Williams, Britten & others)

8pm/11pm Eucharist with traditional music and carols for choir, congregation, organ, strings, harp and trumpet (music of Willcocks, Friedell, Rutter & others)

### Christmas Day

10am Eucharist with traditional congregational Christmas carols

To put a bow on the Christmas season, we will offer services of Christmas Lessons and Carols on Sunday, December 29 at 9 & 11:15am. This service became popular through the annual service at King's College, Cambridge broadcast around the world on Christmas Eve, and here at St Margaret's we model our service after that.



Members of our choirs recently spent a weekend in Lewes, DE, for a retreat with the choir of St. Peter's Episcopal Church. The weekend resulted in beautiful music, new friendships, and a renewed joy in singing for the glory of God.



featuring the choirs of St. Margaret's  
Sunday, December 8  
5:00 p.m.

# Missions

Anne Arundel Connecting Together (ACT), an affiliate of the Industrial Areas Foundation, is having a one-on-one relational meeting introduction on Thursday, November 29, at 7 pm at St. Margaret's. (See their annual meeting announcement on page 18.)

Interested in ACT or becoming more involved? Want to learn why ACT does one-on-one's? There will be an overview about one-on-one relational meetings followed by a sample demonstration. Smaller Break-out sessions will allow everyone a chance to practice. This is an opportunity to share with others and listen to what issues are taken to heart by those in our community.

Relational Action Teams focused on Mental Health/Addictions, Effective Education, Affordable Housing/Safe Neighborhoods, Connected and Useful Transportation, and Gun Violence have ongoing meetings.

If you have any questions, please contact Dalyn Huntley at 908-256-1184 or [cinque2gen@gmail.com](mailto:cinque2gen@gmail.com).



**EXPERIENCE  
THE POWER OF  
ACT AND THE  
VISION  
FOR 2020**

## Grants 2020

### An Incredible Impact at St. Margaret's and Around the World By Christine Feldmann, New Grants Administrator

In 1995, after the funeral of parishioner Edwin Hall, attorney Charlie Grayson had some big news for then senior warden Jim Hall and rector Mary Glasspool. He told them that the Halls had been 'very generous to St. Margaret's' in their wills. Sitting on small chairs in the only space available, a classroom of the Day School, the two couldn't have begun to imagine the amount of that generosity and the lasting impact the gift would have on hundreds of organizations across the globe.



Thanks to the initial \$2 million gift, and because of the wisdom of a discernment committee, St. Margaret's Church is celebrating its 22nd year providing grants. Nearly 200 unique organizations have received over \$2.3 million in life changing funding. The program has funded everything from water filtration systems in Africa and HIV testing kits in Honduras, to reading programs in Annapolis and a mobile dental clinic in Maryland and Pennsylvania. More than 300 grants have been made since the program's inception.

For nearly every step of the program's history, Izzy Winn has led the charge. She created a thorough, thoughtful and engaging process that not only ensured grants were given to the most deserving organizations but involved parishioners in every part. She recognized that not only did the nonprofits receiving funding benefit from the program, but every person involved had his or her life transformed.

Hundreds of parishioners, from all ages and stages of life, have served as grants committee members and liaisons over the years. Many saw the incredible impact of the experience.

"Working with Izzy and the Grants Committee epitomizes God's commandment to love our neighbors as ourselves. The world is a better place because of St. Margaret's giving spirit that values and enhances lives in a myriad of ways by helping to fulfill medical, educational and environmental needs. Thank you, Izzy for bringing our grants program to a level of efficiency and professionalism," said parishioner Fran Becker.



continuing from page 4

I have the amazing honor of trying to fill the very big shoes left by Izzy as your new grants administrator. I'm grateful to have spent the last year learning the process from her, and I look forward to carrying on her incredible legacy. While I'll be making a few changes on the process, I plan to uphold the wonderful tradition of St. Margaret's Church grants and its tremendous impact.

For the first time, one multi-year grant of up to \$30,000 will be offered. Applicants can also submit their paperwork electronically and selected recipients can sign up to receive a post grant liaison from St. Margarets. The post grant liaison will check in with the organization which received money and provide assistance throughout the year of the grant. He or she will serve as a stronger link back to the church, helping to build a stronger relationship.

As Izzy demonstrated for the last 20 years, a successful grants program is about relationships, recognizing the gifts we all have to contribute and our responsibility to live God's word. As it reads in the Book of Galatians, "Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ." The St. Margaret's grants program provides each of us with an opportunity to do just that. I encourage you to join us in transforming lives inside our church, in our local communities and across the world.



Izzy Winn receives thank you gifts from Christine Feldmann and the Rev. Peter W. Mayer for her 20 years with the grants program.



Thanks to our Blue Sunday volunteers for sprucing up the campus in October!



Thanks to all parishioners who attended our Missions Fair last month! We hope you found a program or nonprofit to connect and to volunteer with.



Members of our parish are asked to provide holiday meals to local families and seniors this Thanksgiving and Christmas. We have received names from our partner schools and the A.A. County Dept. of Social Services of those needing help in purchasing their holiday dinners. The Mission Commission will provide the turkeys/hams; parishioners are asked to provide the side ingredients for the rest of the meal and deliver the food basket to the recipient a few days **BEFORE** Thanksgiving/Christmas.

No cooking is involved! Turkeys/hams will be available for pick-up in the Parish Hall the Sunday before Thanksgiving/Christmas or by separate arrangement. In advance, you will receive the name of your recipient and delivery instructions. To participate, contact Barbara Marder at 410-518-9978 or [scubaesc@aol.com](mailto:scubaesc@aol.com).

## Foyer Feedback: What Charities are You Passionate About?

By Janice Graham

Over 60 parishioners are participating in the Foyers program this year. When Phil and I joined St. Margarets in 2004, we joined Foyers. From getting to know fellow parishioners via Foyers, Phil agreed to run Buildings and Grounds, and I was recruited for the Personnel Committee.

Foyers is a gathering of parishioners in small groups with the goal of creating new relationships, increasing our admiration of each other and our love for our church. It is essentially social.

It's hard to get to know someone if you only shake hands at the "Peace." Over a meal, you have a chance to go deeper. The format doesn't have to be hosting a dinner at your home. Foyer Groups have met at restaurants, had picnics outdoors and found other creative ways to gather.

By getting to know one another, we can find out about each other's strengths and interests.

Which leads me to an interesting twist on this year's Foyers. For the first gathering we asked the hosts to lead discussion questions: What charities do you currently support? Have you recruited St. Margarets parishioners to volunteer with you? Have you applied for a St. Margarets grant for your charity?

The results were not surprising. Everyone's suggested charities fit nicely into St. Margaret's mission to:

- Endow the poor and hungry with the means to feed, shelter, and clothe themselves;
- Restore the ill to health and heal the broken;
- Promote, preserve, and sustain environmental health; and
- Improve access to educational opportunities.

The Light House was mentioned, along with the Salvation Army and other charities related to helping disadvantaged groups, including animals. What was surprising is that no one (other than me) had actively engaged other St. Margarets parishioners to support their favorite charity. Also – that no one had applied for either an Endowment Grant or a parishioner-led grant for their charity.

So there is an opportunity to engage even more with each other to maximize the gifts we have to offer—both as individuals and collectively as St. Margarets – to make an even greater positive difference.

The Foyers committee - *Web Chamberlin (Chair), Lesal Kilcrease, Arvilla Wubbenhorst and me* – are making a positive difference by volunteering their time and talents to organize Foyers, including the kick-off and wrap up events each year.

The Missions Commission - *Joanna Tillman (Chair), Barbara Friedmann, Justyn Kopack, Kate Callahan, Russell Jackson, Marti Engstrom, James Hanrahan, Robert Thomas and me* – are making a positive difference by meeting each month to review parishioner-led mission support requests.

And Christine Feldmann has taken over for Izzy Winn – leading a 12-person grants committee and dozens of liaisons to make the final endowment grant selections each year.

It is an honor to work with these talented people – and meet even more talented people via Foyers.

If you are passionate about a charity, please bring it to the Missions Commission or apply for an Endowment Grant by 11/30/19. In addition to funding, we can help you connect to other St. Margaret's parishioners who share your passion and want to help. And if you want to join Foyers, ask to join the Foyers group on Realm or reach out to me/Web. We'll find you a seat at the table.





## An Opportunity to be Amazed: Dageno Safari 2020

By Janice Graham

When Izzy Winn recruited me to be a grants liaison in 2014, I asked for a local charity. I felt that the need around the world was so daunting, we'd be better off to keep it local. Izzy assigned me the Dageno Girls Center in Tanzania – probably because she figured I could handle Skype.

From that time until today, I have been amazed at what a little bit of support can do. Executive Director Andi Trotter has taken her initial group of smart, scrappy but impoverished middle-school aged girls into young adulthood. Most have passed their high school exams and are trying out various entrepreneurial ideas. These range from running “Happy Day’s” hotel and restaurant, to growing crops, raising livestock, and making paper, jewelry, purses, aprons, bags and more.

The grants from St. Margaret’s have been key to their growth and success over the years. They have grown from 50 girls to nearly 150 girls – with a waiting list of over 300.

In the face of constant challenges – from burglaries, to medical crises, to government bureaucracy and corruption – they figure out a way through it all to the ultimate goal: an adulthood where they can use their natural gifts and intelligence to contribute to society and help support their families.

The Dageno Safari 2020 – from March 14-27, 2020 -- is an opportunity to be amazed. The first eight nights we will be amazed by the incredible beauty of the Serengeti, where lions, cheetahs, hippos, giraffes, elephants, wildebeests, zebras, hyenas and more live together in a natural cycle of life. Camping in luxury tents with wildlife all around, guarded by Masai Warriors through the night. Witnessing hundreds of thousands of animals run past you during the great migration. Enjoying a beer in an infinity pool overlooking dozens of pink flamingos on Marinara lake.

The final three nights we will be amazed by the Dageno Girls – as they make us pizza in a wood-fired oven, proudly show us their “companies,” take us via local bus to their homes to meet their parents, and a final celebration around a fire. While this trip, planned and led by Teri Priebe of King George Travel – has the feel of a luxury safari (all rooms have in-suite bath, all meals included, unlimited bottled water, high-end safari vehicles driven by certified environmental experts) – it is much more – because of the Dageno Girls. And, at \$3,800 pp, the price is much lower -- the cost of an escorted safari like this is normally \$6,000.

We have eight rooms still available. A \$500 deposit secures your spot. Last year the Safari sold out by December. This year a couple of families have expressed interest. Consider taking a long spring break with your kids. The memory of this trip will last a lifetime. For more information, check out St. Margaret’s website, reach out to me ([JaniceJohnRG@gmail.com](mailto:JaniceJohnRG@gmail.com)) or contact [KingGeorgeTravel@gmail.com](mailto:KingGeorgeTravel@gmail.com).



# Stewardship for 2020



## Stewardship: All Aboard for the 2019 Campaign!

This year's annual pledge campaign began September 15th and runs through November 17th. This year's theme is "All Aboard" as our goal is to increase the number of people who make a gift to our campaign.

Stewardship is many things, but first and foremost it is an opportunity to express your thankfulness for God's blessings. A spiritual practice of pledging provides the resources for St. Margaret's Church to fulfill its mission of "transforming lives in Christ through worship, formation and giving." It also transforms the giver through gratitude from what God has given us.

Stewardship is the engine that powers so much of the St. Margaret's experience - our music program under Music Director Jim Douglas, our generous Grants Committee, our growing youth group led by Jeff Conover, our robust adult formation programs, and our beautiful campus and operations managed by our talented and dedicated staff. Stewardship also sustains our missions programs, expanding our reach beyond the corner of Pleasant Plains and St. Margaret's roads.

We are always amazed at the generosity of our congregation. This year, we are striving for \$925,000, a 7% increase from last year's campaign tally. More importantly, we are hoping to achieve 265 pledges. How much you pledge is completely up to you, but simply committing by making a pledge is most vital.

To our parishioners who have already pledged, thank you. Your investment in our church will help St. Margaret's touch so many lives. To our parishioners still considering their pledge; you can make your pledge in three easy ways: 1) mail your pledge card in to St. Margaret's; 2) place it in the offertory plate at service; or 3) go to the stewardship page under the "GIVING" tab in the upper right corner of the St. Margaret's website ([st-margarets.org](http://st-margarets.org)) and click on Stewardship.

If you have any questions about giving, please contact our stewardship chairs, Brad Callahan ([brad@tanvip.com](mailto:brad@tanvip.com); 443.326.3333), Doug Seybert ([doug\\_seybert@yahoo.com](mailto:doug_seybert@yahoo.com); 703.599.8746), Greg Smith ([rxman55@hotmail.com](mailto:rxman55@hotmail.com); 301.821.0606) or Zack Greene ([zachgreene8@hotmail.com](mailto:zachgreene8@hotmail.com)).

Thank you,  
Brad, Doug, Greg & Zack



What do pledges help ensure in the 2020 budget?

- \*Missions support
- \*Nursery staff
- \*Choir music
- \*Electric bills
- \*Sunday School curriculum
- \*Bulletin preparation
- \*Lawn maintenance
- \*Organ/piano maintenance
- \*Coffee hour food and supplies
- \*Regular cleaning of entire campus
- \*Communion supplies
- \*Maintenance supplies
- \*Software/Website programs
- \*Supplies for children and youth programs
- \*Upkeep of campus buildings
- \*Diocesan required fees
- \*Youth activities support
- \*Robes purchased & cleaned for service participants
- \*Flower fund
- \*Required Insurance
- \*Adult Education fund
- \*Postage
- \*Internet/phone services
- \*Office supplies
- \*VBS support
- \*Maintenance support (fire, water quality, etc.)
- \*Staff salaries and benefits
- \*Faith & Fellowship meals supplement
- \*Additional musicians for special services
- \*Youth group support
- \*Background checks
- \*Youth mission projects support

If you are blessed by the St. Margaret's community, please take the time to make a pledge. It may make a difference to budget items that make St. Margaret's what it is.



# HOLIDAY Bazaar

Sponsored by St. Margaret's Guild

**Saturday, Nov. 23**

**9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.**

**Parish Hall**

**Vendors - Crafters - Raffles**

**Free Entry!**



*A large variety of gently-used household items for sale in the Fellowship Hall.*

*Donations welcome in the Fellowship Hall on Friday, Nov. 22, between 5 and 7 p.m.*



## Christmas Greens Needed

It is that time of year when the Flower Guild makes its annual request for you all to kindly bring in fresh greens, including holly or magnolia, to help decorate the church for Christmas. Please leave outside the Annex doors (next to the sanctuary) between Dec. 22-23.



**St. Margaret's Guild  
Annual Poinsettia Sale  
Dec. 8 and 15  
Fellowship Hall  
Bring your checkbook!**

## Honor & Remember Loved Ones 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 honor of someone special. These donations will be notated in Christmas-related bulletins.

Poinsettias are \$25 and wreaths are \$45.



Complete this form and make checks out to "St. Margaret's Church" notating "Christmas flowers" on the memo line.

Place orders in an offertory plate or mail to the church office. Purchases can also be made by credit card by going to [onrealm.org/smcannapolis/Give](http://onrealm.org/smcannapolis/Give) or by phone texting 73256. Deadline for purchases is Sunday, December 15th.

Enclosed is \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ poinsettias and/or \_\_\_\_\_ wreaths.

in loving memory of

\_\_\_\_\_ or in thanksgiving for

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

# Day School

## Holidays & Planning at SMDS

By Tricia McVeigh, SMDS Director



Believe it or not, our students are preparing for our annual Christmas pageant, with tunes of “Away in the Manger” and “We Wish You a Merry Christmas” being heard down the hallways. And our PTO is now busily preparing for our Thanksgiving feasts.

This fall, our students have explored and journeyed through lessons in reading, math, science, music, art, and Spanish. We’ve had our annual farm field trip, a family movie night, a visit from local firefighters, music celebrations and Halloween parades.

Thank you to everyone at St. Margaret's Church who will visit our recent successful Scholastic Book Fair! A percentage of the proceeds will go to funds for our learning programs. We especially appreciate the volunteers from the parish who will “fill in” at our “Grandfriends Day” for students whose grandparents do not live in the area.

This month we are sponsoring a presentation for parents on “How to Raise a Resilient Child” by Dr. Duane Isava on Nov. 14 at 6:30 p.m. and a sponsored a technology recycling drive as part of our Green School initiative - a box will be available for your donations in the formation building lobby.

The school is also sponsoring a fundraiser with Lynch Creek Farms for home delivery of beautiful Christmas greenery if ordered between now and Dec. 15th. Go to [www.stmargaretsdayschool.org](http://www.stmargaretsdayschool.org) for a link to order.

We will be offering two different Winter Workshop camp days during the winter holiday break on Dec. 19 and 20. Siblings and friends can join us for these fun-filled days. For registration details and more information, go to [www.stmargaretsdayschool.org](http://www.stmargaretsdayschool.org).

Public registration for our 2019-20 classes will begin January 24. An Open House will be held January 16 & 17 from 9:15-11:15 a.m. Registration for Kindergarten is now open.



Fall Trip to the Farm



Blessing of the Animals



Halloween Trick-or-Treating





One of the amazing things about SMDS is that it is an accredited Maryland Green School. Some of the ways SMDS is teaching students about the environment and their impact on it is with an integrated environmental education program that includes recycling, a rain barrel for water conservation, and composting. Now, the school is ready to do even more!

It takes approximately 20 years for a pumpkin to decompose in a landfill. That same pumpkin will release a large amount of methane gas and carbon dioxide into the air, both which help contribute to early climate change and other environmental concerns. Plastic is one of many types of wastes that takes too long to decompose. Normally, plastic items take up to 1000 years to decompose in landfills! Plastic bags we use in our everyday life take 10-20 years to decompose, while plastic bottles take 450 years. What can be done about that besides using reusable bags whenever possible? You can simply compost that pumpkin and turn it into rich soil to help gardens and plants grow while trying to utilize other options besides plastic.

Starting this school year SMDS will be implementing small exciting changes for parents to follow when planning homeroom parties. White cotton tablecloths (to be provided by SMDS) will be provided to each classroom to use in place of plastic (disposable) tablecloths. The tablecloths will be written on with washable markers to let the children create works of art while at the table.

Compostable flatware, tableware, and cups will be utilized in place of plastic.

Three bins clearly marked as Trash, Recycling, and Compost will be utilized during each class party and emptied into the respective receptacles at the end of the party.

The idea is to be as sustainable as possible and cut down on disposable (one-time use) items thus creating less waste in the landfills. Parents are encouraged to use foods as decorations (ie pumpkins for Halloween, gourds for Thanksgiving, berries for Christmas). The school thinks outside of the box and encourages students to make crafts that can be reused, have multiple purposes, recycled, or even eaten! Students don't care in the end about the decorations that are scattered on the table, only the fun time they had with their friends.



## Youth

### Group Giving Tree



Once again, the St. Margaret's Youth Group will be collecting hats, scarves, gloves (or mittens) and fleece blankets, to local secondary public school students – all neighbors of ours - to stay warmer this year. Their giving tree will be located in the narthex and loaded with ornaments made by the Youth Group. The ornaments will list what the requested item is, and whether it is for a boy or a girl, and what grade they are in.

We hope that parishioners will take an ornament (or several!) home with you and when you go out to do your family Christmas shopping, and pick up the requested item. We ask that you bring the UNWRAPPED donations – with the ornaments attached – to the narthex by Sunday, December 15. The gifts will be delivered to the schools, and students will receive their gifts on the last day of school before the Christmas break. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

**COME & JOIN US**

If you are already part of our dynamic group, you know there is something for everyone, and plenty of it! If you are not part of the program, then come join us! Anyone from 6th grade through a senior in high school is more than welcome — as are adults! We always need chaperones and helpers, and it is SO MUCH FUN! Please contact our Youth Ministries Leader Jeff Conover at [jeff@st-margarets.org](mailto:jeff@st-margarets.org) and let him know how you would like to be a part of our awesome youth community!

## Upcoming Youth Activities

On Saturday, Nov. 23, our youth are welcome to participate in the Bishops' Unplugged event for Fall 2019 at St. Philip's in Annapolis from 2 to 4 p.m. (Grades 6-12). Cost is \$5. Regional Episcopal youth will gather for music, Bible study, and conversation with the Bishop.

There will be no youth group on Mondays, Nov. 24, Dec. 23, and Dec. 30.

We will hold our annual Christmas caroling visits for parishioners experiencing health concerns and shut-ins on a Sunday in December. We will need drivers and adult chaperones. Look for more information in Dragon Tales.

Our youth will assist our younger children with their Epiphany Pageant rehearsal on Saturday, Jan. 4 in the Parish Hall and on that Sunday morning, Jan. 5 at 10:15 a.m.

On Jan. 19-20, our youth are welcome to participate in a Martin Luther King Jr. weekend lock-in (grades 6-12) that Sunday 7:00 p.m. – Monday at 3:00 p.m. at Memorial Bolton Hill Church in Baltimore. This lock-in celebrates the life and mission of MLK. Participants will have an evening focused on the sin of racism, how to continue our work to dismantle it, a film about overcoming racism, and a discussion. There will also be time for fellowship and food. On that Monday, they'll take time to create posters, work on a service project, and march in the MLK parade alongside Memorial, Bolton Hill.

High School aged youth are welcome to participate in Happening #13 (a program run by Episcopal youth nationwide) at the Claggett Center on February 7-9. Parent pick-up would be Sunday at 3 p.m. Cost is \$95 and registration deadline is January 24.

Please pray for our youth and adult chaperones who will be traveling to St. John the Divine in New York City for the annual youth Nightwatch program on Feb. 21-22. Participants will have the opportunity to unplug from the distractions and stresses of daily life to connect with God and one another in the sacred space of the Cathedral of St. John the Divine. Nightwatch is a safe, spirit-centered program of joyful fellowship, contemplative contemporary spiritual direction, devotional singing, and lots of fun activities. And the next day they explore some of the sights of the Big Apple!



## SAINT NICOLAS VISIT Dec. 22

Instead of a regular Sunday School morning, families of the parish are encouraged to gather in the Parish Hall 10:20 a.m. on Sunday, Dec. 22. St. Nick will make an appearance, read a story, and take requests from youngsters for Christmas gifts. Family photos will also be available with St. Nick.



At St. Margaret's, we now celebrate our children's Nativity pageant when the church celebrates Epiphany Sunday — in celebration of the adoration of the Magi. Children of the church dress in traditional costumes, complete with Mary, Joseph, the shepherds, the angels, the Magi (three kings), and even the animals in the stable.

Date of the Pageant: Sunday, January 5  
10:30 a.m. in the Parish Hall  
Rehearsal: Saturday, January 4  
9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. in the Parish Hall

Help is needed for: costume mending and fitting and assisting students as they rehearse and perform. If you can help and/or wish for your children to participate, please let Kristen Berthelette know at [haysks@gmail.com](mailto:haysks@gmail.com).



## Holy Baptism

The following dates are available for Holy Baptism at St. Margaret's in the program year:

*January 12	*Feb. 23	*April 11
*April 19	*May 31	*July 19

To proceed with a Baptism request, go to [www.st-margarets.org](http://www.st-margarets.org), click on the About Us tab, click the Baptism tab, and complete/return the form to the church office.



Sunday School will not occur on

- \*December 1
- \*December 22
- \*December 29
- \*January 5



## WANTED: Acolytes for 9:00 & 11:15 a.m. Services

We are in need of children from the ages of 7 and up to serve as acolytes for both 9:00 and 11:15 a.m. Sunday services, as well as an adult volunteer to co-lead the group. Acolytes are the service participants who carry the crosses, candles, and other items in procession, and who help in a number of important ways throughout the service. Becoming an acolyte is a great way to get involved and to learn more about Episcopal worship. For more information or to sign up, contact Julie Svendsen at [julesannap@gmail.com](mailto:julesannap@gmail.com) or 443-449-9180.



## **CONFIRMATION, WHO, HOW, WHEN AND THE WHYS BEHIND IT ALL...**

By Jeff Conover, Youth Ministries Leader

First of all, what is Confirmation? According to the Episcopal Church, it is the, “sacramental rite in which the candidates ‘express a mature commitment to Christ and, receive strength from the Holy Spirit through prayer and the laying on of hands by a bishop” (BCP, p. 860). Those who were baptized at an early age and those baptized as adults without laying on of hands by a bishop are expected to make a mature public affirmation of their faith, recommit themselves to the responsibilities of their baptism, and receive laying on of hands by a bishop (BCP, p. 412).

I think the key word here is “mature.” Many of us know or remember Confirmation as a rite of passage based more on age perhaps than that “mature commitment.” Generally speaking, however, we expect candidates to be at least 14 years of age. Beyond that, it becomes a process of discernment for the youth, the parents, and their spiritual advisers.

It is our (Peter+, Patti+, and me) intent to equip the youth with the tools they need to help make a mature decision. We want them rooted in the knowledge of what Confirmation means, not simply how to behave during a ceremony. No one can impose faith on another, certainly not me. But what I can do is help explore what being a Christian means, what the Episcopal Church believes corporately, and most importantly, doubts. I personally believe doubt is one of the most powerful tools we have at our disposal when guiding someone along a path that may lead to faith. It points us directly to the obstacles separating someone from their faith.

We spend a lot of time in Youth Group dissecting Bible stories. There are fantastical things happening in those pages, many difficult to understand with a mere casual reading or listening. Sometimes they can be so fantastic as to defy belief entirely, and that denial is a huge obstacle to understanding and to have faith. The stories are just too crazy, and that craziness must infect everything else in the book. St. Augustine, while walking in his garden, directly heard the voice of God calling him. Lucky him. The rest of us, like Jacob of the Hebrew Bible, must wrestle all night long with our doubts (Gen 32:22-32). I guess that makes me a kind of wrestling coach! We take the fantastic and unbelievable and we dissect them. We ask lots of questions. We bounce ideas off of each other. We dig for context and we try out new vocabulary. We try hard to see what else is going on in the stories, below the surface. After all, they are there for a reason, so let’s figure out why.

In the process, something remarkable occurs. Not every time, but enough times. We begin to see past the obstacles. In fact, in some cases, what was an enormous Cherubim with a Flaming Sword barring the entrance to Eden becomes little more than an annoying gnat distracting us from our destination.

Is that destination Confirmation? I cannot answer that. What I can answer is this: confirmation is rooted in Baptism. I daresay most of us do not remember our Baptism. We are examining that Rite closely. We are looking at the words and the meaning and trying to divine how we react, and why. Our upcoming youth-led service on January 12th will focus – in some fashion – on the Baptismal Covenant. And, we won’t stop there. There are opportunities everywhere for us to put that Covenant into practice and we will. We will keep asking questions and looking for answers.

Youth Group is not a Confirmation Class, per se. But the words we speak at Confirmation are expressions of the central tenets of our faith. The result of all our work at the end of the year will be a much stronger and deeper understanding of those words and the responsibilities that become incumbent on us when we speak those words. If and when your youth decides to be confirmed (or not - yet!), it will be a decision that is based on knowledge and personal reflection. It will be a decision stemming from beliefs and ideas they have internalized. Those kinds of decisions stick with you for a lifetime.

There will be a confirmation service in April - date “To Be Determined” – at the Cathedral in Baltimore. If you/your child wants to be confirmed, or if you want to discuss your child’s progress toward confirmation, contact me anytime at [jeff@st-margarets.org](mailto:jeff@st-margarets.org).





## Women's Weekend January 17, 2020 - January 19, 2020

The mission of the annual Women's Weekend is to provide the women of the Diocese of Maryland with a time and space for renewal that is grounded in faith and filled with fellowship.

This year's keynote speaker: The Rev. Dr. Lucretia Mann who is an Episcopal Priest, clinical psychologist, community organizer, and transition minister. From a single mother pursuing graduate studies in clinical psychology, to a licensed clinical psychologist responding to a call to ordained ministry, Lucretia's primary focus has been on balancing. Through her decades as a trauma counselor and group therapist with combat veterans and their partners and her later ordained ministry, Lucretia's personal mission is to be "attentive, quietly witty, and healing."

Come to worship and enjoy fellowship with women of all ages who seek to walk in Christ's footsteps, using Presiding Bishop Curry's "Way of Love" as a tool to guide their steps.



## Men's Weekend February 7, 2020 - February 9, 2020

"Love Yourself. Love Your Neighbor"

Join men from around the Diocese for a weekend of fellowship, worship, and prayer at the Claggett Center! Explore the commandment to "love your neighbor as yourself." By recalling God's deep and abiding love for us, we can be better equipped to show God's love to others in our lives.

Keynote Speaker: The Rev. Matthew Hanisian is rector of St. Martin's-in-the-Field in Severna Park, Maryland. He's a Cincinnati native, and graduate of Indiana University School of Journalism and Virginia Theological Seminary. He has served several churches in Virginia, Washington, D.C., and Maryland. At St. Martin's, he has led parishioners of all ages in mission work in Appalachia, and serves the wider Severna Park community as a mentor for Our Minds Matter, a student-created organization promoting mental health awareness in schools.



To register, go to [www.claggettcenter.org](http://www.claggettcenter.org).



## YEAR-END GIVING

Deadlines for contributions to be recorded for 2019 taxes are as follows:

Stock or bond sales need to be initiated by Monday, December 9. 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. Please remember to alert the church office of your gift in advance so you can be properly credited.

Automatic drafts from your bank need to be scheduled by you no later than Wednesday, December 11. It can take six to seven business days to process and then mail the checks to our office.

Please mail your final 2019 contributions so that the office receives them by Thursday, December 19.

Did you know the IRS requires those over age 70.5 to withdraw a certain amount from their IRAs each year? Talk to your financial planner about possibly giving to St. Margaret's. You might avoid paying income taxes on the distribution!

### Annual Meeting - Jan. 26, 2020

#### *Parish Hall - 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 2020 budget, and elect new vestry members. **Committees and organizations should submit their 2019 information for the Annual Report by Friday, Jan. 10 to [info@st-margarets.org](mailto:info@st-margarets.org).**

#### *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 2020.

**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 the Rev. Peter W. Mayer at [peter@st-margarets.org](mailto:peter@st-margarets.org).

OFFICE CLOSED

The church office will be closed:

#### Thanksgiving

Wednesday - Friday  
Nov. 26-29

#### Christmas

December 24-27

#### New Year

Dec. 31-Jan. 1

### Realm Reminder -

Giving statements will no longer be mailed to parishioners unless requested. Up-to-date giving information is available through our new Realm system under the "Giving" section after login. If you wish to participate in Realm, request an invitation at [info@st-margarets.org](mailto:info@st-margarets.org). If you wish to have a statement mailed, please email [elizabeth@st-margarets.org](mailto:elizabeth@st-margarets.org).

# ANNUAL MEETING

## Winter Relief coming soon!

This February our St. Margaret's community will once again be home to local homeless men and women who need a warm place to stay during the chilly nights.. Titled "winter relief," churches all over the county take turns providing food and shelter through Arundel House of Hope. St. Margaret's week will be February 10-17.

Please mark your calendars and check for the upcoming Sign Up Genius from us. We will need everything from meals cooked to laundry washed to transporting our guests to and from the church.



**ST. MARGARET'S CHURCH**  
ANNAPOLIS · MARYLAND · ESTABLISHED 1692

*as of February 2019*

## Inclement Weather Policy

If the campus is closed there will be no activities held. The campus will not be salted or plowed by a certain time.

The campus will be closed if the Governor declares a State of Emergency or officials declare drivers should stay off the roads.

If Anne Arundel County Public Schools close for the full day, the campus will be closed. If a major weather event occurs and the schools do not make that decision by 5:00 p.m. for the next day, the church will make the call and communicate to parishioners that evening.

If Anne Arundel County Schools have a one- or two- hour delay, the campus will open at 10:00 a.m. (with no Wednesday morning Eucharist if it is a Wednesday).

If Anne Arundel County Schools have an early dismissal or if they cancel after school activities, the campus will close at 3:00 p.m. and there will be no evening activities on campus.

If there is inclement weather on a weekend, the Church will make a call about closings and service cancellations by 5:00 p.m. the day before.

Ways we will communicate weather and other emergency closings:

\*On our church website at [www.st-margarets.org](http://www.st-margarets.org)

\*By email from the Realm system

\*By site alert (top bar on your Realm pages)

\*Through church social media accounts (Facebook & Twitter - @SMCAnnapolis)

Please Note:

\*\*It is up to group leaders who are meeting on campus to contact their members and alert them to campus closures.



EXPERIENCE  
THE POWER OF  
ACT AND THE  
VISION  
FOR 2020

## ACT ANNUAL MEETING AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 14,  
7:00 PM- 8:30 PM

ARK AND DOVE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
8424 PINEY ORCHARD PKWY, ODENTON

### CHILDCARE BY REQUEST

PLEASE EMAIL CHILDCARE REQUESTS TO  
[AAACIAF@GMAIL.COM](mailto:AAACIAF@GMAIL.COM)

BY TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 4:00 P.M.

## DURING THIS MEETING, WE'LL BE:

- ELECTING NEW OFFICERS
- CELEBRATING OUR FIRST-YEAR VICTORIES
- APPROVING UPCOMING ACTIONS
- AFFIRMING OUR COMMITMENT TO KEEP BUILDING LEADERS AND CHANGING OUR COMMUNITIES IN ANNAPOLIS AND ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY!

## Neighborhood Care Program

*A way for bringing Christ's love and care to people in our community*

One of the ministries we have at St. Margaret's is our Neighborhood Care program. We have grouped parishioners together who live in the same geographic area. Each area has a "shepherd" who reaches out to parishioners who live in their neighborhood. These shepherds connect with members of the congregation via email or phone and stay in touch with them throughout the year. Our shepherds are vital to keeping our community close-knit and caring for each other.

If you don't know which "neighborhood" you are in, you can access this information through Realm. Please go to [www.onrealm.org](http://www.onrealm.org) and sign in with your email address. If you have a problem logging in, call the church office and they can issue you an invitation to join.

Once you're "in" click on your name at the top right side of the page. Then scroll down to "My Profile." The name of your "neighborhood" will be listed under "Groups." Click on "Participants" on the tool bar at the top of the page. You will see the names of St. Margaret's parishioners who are in your "neighborhood." Your shepherd will be listed as your "Group Leader."

Some groups do not have a designated shepherd. If you would like to participate in this lay ministry or know someone in your neighborhood who might like to become one, please contact coordinator Susan Roberts ([roberts.susan1948@gmail.com](mailto:roberts.susan1948@gmail.com)) or the Rev. Peter W. Mayer ([peter@st-margarets.org](mailto:peter@st-margarets.org)).

## Christmas Luncheon



All are invited! Join the members of St. Margaret's Guild at their annual

Christmas Luncheon

Wednesday, Dec. 4

Noon

Carrol's Creek in Eastport

Tickets \$30

Make checks out to "St. Margaret's Guild" with Guild Luncheon in the memo line.



# Christmas @ St. Margaret's

Quiet Christmas  
Weds., December 18  
Noon & 7:00 p.m.

Christmas Eve  
\*3:00, \*5:00 p.m.  
\*7:30, 10:30 p.m.

Christmas Day  
10 a.m., Traditional  
w/ Carols

\* Childcare provided in nursery

Christmas Lessons & Carols  
Sunday, December 29  
\*9:00 & \*11:15 a.m.

New Year's Brunch at 10:15 a.m.  
Bring a casserole dish to share

Children's Epiphany Pageant  
Sunday, January 5  
10:30 a.m. in Parish Hall  
Rehearsal, Sat. January 4  
9:00 a.m. in Parish Hall



- Thurs., Nov. 14 - Day School presentation "Raising a Resilient Child" - Fellowship Hall - 5:30 p.m.
- Thurs., Nov. 14 - ACT General Meeting - Ark & Dove Presbyterian Church - 7:00 p.m.
- Sun., Nov. 17 - Small Tech Recycling Drive - Bin in Formation bldg. lobby
- Sun., Nov. 17, Dec. 15, Jan. 19 - Grief Support Group - All Saints Lounge - 2:00 p.m.
- Mon., Nov. 18 - Adult Ed. Study Visit from Author Karen Gonzalez - 7:00 p.m.
- Sat., Nov. 23 - Holiday Bazaar - Parish Hall - 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
- Sat., Nov. 23 - Bishop Unplugged - St. Martins-in-the-Field, 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.
- Sun., Nov. 24, Dec. 23, Dec. 29 - No Sunday School
- Sun., Nov. 24 - Thanksgiving turkeys pickup - Parish Hall - 10:20-11 a.m.
- Sat., Nov. 30 - Endowment Grants Application Deadline
- Sun., Dec. 1 - Advent Wreathmaking - 10:20 a.m. - Parish Hall - No Sunday School
- Mon., Dec. 2 & 16 - Icons of Christmas - Adult Study - 7:00 p.m.
- Wed., Dec. 4 - Guild Christmas Luncheon - Carrol's Creek - Noon
- Sat., Dec. 7 - Third Sunday Band Christmas concert - 7:00 p.m.
- Sun., Dec. 8 & 15 - Poinsettia Sale - Parish Hall - 10:20 a.m.
- Sun., Dec. 8 - Advent Lessons & Carols - 5:00 p.m.
- Mon., Dec. 9 - B.E.S.T. Catering presentation - Parish Hall - 6:20 p.m.
- Sun. Dec. 22 - St. Nicholas Visit - Parish Hall - 10:30 a.m.
- Sun. Dec. 22 - Christmas hams pickup - Parish Hall kitchen - 10:20 to 11 a.m.



# ST. MARGARET'S CHURCH

ANNAPOLIS • MARYLAND • ESTABLISHED 1692

1601 Pleasant Plains Road, Annapolis, Maryland 21409  
Office (410) 974-0200 Pastoral Emergency (443) 837-5463  
www.st-margarets.org



Office Hours:  
Monday-Thursday 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
Fridays - By appointment only

Services:  
Sundays at 7:30 a.m., 9:00 a.m., 11:15 a.m.  
Wednesdays at 7:30 a.m.

The Rev. Peter W. Mayer, Rector - [peter@st-margarets.org](mailto:peter@st-margarets.org)  
The Rev. Patti Sachs, Assistant Rector - [patti@st-margarets.org](mailto:patti@st-margarets.org)  
Elizabeth Radley, Senior Administrator - [elizabeth@st-margarets.org](mailto:elizabeth@st-margarets.org)  
Jim Douglas, Director of Music - [music@st-margarets.org](mailto:music@st-margarets.org)  
Jeff Conover, Youth Ministry Leader - [jeff@st-margarets.org](mailto:jeff@st-margarets.org)  
Laura Tayman - Planning/Comm. Asst. - [laura@st-margarets.org](mailto:laura@st-margarets.org)  
Teresa McCorkle, Bookkeeper - [office@st-margarets.org](mailto:office@st-margarets.org)  
Tricia McVeigh, Day School Director - [tricia@st-margarets.org](mailto:tricia@st-margarets.org)  
Judy Hall, Churchyard Administrator - [churchyard@st-margarets.org](mailto:churchyard@st-margarets.org)  
Christine Feldmann, Grants Administrator - [missions@st-margarets.org](mailto:missions@st-margarets.org)



Paul O'Donnell, Senior Warden  
Steve Brennan, Junior Warden  
Charlie Lang, Treasurer  
Jim Barnett, Clerk

