



The Spire

E-newsletter

Fall 2020

St. Margaret's Church, Annapolis, Maryland

Regathering for Fall @ St. Margaret's

By the Rev. Peter W. Mayer, Rector



Since March, we have been worshipping at a distance. Some of us log onto our computers Sunday morning to watch our livestreamed liturgy, while others watch our services throughout the week at their own convenience. It has been difficult as clergy to be separated from you. Therefore, I am thrilled to be able to welcome you back to in-person worship beginning on September 13, 2020.

Our overarching goal in worship is to praise God. We also enjoy the comfort of being together and find strength in our numbers. As rector, it falls to me to make sure that our worship during this pandemic is safe, effective, and again, safe.

So Sunday in-person worship will look different. It will be shorter than pre-pandemic Sundays, it will be as low-touch as possible, in order to minimize risk. We will continue to stream our services on Sunday mornings as well, so that if you do not feel comfortable being here, you can still take part!

First, you will be asked to reserve a spot at worship. We need to do this to ensure we have enough space for everyone to be appropriately distanced. Sign-ups will begin later this month. When you sign up, you will be given a covenant to sign—this ensures that you know our communal norms for worship. People must wear masks; we must respect each other's space for this to work. The covenant will cover everything you'll need to know.

Once you arrive, ushers will greet you with a smile, a bulletin and hand sanitizer. We will also have masks for those who have forgotten theirs, as well as extra copies of the covenants for newcomers. Every other pew will be available for seating and will be limited to four people. Masks must be worn for the entirety of the service. We are hoping, in good weather, to keep the doors open to promote fresh air in our building.

We will have communion! Bread only, though. Participants will approach the chancel, six feet behind the person in front of them, and hold out their hands as they approach the clergy. The clergy will then drop the wafer in their hands. It will feel different, but we look forward to a time when we can kneel shoulder to shoulder and receive as we have before.

See the next page for more information.

This is certainly not what I thought I'd be writing to you last year. But we need to keep each other safe. I am confident that we will one day be able to sing, respond, hug and dance with each other. That is what we look forward to as we regather safely. Again, I look forward to being able to see you physically and personally, even if at a distance. It will be a tremendous marker for our community, and we will celebrate it.

The last few months have been an unprecedented period for our church community, our country, and our entire world. With the seriousness of Covid-19 and its affects on people of all ages, St. Margaret's leaders, using the Diocese of Maryland guidelines, have been crafting a way for our parish family to come back to in-person worship that is safe for all. Our Sundays will not be the same until our country can offer vaccines, but we can offer on-site worship experiences for parishioners as long as they follow the procedures described in this newsletter.

On Campus Requirements

*Every person on campus must be masked at all times (yes, even when you just run in).

*Should you touch anything such as equipment, doorknobs, light switches, etc., please wipe it off with wipes that are available throughout all buildings.

*Please be courteous and maintain the safe distancing (6 ft) rule with fellow parishioners, clergy, and staff.



Sundays @ St. Margaret's

We will continue to offer three worship services, 7:30, 9:00 & 11:15 a.m. Cleaning will be done between services.

To ensure that there will be safe seating available for everyone who wants to attend, we ask parishioners to go online using our link to Sign-Up Genius each week and reserve a spot for you (and your family). If you do not have online access, you may call the church and tell us your plan to attend and how many there will be with you.

To keep everyone as safe as possible, physical distancing and masks (for attendees over 2 years old) are required in the parking lot, outside the church, and inside the building. We will have extra masks available in case anyone needs one.

NO CHILDCARE will be available in the Nursery or other classrooms. Parents are encouraged to bring crayons or activities from home to occupy children in their seats.

As much as we might like, **NO hugs, kisses, handshakes for anyone outside your family.** And all must leave immediately following the service. There will be no coffeeshour before or after services.

(As a reminder, our Sunday online services will continue to be offered at 9:00 a.m. on our Facebook public page at www.facebook.com/smcannapolis. You can view the service anytime afterwards as well, either on that page, on our website homepage, or in Dragon Tales weekly e-newsletters.)

Parishioners are requested to minimize restroom use. Only the Narthex bathroom will be available with one person in a bathroom at a time unless part of the same family group. Please use Clorox wipes to disinfect the faucet handles, toilet handles and other touched surfaces before you leave the restroom. Remember to wipe down bathroom door handles as you leave.

Hand sanitizer will be readily available for all to use.

All participants will need to turn in a signed copy of the church's Re-gathering Covenant (copy on next page and on website) at the first in-person service attended.

Seating in the church will be adjusted to allow physical distancing. Seats will be assigned, and ushers will assist in finding seats. Please wait to be seated if they are assisting other parishioners.

Full-text bulletins with announcements will be prepared and placed at available seats prior to the service. Please take it with you as you leave.

Parishioners are requested to avoid handling cell phones during the service as they often carry germs and, if a person touches a phone and then puts their hands on a seat or some other common surface, it could result in the spreading of the virus.

Initially, we will offer only wafers during communion and we'll leave the singing (even hymns), which readily transmits the virus, to our soloist cantor and organist who will be 20 feet away from others.

Offering plates will be stationary in the back of the church and near the exit door.



THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE
OF MARYLAND

Covenant for Regathering

Please print and sign before you attend your first service back in the sanctuary.

In response to the current COVID-19 pandemic, I promise, with God's help and to the best of my ability, to abide by the guidelines of the Diocese of Maryland for participation in the life of my congregation according to the regathering phase in which my congregation is authorized to carry out its mission and ministry.

In fulfillment of the Baptismal Covenant (*BCP* p. 304-305), I will strive to:

Love my neighbor as myself, I will...

- Wear a mask or scarf over my nose and mouth at all times in church buildings, except momentarily to receive the sacrament or lead worship through an assigned speaking part, and follow public health guidelines for hand sanitizing and disinfecting
- Only attend worship and receive communion if I am non-symptomatic for the COVID-19 virus or any other transmittable disease that could compromise the health of another congregant
- Will abstain from attending if doing so would put me at greater risk due to my own health status

Respect the dignity of every human being, I will...

- Make no physical contact with people beyond the members of my own household
- Maintain a six foot or more distance from other members of the congregation
- Respect any requests for distance, masking, and cleaning, to ensure the safety and comfort level of others

Seek and serve Christ in all people...

- Trust and support the decisions of both my diocesan and congregational leaders
- Stay connected with others in my community by telephone, video chat, or mail

Please sign, date, and return before attending a St. Margaret's service on the campus:

Name of Family Representative

Date

Music in this New World

A Reflection on not Singing in Church....for now
By Jim Douglas, Director of Music



From Psalm 137...

By the waters of Babylon we sat down and wept: when we remembered thee, O Sion.
As for our harps, we hanged them up: upon the trees that are therein. For they that led us away captive required of us then a song, and melody in our heaviness:
Sing us one of the songs of Sion. How shall we sing the Lord's song: in a strange land?

I think we can all agree that we are living in a “strange” land and time. The COVID pandemic has brought devastation on many fronts over these last several months. Like everything else, the world of normal collaborative music has shifted to online with both success and failure. Doing the virtual thing has presented unique challenges for music making, and some are left unfulfilled and longing for the community that exists in being in a choir, orchestra or band. With some exceptions, singing and playing of wind instruments in the church has been mostly silenced.

All of us know by now that participating choir rehearsals and congregational singing are among the riskiest activities for infection; singers of all ages and abilities are deemed ‘super spreaders’ because of the breathing and projection that is required to sing, along with the close proximity in which singers stand to achieve blend and ensemble. Simply put, as it pertains to singing in church, as long as we must have physical distancing, we cannot have ensemble or congregational singing. This leaves a void in our worship, no doubt, but it also leaves a void in the lives of those who are fed spiritually when volunteering their time to be worship leaders as choristers, members of the band or those who play instruments.

Despite a yearning for the spiritual food that is church music, I sometimes need to remind myself that nothing really keeps us from singing, in scenarios like singing together in a family circle, or singing along to recordings alone in the car, or on Sundays to the organ accompaniment on our livestreamed services, or even when out walking the dog.

As we continue to navigate this “strange” land and time, things will be a bit different, for now. When we regather in person for Sunday worship, there will be one voice leading us musically, with organ/piano and limited instruments. When we regather on weekdays, whether virtually or in person, the music ministry will shift from singing to focus a bit more on other wonderful opportunities, including music theory, music appreciation, music history and church music in foreign languages, among other topics.

Familiarity will return again and with it a joyful and exuberant noise of gratitude and rejoicing!

*How can I keep from singing?
My life flows on in endless song; Above earth's lamentation,
I hear the sweet, though far-off hymn That hails a new creation.
Through all the tumult and the strife, I hear that music ringing
It finds an echo in my soul How can I keep from singing?
No storm can shake my inmost calm While to that rock I'm clinging
Since Love is Lord of heaven and earth How can I keep from singing*

Third Sunday Band's Celtic Worship with First Presbyterian

This summer, our own Third Sunday Band joined members of First Presbyterian Church of Annapolis to product [Celtic Worship](#) services drawn from the liturgical traditions of Iona and Northumbria, with prayers, community engagement, and music. TSB's music in these services was contemplative and lively along with the prayers that were earthy, holy and inclusive. The services combined the meditative silence, the simplicity of utterance, and the faithful commitment to care for the earth and those within it. Find the services at <https://www.annapolis-presbyterian.com/celtic-services>.

We know that this coming school year will be a challenge for all of our students, teachers, and families. Our clergy would like to provide you a special gift to prepare all our parishioners for the road ahead.



Students
Parents

**Drive-by Blessing & Gift
from Rev. Peter & Rev. Patti
Thursday, Sept. 3
1:00 to 2:30 p.m.**

Teachers

Enter the campus at the entrance and turn toward the sanctuary. Clergy will greet you by your car outside the parish hall with a gift and a blessing.

Weather permitting

**Sunday, October 4 - 2:00 p.m.
Garden area by the administration building**

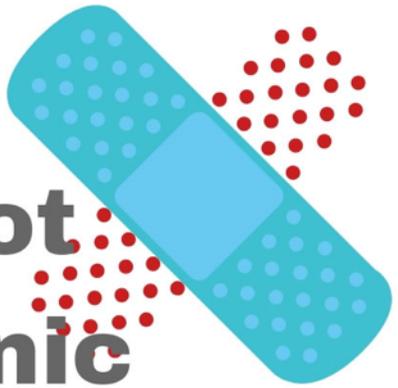
**All animals welcome
(including children's stuffed animals)**

**Blessing
- of the -
ANIMALS**



Sunday, October 11

**Flu
Shot
Clinic**



**10:00 to 11:30 a.m.
Parish Hall**

**Wear a mask &
bring your insurance card**



**Women's
Guild
NEWS**

The Guild is ending their summer break with their **first meeting of the program year, Wednesday, Sept. 2 via Zoom**. If you would like to participate, contact new Guild president Janis Brewer at brewerjanis@gmail.com

The Guild has continued to support The Club at Collington Square throughout these difficult times, The Club is a facility in East Baltimore established to provide after school care for up to 75 elementary and middle school students. During the quarantine this summer, they are providing day care for approximately 40 students including meals and grade appropriate learning activities. They are not well funded and need basic items such as cleaning supplies and school supplies. Pat Hall, with other Guild members, has made a number of visits to Baltimore taking our contributions. You can donate items in the marked box in the narthex.

Formation

Welcome Back and Get Ready!

By the Rev. Patti Sachs, Assoc. Rector

Go to page 15 and learn about a way to prepare younger parishioners for what the new worship services will look like!

On September 13th, we begin again! A new program year addressing the challenges of Covid guidelines while maintaining meaningful formation is in the works.

Here's what you can look forward to—

(Please know plans are subject to change, so stay flexible!)

Live-streaming will continue at 9:00 a.m. on Sundays. You will want to see how the new services must work! Pre-recorded services will also continue through September on Sunday evenings.

Weekly Sunday School lessons will be posted to parents of the participating students. If you are new to Sunday school, please send a request to join to Laura@st-margarets.org. Or if you want to check and make sure your child is in the right class, email Laura Tayman in the office.



Children's Chapel will send parents a link for Sunday mornings featuring music, lessons AND guest appearances by YOU! If you wish to participate, contact Emily DelSordo at emilypdelsordo@gmail.com. For ages Pre-K to 2nd grade.



Godly Play storytellers will post a new story each week on Sundays.



Sunday School for all ages will also begin on the 13th. Teachers will post a lesson each week for you and your children to discuss through Realm. Once a month, classes will meet in a Zoom format.

Second and third grades will meet on the second Sunday of each month. (You all will begin on September 13th with a Zoom meeting. Your teachers will send you that information.)

Fourth and fifth grades will meet live on the third Sunday of each month. (Your teachers will send you the information on that.)

Sixth – eighth grades will meet on Zoom on the fourth Sunday of each month.

Again, your teachers will be in touch with more specific information as we get closer to regathering time.

High School and Youth Group — read more on next page

And for the rest of us, let's get back to Monday nights! We will (try to) start with a Zoom "dinner" at 6:30. (Menus coming soon.) At 7:00 p.m. on Sept. 14, we will begin a study with Diana Butler Bass called "Being Grateful in Difficult Times." **See next page.** Email me (patti@st-margarets.org) if you are new to our Monday night studies. (You regulars are already in the group and so are already signed up.) Check in your Realm profile under "Groups." If "Monday Adult Forum" is listed, you're already in. If not, email me and I'll enroll you! Join us!

We are all looking forward to getting back to some study, to some routine that we recognize and love. Be ready to get involved! Stay well, stay flexible, stay vigilant. Wear your masks, wash your hands. We're not out of the woods. But get ready, we will have some fun!

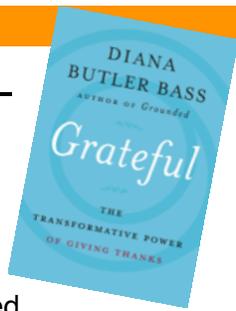
Monday Night Study— Being Grateful

We will continue our adult study on **Monday evenings this fall through Zoom, starting Sept. 14.** We are excited to announce we will be studying Diana Butler Bass' popular book titled *Grateful*.

"With honest stories and heartrending examples from history and her own life, Bass reclaims gratitude as a path to greater connection with God, with others, with the world, and even with our own souls. It's time to embrace a more radical practice of gratitude—the virtue that heals us and helps us thrive."

The Rev. Patti Sachs will be leading the study. If you would like to participate, simply email her at patti@st-margarets.org and let her know so you will get the link to participate.

You can order the book on biblio.com or Amazon.com.



Day School Re-opening

By Tricia McVeigh,
SMDS Director



We have been working hard on getting our classes and schedules set for the school year and cannot wait to have the kids back in their learning home. In order for us to safely operate each day, we are asking each family in our community do their part.

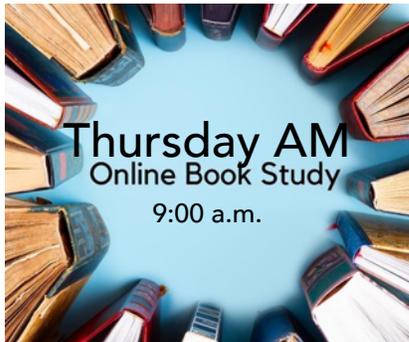
We have asked parents to be sure to keep their child home if they have any signs of illness. Parents are to notify the office if their child is absent for illness right away. All children need to be fever free for at least 48 hours before returning to school without medication during COVID regulations. If a child is absent, they will be able to participate in class virtually. Temperatures will be checked daily as children enter the school.

We are set to begin in person classes on August 31st. We will begin virtual learning on September 8th. Google classroom will be available beginning August 31st.

After school programs such as Soccer Shots and ballet classes will run as scheduled based upon the interest of families. Both of these classes are now available for registration on the front page of the Day School's website.

There will be NO toys or any additional objects from home allowed on campus. Masks are currently required for kindergarten. Masks are currently optional for all other children. Parents are being asked that if their child is to wear a mask while at school, to please be sure to practice proper mask wearing at home (no touching, remove only from loops, no licking, no playing with). Parents will send a student to school with two labeled (with their name) paper bags daily —one for dirty masks and one for clean masks. Paper bags are the only bags allowed for masks according to regulations. Students are to have one clean mask for every hour they are in school, so that they can be changed throughout the day. Masks will be removed for eating and outside playing. The school is requiring that masks must be one color, plain for school, as patterns are distracting and interfere with eye contact.

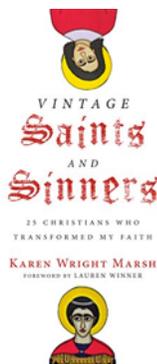
Our Meet the Teacher event will be on Thursday, August 27th and Friday, August 28th.



All are welcome to join our active Thursday morning book study!

They continue their study of "Vintage Saints & Sinners" by Karen Wright Marsh.

Told with humor and vulnerability, *Vintage Saints and Sinners* introduces us afresh to twenty-five brothers and sisters who challenge and inspire us with their honest faith.



As we continue to physically distance ourselves during the pandemic, our clergy are committed to keeping in touch with our senior parishioners. Our "Senior Sessions" are held on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month at 10:00 a.m. through Zoom. If you are 65+ and wish to participate with clergy, discussing the Gospel reading of the week and sharing joys and challenges, contact the Rev. Patti Sachs at patti@st-margarets.org.

Changing it up with Our Youth

By Jeff Conover, Youth Ministries Leader

Last year at this time I would have been telling you all about the exciting events and activities the Youth have to look forward to, both in Youth Group and Sunday School. Well, surprisingly things will be different this year. Here is a quick rundown of what – right now – Youth Formation will look like in the coming school year.

Through much of last year, Youth Group attendance was through the roof! An average Monday night would see twenty-plus sixth through twelfth graders hanging out, laughing and learning for two hours. Well, those days are on pause. Instead, we are going to experiment!

While the possibility exists for some limited in-person gatherings, they will be the exception, and I will use them sparingly for certain high-impact events. **The bulk of Youth Formation will be on-line this year, much like all the schools in the county.** The entire Youth Group got an intense education on Zoom and its possibilities and limitations this past spring. We learned a lot and are incorporating those lessons into our planning for the year. I “met” with some of our Youth Group veterans the other week to discuss ideas. Here is what we have come up with for the 2020-21 program year.

Youth Group will meet three times a week virtually via Zoom, none to last more than one hour. The first will be for the **entire Youth Group and we will meet at our old time of 7:00 p.m. Monday evenings.** One of the best things about our Youth Group is the community it has created. This sense of belonging has been critical to the program’s success, and we all want to continue to foster that. Monday nights will be primarily about Fellowship; sharing what is happening in our lives, maybe a short lesson, and time to have some fun with the games we have collected for on-line use. A very special note about our first Monday night meeting, which will be on September 14. This meeting will be especially focused on our newest members! We have a new crop of middle-schoolers to integrate into our group. Some of our high school students will join us that night to share our group norms and traditions and introduce them to our community’s culture. This way, when the entire group gets together on the 21st, things won’t seem strange to our newest members, and they will feel welcomed.

The other two meetings will break out by grade – Middle School one night and High Schoolers another (TBD). This allows me to work on lessons in smaller, more easily managed groups, and to tailor the content more to age. I resisted this when we met in-person because I find the younger members especially benefited from the interaction with the older students, and it provided the older students with some informal leadership opportunities. Zoom makes that more of a challenge, but the idea is that one or two of the high school students will join in with the Middle School group when they meet. Coupled with the whole group getting together on Monday nights, I hope this provides a reasonable facsimile of our previous format and fosters a sense of inclusiveness.

The meeting for High School students will have a different flavor. Having worked with this cohort now for over 15 years as both a Sunday school teacher and as youth leader, I have discovered some things about their formation. In the best of times it is a challenge to get them to Sunday School. In the best of times, it is difficult to get them to want to focus on something that seems like just more academics to them – another lecture that goes in one ear and out the other. What I have found works best is when the topic interests them, and that means giving them wide latitude in the direction of our discussions. They engage the most when they feel they are integral to the topic, and not just an audience. Another important lesson learned about this age group is time. They don’t have enough of it, and they treasure and guard their down time. In this, I am their complete ally. They are young adults and should have a say in how they manage their time. This is the time to learn that important skill, and they do that by making some of their own choices. With all of this in mind, I want to try something radical with the High School.

We are going to combine High School Sunday School and High School Youth Group. And, we are not going to meet on Sunday mornings. {GASP!!!!!!} I know, I can hear you. Just breathe. I think this will work.



We are going to substitute a rolling, moderated discussion for a regular class time. Using Google Classroom, with which most of our students are already very familiar, we will replicate our wide-ranging discussions. The beauty of this idea is that the students can participate as they have the time. Everyone will be able to easily “hear” each other and will have more time to reflect on what they read and what they write. And, students who were not regular Sunday School-goers in the past (because getting up on Sunday morning was too difficult) might find it easier to participate. In fact, since we are using the same platform as they use in school, we might get a little increased participation as they finish up schoolwork. Fingers crossed! We will meet weekly via Zoom, but that meeting will be even more of a blend of Sunday School and Youth Group than I have tried to make it in the past. (A personal philosophy note: I have always seen them as two sides of the same coin. One is more learning and one is more practical application of what they learn).

Okay, but what about things like Night Watch, and lock-ins, and service trips? Short answer: I don't know. I am going to be paying very close attention to try and identify when it is safe and essential that we gather in-person. I take my cues from the County, the State and the Diocese, using science and common sense. As the situation permits and opportunities present themselves, we will look closely at what is possible. Nothing can truly substitute for in-person gatherings, but nothing is more important to me than the safety and health of our students.

More detailed information will be forthcoming, covering these ideas in some more detail and discussing the lessons we will be having. But for now, I hope this answers your basic questions of what the coming Youth Group year will look like. No one has a crystal ball (as far as I know), and there are challenges and risks to operating Youth Group virtually. However, my informal council of advisors and I are confident that that this is a good and workable plan. I look forward to feedback, and I am always open to try something new. I hope you will support this plan and continue to support our Youth program as we work through the coming challenges!

Sewing Mission Continues to Fill a Need

Our Sewing Mission continues to fill orders for local hospitals, and they could use some funds. The materials used are very specific for the gowns, and the need is quickly out-stripping the funds. Make a check to "St. Margaret's Church" with "Sewing Mission" in the memo line, or donate through Realm. In these times, we continue to use our gifts to support those doing life-saving work for others.



This is sewing missions leader Elizabeth Kopack with Salah and Sahar Almajidi an Iraqi refugee family sponsored by St. Margaret's parishioners. Salah and Sahar will be sewing gowns with this material we provided for local health workers. (They previously sewed masks.)



**American
Foundation
for Suicide
Prevention**

Suicide Prevention Walk in Annapolis on Sat., Sept. 19

The Maryland and Delaware Chapter of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention will host an "Out of the Darkness Walk" at the Navy Stadium in Annapolis on Saturday, Sept. 19th. Hundreds of thousands of people are involved in similar walks that raise awareness and funds for the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP). The funding goes to invest in new research, create educational programs, advocate for public policy, and support survivors of suicide loss. AFSP has been able to set a bold goal to reduce the annual suicide rate 20% by 2025.



All proceeds benefit the Light House shelter. It's virtual! Map your own course! Compete at your own pace! Report your time! Support the Light House!

Saturday, September 12-20

In-Person, Drive-By Packet Pick Up

Saturday, September 12, 2020

From 8 am - Noon

Light House Homeless Prevention Center,
10 Hudson St., Annapolis, MD

Missions

The Missions Commission wishes to thank the St Margaret's community for your tremendous outpouring of support and dedication to outreach during the past several months as the COVID-19 health crisis surges on. We are inspired by parishioners who are working tirelessly, donating, thinking creatively, and starting new collaborations. If you have a local outreach project that could use financial support, please contact Joanna Tillman at joannatillman@gmail.com



The Light House

The Missions Commission has been donating funds directly to the Light House in lieu of the regular monthly parishioner meal preparation at the shelter. In-person volunteer opportunities (with the exception of bagged lunch ingredients and off-site pantry drives) continue to remain closed through the month of August due to the pandemic. In September, The Light House will begin virtual Employment Preparation and Community Needs classes, covering a variety of subject matter including interview preparation, GED tutoring, resume building and more. They are actively seeking teachers for these virtual classes. For more information on how to volunteer, please contact parishioner Marti Engstrom at martiengstrom@gmail.com.



Anne Arundel Connecting Together (ACT)

Anne Arundel Connecting Together is steadily working to create lasting, substantive change in AA County. Working with community leaders around issues of eviction prevention and the school transportation budget.

In July there was an internal action to address issues around race and community organizing.

Held via Zoom in smaller break-out sessions, attendees were able to discuss the first time they realized race was an issue. This sharing of personal stories helped to continue the relationship building needed to be a stronger community.

Additional reading resources were suggested:

- a. Joi Howard (UU Church of Annapolis) suggested *My Grandmother's Hands*, by Resmaa Menakem.
- b. Jonathan Lange (Metro IAF) mentioned Sheldon Wolin's book, *The Presence of the Past*. The specific chapter he referenced, "Contract and Birthright."
- c. A big read: *I've Got the Light of Freedom: The Organizing Tradition and the Mississippi Freedom Struggle*, by Charles M. Payne.
- d. Read senior Metro IAF organizer Mike Gecan's recent column, "How change happens: a coronavirus education in how real people matter."

Most recently the Education team asked for listening sessions to ask about virtual learning as it affects families in our community. The feedback has been eye-opening. Listening to concerns around these issues will give voice to those most vulnerable.

The Behavioral Health team continues to meet monthly. The August meeting included Maria Winters, Anne Arundel Medical Center Emergency Mental Health Clinician. The group discussed overall mental health issues faced in the Emergency department pre-COVID to present day. The September tentative topic will cover the research needed for the mental health legislation for the 2021 Maryland General Assembly. For more information, please contact Dalyn Huntley at cinque2gen@gmail.com.

Citizenship Classes

The dedication, hard work, and determination of the applicants seeking U.S. citizenship humble us every week. Under the auspices of the Missions Commission, volunteers from St. Margaret's teach applicants to prepare them for the Civics Test portion of their citizenship interview. As in many of the other parts of our lives during the pandemic, classes had to go "virtual." In March 2020 after 8 sessions, the program paused while the Center for Help and our volunteers figured out how to switch to Zoom teaching. We completed the Spring "semester" and convinced the Center to add a Summer session.

Offered through the Center for Help, the classes cover everything from the 18-page Application for Citizenship (USCIS N-400) form to U.S. geography, government, history and holidays. "Virtual" isn't a good description, since our volunteers present 13 units to students covering the 100 potential questions which may be asked. With students from Mexico to Pakistan to El Salvador to Iraq and China, we put the information into context of the students' personal experiences and the current events all around them. For all students English is their second language and fluency, both in speaking and reading, varies. Since the interview is in a 45-minute to an hour one-on-one setting entirely in English, we role-play to present various wordings of the questions and the responses. If you are interested in joining our teaching team, please contact Robert Thomas at thomas.byrom@gmail.com or 757-408-1225 to be blessed by meeting and helping a group of wonderful potential new U.S. citizens.

Pop Up Pantry Action

There are multiple ways that St. Margaret's parishioners can get involved with feeding those in need in our own community. And our parish has been doing this by providing funds, furnishing in-kind foods and goods donations, and by volunteering at the Pop Up Pantry locations. The Missions Commission established the "Pop Up Pantry Action" coordination group in July to both better the coordination of our ongoing food distribution activities, and to determine where additional action is needed within the Broadneck Peninsula, You can sign up to help with that local mission here: <http://bitl.ws/9rMJ>.

We are also supporting the West Annapolis Pop Up Pantry that feeds hundreds of families per week with donations of food and volunteers at the Annapolis Evangelical Presbyterian Church location to pack up volunteer drivers to deliver the donations to families in that area.

This Pop Up Pantry Action group is made up of St. Margaret's parishioners who are either actively engaged in volunteering at area food provisioning activities, and those who are supporting this work of St. Margaret's through their interest and financial donations. For more information please contact Dan Tootle at dan.tootle@yahoo.com.

Feed Anne Arundel, a program through Anne Arundel Connecting Together (ACT), welcomes financial donations to pay restaurants (who need the funding) to deliver food to hundreds of families every week in different neighborhoods. To help with Feed Anne Arundel go to: <https://www.ripkenfoundation.org/donate>, or text FeedAnneArundel to 76278. To volunteer go to: actiaf.org/volunteer.



From the West Annapolis Pop Up Pantry Facebook Page

Our supporters' small actions bring such great joy.

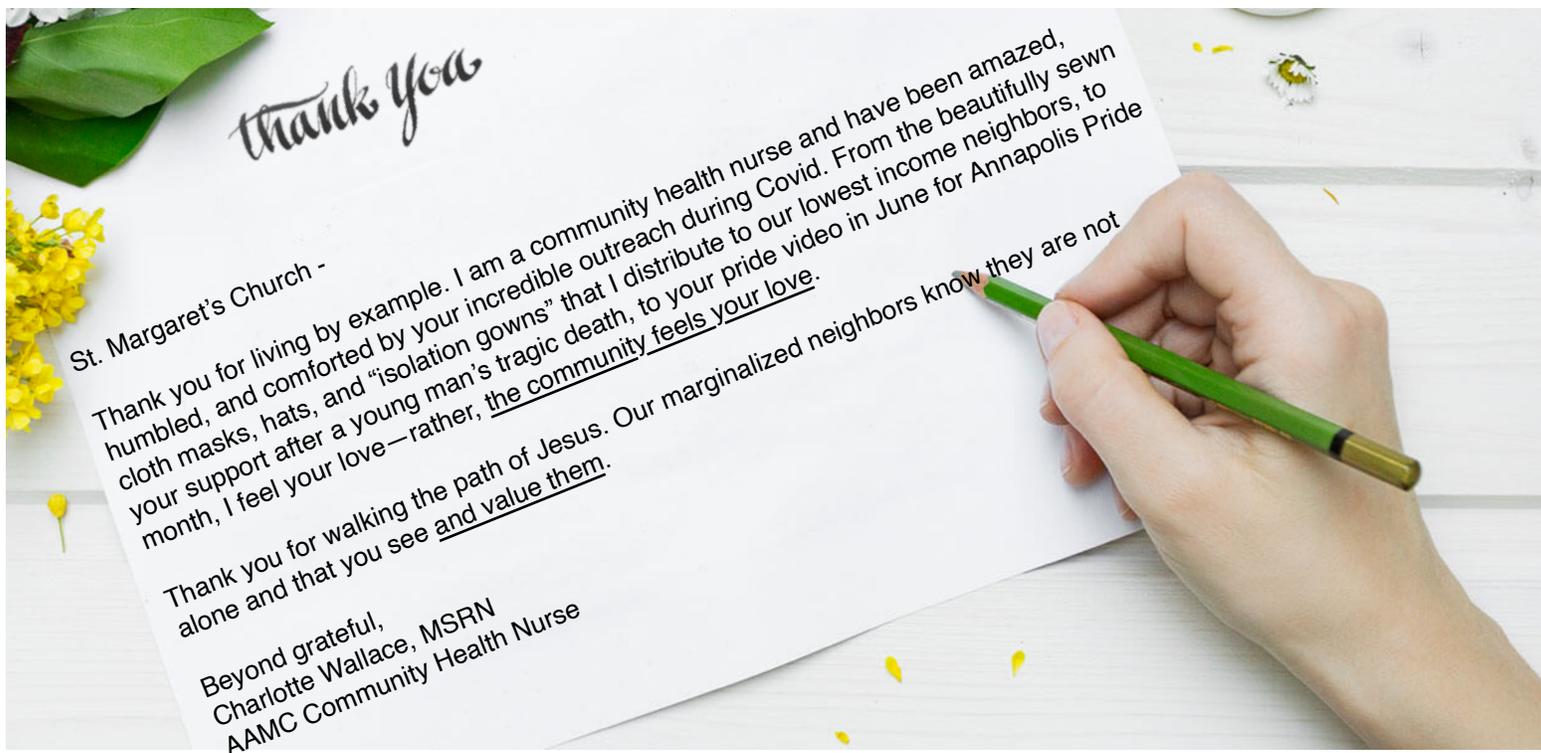
"I'll let you go, but a sweet moment from last week: We stop at the Dollar Store and buy crayons and coloring books, etc. for each family. Word searches for the adults. So, we dropped off everything and as we got in the car, the family came out to get what we had left. A little girl looked in the bag of the books and crayons and laughed, and ran inside. I saw her silhouette a minute later on the top floor swinging the bag and running into her apartment to share the booty with her siblings. It was great to see such a normal kid moment. Thank you for helping us be better humans — Alice and Jeff Conover. The Conover's have been delivering to WAPP families since April. Their support motivates and inspires us each week. This last week Alice found a friend to donate 50 can openers. One phone call, just a few minutes, means access to so many foods for our families."

From August 2 - A MUST WATCH on Loaves and Fishes

This morning Reverend Peter Mayer from St. Margaret's Episcopal Church offered a powerful message about salvation, faith and providence. "God gives us the compassion... and the responsibility...and everything we need...to hear the needs of our community, and do something about it."

Food for thought to carry you through the pandemic and the week.

#whatwillyoudo #act #community #initttogether #thepoweroflove #marshalllove



Thank you, St. Margaret's volunteers!



Stewardship: Connection. Compassion. Community.

This year's annual Stewardship campaign is kicking off on September 27 and the theme for this year is "Connection. Compassion. Community." (more on that below).

What is Stewardship? It is many things, but first and foremost it is an opportunity to express your thankfulness for God's blessings. This spiritual commitment of pledging provides the resources for St. Margaret's Church to fulfill its mission of "transforming lives in Christ through worship, formation and giving."

When thinking about what this year's Stewardship campaign theme should be, we thought about how Stewardship is the engine that powers so much of the St. Margaret's experience. Although that experience looks and feels different than it has in past years, your continued generosity has allowed us to stay connected in so many ways so that we can continue to serve our community with utmost compassion. So, the theme just fell out "Connection. Compassion. Community."

As we embark on the 2020 Stewardship campaign, St. Margaret's extends a genuine "Thank You!" to everyone who contributed to the outstanding 2019 campaign that raised \$925,000 from 219 pledges.

Everyone will receive a pledge card in the mail at the end of September, and for those who pledged last year, your current pledge statement will be included for easy reference. You can make your pledge in three easy ways: 1) mail your pledge card in to St. Margaret's; or 2) go to the "GIVING" tab in the upper right corner of the St. Margaret's website (st-margarets.org) and click on the link at the top of the page.

If you have any questions about Stewardship, please contact our Stewardship chairs, Greg Smith (rxman55@hotmail.com; 301.821.0606); Zack Greene (zackgreene8@hotmail.com; 410.703.2839); Brad Callahan (brad@metacoastal.com; 443.326.3333), Doug Seybert (doug_seybert@yahoo.com; 703.599.8746), or Dan Tootle (dan.tootle@yahoo.com).

Thank you,
Greg, Zack, Brad, Doug & Dan



The Federal Census Bureau has changed the end date for the national count from October 31 to **SEPTEMBER 30** for #Census2020.

From 2010 to 2020, Anne Arundel County lost \$43 million dollars of federal funds due to the 2010 census undercount, and reports are currently on target to lose even more.

YOU can help RIGHT NOW to turn this around and ensure there are adequate funds our county needs for schools, hospitals, law enforcement, and many more essential services.

If you haven't already, please fill out the 2020 Census, and also provide this information with every group, on every platform, and with every person.

We must make sure that #everyonecounts. The census is important, easy, and safe.

Working together Anne Arundel County residents can ensure that everyone is counted and that we get to 100%!

**Complete your census NOW at:
MY2020CENSUS.GOV**



10 tips to help residents respond to the Census

If you don't regularly check the mail, please do so now. By now, most households have received at least one invite to respond to the 2020 Census, which includes instructions for how to respond online, by phone, or by mail.

Even if you don't get an invitation in the mail, you can go online at 2020census.gov and respond now. You don't have to wait for the paper questionnaire to arrive either. Your name isn't on it. The invitation will be addressed to "Resident" – that's you (and everyone in your household). Don't throw it out just because your name isn't on it.

Determine how you will respond: online, by phone, or by mail. If you want to answer on paper, you can. Paper questionnaires are arriving by mail to households that haven't yet responded.

Responding online is easy. Your invitation includes a Census ID number. But if you lose it, you can use your address. You can go online on any device including a laptop, tablet, or smartphone. Remember: **If you respond online, you must complete the census in one sitting.** You will not have the ability to save your progress and come back to finish.

You can respond in English and 12 different languages online and by phone.

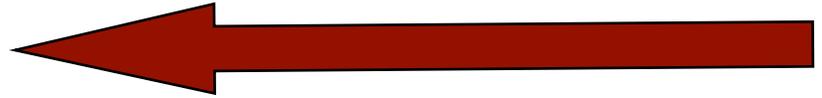
On the paper questionnaire use blue or black ink – **no pencils!** You can write in the margins, though, if you need space. Be sure to return the questionnaire in the envelope provided. If you lost it, return it to: U.S. Census Bureau, National Processing Center, 1201 E 10th Street, Jeffersonville, Indiana 47132.

Figure out who is "Person 1/Head of Household." If you're the only person in your home, then you are Person 1. If more than one person lives in your home, Person 1 is generally someone whose name is on the mortgage or rental agreement and who is over age 15.

Count everyone who lives in your home — including children. Count everyone who lives and sleeps in your home most of the time, including relatives, friends and others. Learn more about who to count and special circumstances for specific groups of people such as military. If more than 10 people live in your home, respond online at 2020census.gov where there is plenty of space.

Respond as soon as you can. Respond on your own now to avoid a visit from a census taker later this year.

Election 2020



Any registered voter may vote by mail-in ballot. You don't need a reason to vote by mail-in ballot. It's another way to vote if you don't want to or can't go to an early voting center or your polling place (especially during this Covid pandemic).

Note: Maryland does not have a permanent mail-in list. If you wish to vote by mail-in ballot, you must apply for a mail-in ballot each primary and general election cycle.

If you do not know if you are registered to vote, use the Voter Look-up to find out:

<https://voterservices.elections.maryland.gov/VoterSearch>.

Here are two ways you can request a mail-in ballot.

- [Online if you have a Maryland's driver's license or MVA-issued ID card.](#)
- Or complete the form at the link below. Read the instructions, enter the required information, print the form, sign it, and return it to your local board of elections. You can return it by mail, fax, or email (scanned as an attachment).

[Mail-in ballot application for 2020 elections \(PDF\)](#) or go to

https://elections.maryland.gov/voting/documents/Absentee_Ballot_Application_English.pdf

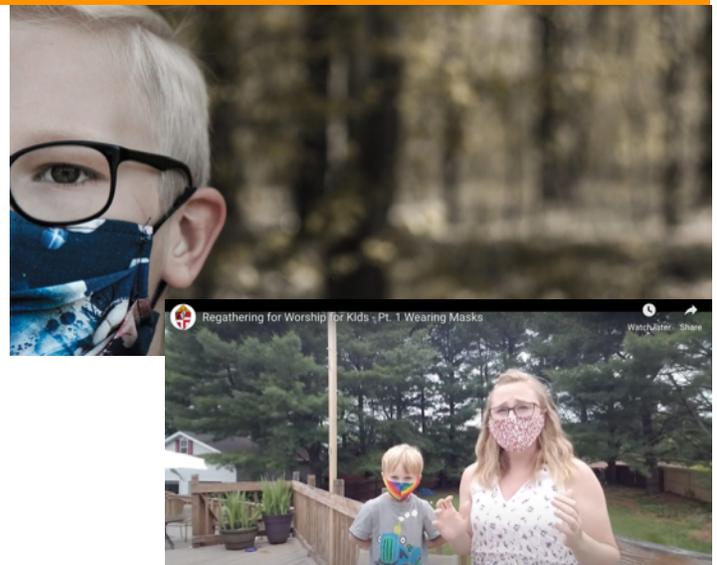
Ballots are typically mailed or available for download about 3 weeks before an election.

If you requested a ballot but have not received it, and have verified on the [voter look-up website](#) that your ballot has been sent, wait a few days. Your ballot may be in transit. If the election is one week away and you haven't received your ballot, please contact your [local board of elections](#). A representative of your local board can help you.

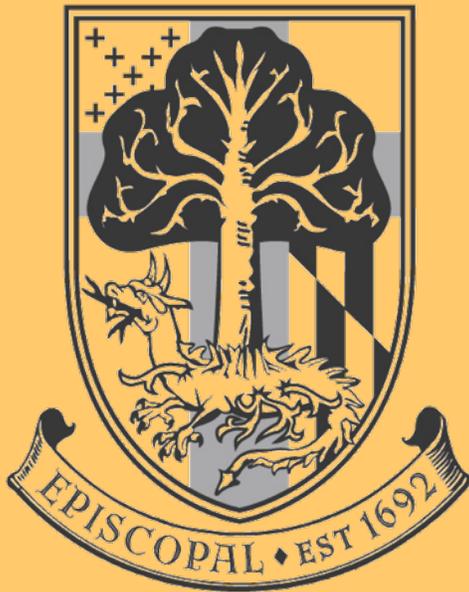
Preparing Children for Regathering at Church

Hannah Graham, chair of the Diocesan Christian Formation Council, has created a four-part video series to help children understand how things will be different when we regather in our worship spaces. The series includes short episodes on wearing masks, social (physical) distancing, toys and snacks in church, and communion and singing. They are designed to help young children be leaders in their congregations by knowing what to do and doing it to keep their communities safe. See it here:

<https://marylandepiscopalian.org/2020/07/20/regathering-for-worship-for-kids-a-video-series-for-children/>



ST. MARGARET'S CHURCH



ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND

Clergy and Staff

The Rev. Peter W. Mayer, Rector, peter@st-margarets.org
The Rev. Patti Sachs, Associate Rector, patti@st-margarets.org
Elizabeth Radley, Director of Operations, elizabeth@st-margarets.org
Jim Douglas, Director of Music, music@st-margarets.org
Laura Tayman, Director of Communications, laura@st-margarets.org
Jeff Conover, Youth Ministries Director, jeff@st-margarets.org
Teresa McCorkle, Bookkeeper, office@st-margarets.org
Tricia McVeigh, Day School Director, tricia@st-margarets.org
Jim Bowersox, Facilities/Maintenance Asst.
Judy Hall, Churchyard Administrator, churchyard@st-margarets.org
Christine Feldmann, Grants Administrator, missions@st-margarets.org



St. Margaret's Church
1601 Pleasant Plains Road
Annapolis, MD. 21409
(410) 974-0200
info@st-margarets.org
www.st-margarets.org

