



The Spire

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seasonal newsletter

Fall 2016



God Working in You

By the Rev. Peter W. Mayer, Rector

I am thrilled to be back at St. Margaret's, and thankful to this wonderful place for allowing me to refresh myself during my sabbatical. It seems a long time ago that I said goodbye; I'm not sure if that's good or not good! But know that I missed everyone while I was away.

That was perhaps the hardest part of this whole experience for me. When you seek connection with people the way I do, it's difficult to just 'unplug' from it all. I am so thankful to Jane, my staff, and all the lay leaders who pitched in to take care of this community that I love so much.

And now what? Well, this newsletter will delve into everything that we're up to this fall. Get involved. This community is only as strong as your commitment to it. Worship regularly. Give generously. Love excessively. That is the way to be transformed through the love and life of Christ.

But there are other pressing matters. Even after a year, we are still living into our formation building. This means increased costs for energy (offset by the solar panels, but still higher) as well as increased opportunity for community engagement. I am still committed to guiding this parish towards becoming an officially recognized inclusive, safe and welcoming church for LBGTQ persons. Finally, and I've said this before, there is ample opportunity to refresh and enhance our worship space. This work includes enlarging the sacristy, replacing the organ and increasing seating capacity. No short order here!

But we are able. We are capable. We are strong and resourced, not through our own power, but through the power of God through Jesus Christ working in us. That love and spirit that gets us up on Sunday mornings to come pray. That spirit of joy that lifts our voices in song. That energy of compassion that urges us to volunteer in Sunday formation or cook a casserole for someone who is down. That is no less than God working in you.

That's kingdom work. That's what our Presiding Bishop calls 'The Jesus Movement.' I am so grateful to be part of this effort at St. Margaret's. Come join us, and be transformed!

—Peter

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Administrative Notes

By the Rev. Jane M. Hague
Associate Rector

As I write this, Peter has been on sabbatical for 60 days and will return in 14 days. (That is a little over 336 hours left but who is counting?)

It has been a wonderful summer of fun and outreach as well as a busy time for the church. For me personally, it has been a time of delight to be serving at St Margaret's and to have so much support.

It has been the first time in many years at St Margaret's that there has been only one priest serving, and I do not think I could have managed unless so many people helped in so many different ways.

I want to thank:

- The wonderful administrative staff, Elizabeth and Laura who have covered so many of the little things so I could concentrate on the major things involved with running a parish.
- The senior warden, Anne Sessions, whose wisdom and compassionate leadership have guided this parish into a new direction of transforming lives.
- The extraordinary office volunteers who have covered the phones and been a welcoming presence. It's either crazy or quiet in the office, and the volunteers handle both with great equanimity.
- The unofficial community caring team especially Pat Hall and Mike Winn who have kept their ears and hearts open to the concerns of the parish.
- The group that put the 'fun' into this summer especially with St Margaret's Day, Toby's Dinner Theater, Karaoke night, and the Orioles game.
- The numerous teams that made sandwiches and collected food for the Light House, organized backpacks full of school supplies, tutored the students of Windsor Farm Elementary School and orchestrated the largest camp in Camp Allen's history.

As I write this, we are preparing for Peter's return. His office has been painted (yet another group of volunteers!) and redecorated. It is my prayer that he has had a time of rest and renewal which was so well deserved (and that he likes the color of paint for his office).



By Anne Sessions
Senior Warden

To play is to engage muscles in motion, brain into strategy, social skills into a negotiation with other players. Play builds our brains' networks, and healthy physical structures, and general abilities to get along with others. I'm watching the Olympics and thinking about how many of these events are games derived from play, because as kids we liked hanging upside down, spinning, racing, and throwing, and all sorts of activities. And it's good for us.



Fall at St. Margaret's is when many of these skills - strategy, team support, and good sportsmanship - will be engaged. That's right, I'm talking about budget season. Those of you who lead funded missions and activities are planning now where you can go next to transform lives. Staff is reviewing needs and dreams for "More Church." Steve Brennan, Junior Warden, is dreaming of soap dispensers, men's urinals, and a fully funded capital improvements account. No really, I kid you not. The Stewardship Team is reminding you how important your pledge is to pursue these dreams.

As in play, there are people charged with coaching, others with refereeing, and some will be cheering. These are tough tasks. They require patience, a thick skin, awareness of mission, and your support. Please listen to staff when they talk to you about their department's needs. Please listen to the Stewardship Team when they show you what it will take to achieve these goals. Please shake the hand of the mission leaders, and budget leaders, and number crunchers who are struggling to make it all come together. And I'll remind us, there will never be enough. But until we all participate in this effort we can't know what is possible.

#SMSunday

Social Media Sunday @ St. Margaret's
Sunday, September 25
Bring your tablets, phones, and questions
Forum at 10:20 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall

Stewardship 2017 Campaign is Here!



The mission of St. Margaret's Church is "Transforming our lives in Christ through worship, formation and giving." Stewardship "giving" is one expression of thankfulness for God's blessings. This spiritual commitment provides the resources for St. Margaret's to act on and fulfill its mission.

As we embark on the 2016 Stewardship campaign, St. Margaret's extends a heartfelt "Thank You!" to everyone who contributed to the outstanding campaign of 2015 when you pledged \$825,000! As a result, St. Margaret's was able to integrate the new building operations, provide an adult formation program on Monday nights, and create a new space for the History Commission – to highlight just a few examples.

We are this year's Stewardship chairs. We were each moved by a sermon from Peter last year in which he explained Stewardship does not mean "more money" but rather, it means "more church."

This year's campaign will focus on "more church" and will be kicking off in early September when parishioners will receive a pledge card in the mail. More information will follow, and we will be hosting an adult formation session to discuss and provide more information on how this year's campaign can support the mission of St. Margaret's. If you have any questions about Stewardship, please contact us (brad@tanvip.com or 443-326-3333) or (Doug doug_seybert@yahoo.com or 703-599-8746) or go to the Stewardship page under the "GIVING" tab on the St. Margaret's website.

Additionally, if you are interested in helping with this year's campaign, we are looking for "ambassadors" who will serve as additional resources to the congregation and to answer questions, provide updates and direct people to information. If you are interested in finding out more, please contact us.

Thank you,

Brad Callahan & Doug Seybert

What is Stewardship?

A financial pledge for giving an entire year. But stewardship is also an expression of gratitude and thankfulness for the blessings of life that come from God. It is love shared and love returned. A life lived in gratitude is a life lived in love.

Is my stewardship defined only by the money I give to the church?

Absolutely not. Time and service given to others is a critical component of stewardship. Our church can't function without these gifts of time and service.

Why is making a pledge important?

Our vestry does its best to operate the church on a sound financial basis, and having a good handle on the income the church can expect enhances the vestry's ability to plan responsibly.

What percent of the church's annual budget is supported by pledges?

About eighty-five%, and we wish it was higher to give us more planning certainty. The rest of the operating budget is supported by cash offerings, donations, some income from the use of our buildings by others, and income from our endowment.

What percent of households fulfill their annual pledge each year?

Ninety-eight percent.

What happens if I make a pledge and find I cannot fulfill it?

Nothing. Your pledge is not a contract. It is a spiritual commitment.

How much should I give? Am I expected to tithe?

If you asked ten different members of the church this question you would likely get ten different answers. We encourage you to give a gift that is meaningful. If we can all give a gift that is meaningful to us, we will be able to reach our goal — to transform lives in Christ through worship, formation, and giving.

Off to a Beautiful Start

By James R. Fitzpatrick
Director of Music

The 2016-2017 music program year gets off to a beautiful start with a return of choral services on September 11.



Later that day, we offer a Choral Evensong in remembrance of those who died in the 9/11 tragedy. Violinist Ginger Hildebrand and Carolyn Surrick on the Viola da Gamba will provide meditative music for the prelude and other parts of the service. The Combined Adult Choirs will sing "In Paradisum" from the Durufle Requiem, as well as settings of the Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis by John Stainer, Service Music by Robert Lehman and a hymn by James R. Fitzpatrick. The order of services follows the tradition of Evening Prayer with a cantor and choir singing many of the versicles and responses indicated in the service. It promises to be a memorable service, meaningful in its content, and healing in its beauty.

Later in September, jazz maestro Steve LaSpina brings sophisticated, melodic, and rhythmic New York jazz right into the heart of our community. Don't miss this exciting concert, part of our Music at St. Margaret's Concert series. And check out the ways to save on your tickets! You will want to subscribe immediately! (October brings us a return of David and Ginger Hildebrand with some of their friends playing favorite songs from the 1700's, right up to today!)

Remember, we are starting our Spirit Singers and Chorale programs on Monday, September 12 as part of Faith and Fellowship night here at St. Margaret's. We want your children and young people to join us in making music all year long!

Sunday, Nov. 6



featuring members of the Peabody Ragtime Ensemble

Be sure to plan for our All Saints Sunday and a return of our Dixieland Jazz Mass with the Peabody Ragtime Ensemble on the first Sunday of November. It's happening November 6 at 9:00 and 11:15 a.m. in the church.

2016-17 Concert Series

The Steve LaSpina Group Fri, Sept 23 at 7:30 p.m.

A prominent bassist on the New York and national scene for over thirty years, Steve LaSpina has played and recorded with many great musicians in jazz history, including saxophonists Benny Carter, Stan Getz and Phil Woods, vocalists Joe Williams and Mark Murphy, trumpeters Clark Terry, Chet Baker, and guitarist Pat Martino. He has composed 75 jazz standards. His newest project, The Steve LaSpina Group, is the real deal: authentic NYC jazz right here at St. Margaret's!

David & Ginger Hildebrand Sat, Oct 15, 2016 at 7:30 p.m.

David and Ginger began concertizing together professionally in 1980, turning their focus in 1985 to researching, performing, and recording colonial music and American Folk Music. For this concert, they are selecting their all-time favorite songs from many ages and inviting their colleagues David Nolte and Steve Leventhal to join them onstage. Come hear these terrific musicians and recording artists who have been featured on PBS, NPR, and in the great music halls of America.

The Church Circle Singers Sat, Nov 12, 2016 at 7:30 p.m.

The warm and clear acoustics of St. Margaret's Church provides audiences the opportunity to hear choral music making at its finest in one of the most perfect spaces for music. The Church Circle Singers, eleven professional singers led by USNA and Peabody Graduate Brian Isaac, take on the most challenging music in the choral repertoire and leave listeners breathless with the beauty they have just experienced. This is one concert NOT to miss!

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

The Suspicious Cheese Lords makes a return visit to St. Margaret's with another stunning set of music rarely heard and performed by wonderful acapella male singers. They have sung at the Washington National Cathedral, the Pope John Paul II Cultural Center, the National Gallery of Art, among others. The Cheese Lords have also had several performances on XM Satellite Radio including regular broadcasts on the Vox Channel. They are currently featured on the Symphony Hall channel.

Shenandoah Run Sun, March 5, 2017 at 7:30 p.m.

Shenandoah Run pays tribute to both vintage Americana and contemporary folk, playing covers, some originals and occasionally including a song from the worlds of bluegrass, country or foreign lands. Expect top-notch musicianship and multi-part harmonies that lure audiences in for an irresistible sing-along. The members of Shenandoah Run share a desire to keep folk music alive and fresh, and that passion has been the key to their success.

Thomas Pandolfi, Piano Sat, June 17, 2017 at 7:30 p.m.

Among Pandolfi's most recent successes, Kim Allen Kluge and Kathryn Vassar Kluge composed The American Piano Concerto for Thomas, which had its world premiere in May, 2016 with Thomas as soloist, and co-composer Kim Kluge on the podium. A graduate of The Juilliard School, Pandolfi earned both his Bachelor's and Master's degrees as a scholarship student. He is the proud father of a wonderful son and daughter, and resides in Washington, DC. We are very pleased to welcome him back.

Individual Tickets are \$20

Individual Annual Subscription is \$100

Family Subscription (4 tickets each) is \$150

Tickets purchases available on the St. Margaret's website or by checks made out to "St. Margaret's Church" with "Concert Series on the memo line.

Foyers Starting for 2016-17 Meet and Greet on Sept. 18



Foyers are small groups of parishioners who meet periodically throughout the program year, getting to know each other in a social setting and growing in faith through fellowship. All are welcome - whether you are single or a couple, young or "seasoned," new to the church or long-time member. If you would like to join our Foyers program, contact Jan Little at jblmd123@yahoo.com.

Once you have joined, attend our "Meet and Greet" wine and cheese social on Sunday, Sept. 18 at 3 p.m. in the Parish Hall, which allows all participants to meet and greet each other.

If you are NOT new to foyers, please contact Jane Piche at star2d2@aol.com only if you DO NOT wish to participate in these groups this coming year.



New to St. Margaret's? Come meet and eat with members of the Newcomers Committee on Sunday, October 16, in the Parish Hall at 6 p.m. You will hear from church leaders about how you can best fit with the numerous opportunities we have for worship, formation, and fellowship that we have in our parish. Childcare will be provided.

Please RSVP with Newcomers' Committee Chair Jane Piche at star2d2@aol.com.



**Sunday,
Oct. 2
in the
Parish Hall**

Staff from Rite Aid will once again travel to St. Margaret's this fall to provide parishioners with both flu and pneumonia vaccines. A full immune response to the flu takes about two weeks to develop, so getting the flu shot this early will protect you before the peak of flu season. Costs will be shared upcoming in Dragon Tales and church announcements. For more information, contact Pat Hall at pshall1@verizon.net.



Our pets are a blessing to us, so let's make sure they are blessed as well. Our annual Blessing of the Animals, in celebration of St. Francis of Assisi, will take place on **Sunday afternoon, Oct. 2., at 4 p.m.** Weather permitting, we will gather outside on the campus (in case of rain, it will be in the Parish Hall). All are pets (and their owners) are welcome. In the past, we have blessed lizards, rabbits, horseshoe crabs, turtles, and even horses!



**Sunday, Oct. 30
after the 9:00 service**

**Wear your comfortable
clothes to church and help
get our campus ready
for winter!**



Upcoming Events

All Souls Service

Wednesday, Nov. 2
7 p.m.
in the church

A perfect time to gather your family together
to celebrate the memory of loved ones
who have gone before us into God's full presence
or who are preparing to enter that blessed state.

St. Margaret's Guild presents their annual

Holiday Bazaar

**November 19
9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Parish Hall**

**Crafters - Vendors - Raffles
&
White Elephant Sale**
**(Donations welcome -
bring to the Fellowship Hall
on Nov. 18, from 4 to 6 p.m.)**

**For more information or questions,
contact coordinator Judy Hall
atjudy.hall0404@gmail.com.**



CHURCH DIRECTORY

Thank you to over 100 families and individuals who had their photo taken for our upcoming parish photo directory.

Copies will be available in mid-September in the church office, in the church narthex, and in the parish hall lobby.

Print copies are available only - as we want to protect private emails and phone numbers of parishioners online.



St. Margaret's is a voting location on the Broadneck peninsula. As we did four years ago during the last Presidential election, our parish will serve as gracious hosts for those who travel to St. Margaret's to perform their civic duty.

We are in need of volunteers who can make and serve coffee, as well as greet our neighbors as they arrive and wait on our campus.

If you are willing to make/serve coffee and provide a friendly face to our neighbors on that day, please let clergy know or email info@st-margarets.org to sign up.

DC Forum on Faith and Politics

September 27, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., at the Newseum

In this Washington, D.C. Community Forum, organized by the Forum for Theological Exploration, a diverse, intergenerational group of Christian leaders will discuss these questions and others related to faith and politics. This isn't just about a conversation—it's also about igniting and inspiring action. Register today to participate in a conversation and develop next steps on the impact you can make as a Christian leader. You can ask questions, share challenges, exchange ideas, listen to one another's wisdom and discover how you might be a catalyst for change.

Sponsored by the Forum for Theological Exploration.



Second Gathering of Church Women in the Diocese of Maryland, October 8, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., Christ Church, Columbia

Meet our new Assistant Bishop and other women leaders in Maryland. Be part of the joy through prayer, sharing and fellowship. Registration and more information coming this September.



Support Episcopal Service Corps-Maryland: Baltimore Running Festival, Oct. 15

All runners and walkers are invited to participate in the Baltimore Running Festival by joining Team ESC-MD. Each participant needs to register for the race and raise at least \$150. Run the 5k, half marathon, marathon, relay, or join the cheer team. Each team member receives a Team ESC-MD t-shirt and team photo. For more information, go to <http://www.escmaryland.org/baltimore-running-festival-team/>.



SAVE THE DATE! DISCIPLESHIP MATTERS October 17-19, 2016

FOR CLERGY AND LAY LEADERS FOCUSED ON BUILDING CULTURES OF DISCIPLESHIP IN OUR CONGREGATIONS.

Claggett Center, Adamstown, Maryland
Presented by: Forward Movement and RenewalWorks

For more information, go to:
renewalworks.org/events/

New Windsor Farm Elem. Partnership: Meeting the Needs of a Local School



The Mission Commission has been exploring various ways of becoming more involved in our local community by building relationships with those we serve. To that end, we have been working with the guidance counselor at our local Windsor Farm Elementary School on Broadneck Road to identify children who could benefit from a summer tutoring program. The response has been very enthusiastic from both the teachers and the families of the children. Seven volunteers have been working with ten students over the summer. Our hope is to continue this work into the 2016/17 school year and beyond.

In addition to tutoring the Windsor Farm students, the Missions Commission has voted unanimously to fund a Backpack Buddies program, whereby up to 12 students will be supplied with non-perishable food items to take home on weekends during the school year. We will also be helping to give breakfast snacks to 17 students who are part of a homework group that meets weekly with the guidance counselor.

If you are interested in joining this effort, contact coordinator Jean Clarke at jeanmclarke@msn.com.



Sept. & Nov.— St. Margaret's Month to help the hungry on the Broadneck peninsula

St. Margaret's is a proud partner with My Brother's Pantry, a community of church congregations working to support the hungry locally on the Broadneck peninsula. In September – and again in November – St. Margaret's will take our turn staffing the Pantry. We need two groups! The first will meet at the Pantry and pack grocery bags the evening of Thursday, September 15 (6:30-8p.m.). The second will meet at the Pantry to help deliver the grocery bags the morning of Saturday, September 17 (9:10:30a.m.). If you or your family would like to help with either duty, please contact Russell Jackson via RUSSELL140.6@gmail.com.

Presentation from the Missions Commission Sunday, Oct. 30 - 10:20 a.m. - Fellowship Hall

For the past two years the Missions Commission of St. Margaret's Church has been, well, on a mission. They took stock of our outreach. They looked at where they were, asked what goals they had and evaluated how they went about meeting them. They wanted to know if what they did was good enough and how they might make it better. They asked themselves what steps they needed to take to create a coherent vision for outreach. They wanted to define clear and worthy objectives that would engage parishioners. It wasn't easy. Why did it take two years to develop a mission statement; couldn't they agree on anything? They started by reading two books that profoundly impressed them and revolutionized their outlook on mission. They were Toxic Charity, by Robert D. Lupton, and When Helping Hurts, by Steven Corbett and Brian Fikkert. But it was hard and challenging work to wrestle their ideas to the ground and shape them into a coherent vision.

Now, they want to bring you up to speed. They want you to know how the philosophy, policies and procedures of the Missions Commission have changed and why. You need to know because these changes will affect every outreach program we support as a parish, including those programs near and dear to you; the ones you may take for granted.

**Missions Sunday
Oct. 2
including
Missions Fair
10:20-11 a.m.**



Want to learn more about the nonprofit organizations that St. Margaret's supports with our time, talents, and treasure? Join us for our annual Missions Fair on Sunday, Oct. 2 during coffeehour in the Parish Hall and new Fellowship Hall. We will also have Officer Joe Hudson from the Annapolis Police Department provide the sermon at the 9 & 11:15 a.m. service. He will discuss how we can make a larger impact with different populations in the city. And we will also have a special prayers of the people during the services to pray for the many that we try to lift up in our community and around the world. Please join us!

Following in the Steps of Camp Allen

"Righteousness goes before him and prepares the way for his steps." Psalm 85:13
By Ann Lallande, Chair, Missions Commission

As we build community partnerships through outreach at St. Margaret's Church, we follow in the steps of the people who have blazed trails for us; building on their vision. Members of the Missions Commission hope to do just that with the Hispanic community served by Camp Allen, leveraging our annual week there in August as an opportunity to nurture a deeper relationship with the families of our campers.

Wes Wubbenhorst, when he was assistant rector at St. Margaret's, started Camp Allen 16 years ago. Since then, as parents and youngsters have gotten to know us, participation has taken off. Exponentially. Sarah Hyde, who has been the camp director for the past two years, says attendance was up by 15 youngsters this year over last for a total of 63 registered campers.

Camp Allen has served the Allen Apartments community for so long that children have literally grown up in the program and become counselors. This year we had 5 teens from the community serving as counselors. That means these teens earned credit toward the volunteer hours they need by Maryland law to graduate from high school. In addition to the youngsters, Camp Allen is blessed with an enthusiastic cadre of SMC volunteers. Sarah counted on 36 adults and 11 youths to make the camp a success.

Last year, camp directors began encouraging campers' parents to become more involved in running the camp. This is an expression of the Missions Commission goal to build relationships with the people we serve. It will take time and persistence. But parishioner Mike Winn says he sees trust growing between the parents and SMC volunteers and evidence that this relationship is evolving into a partnership. Mothers chaperoned a group of young children on Monday while older siblings did crafts. On Tuesday, a mom helped campers with their crafts and, the next day, another stepped in as a chaperone at the SERC outing.

The Missions Commission would like Camp Allen to serve as a starting point for a deeper and more enduring relationship with the Hispanic community at the Allen Apartments. We might consider after school homework help; joint St. Margaret's-Allen Apartments holiday celebrations; cookouts at the apartment complex and onsite soccer camps or soccer games with some of our youth.

We know the children want to see more of us, because they ask why we are there for only one week a year. Experts say our window of opportunity for having a positive impact on the lives of these children is to begin when they are young. Are we willing to cultivate them now and invest in their long-term well-being?

We don't have to break new trails and create new programs to do this because there are opportunities in place at their public schools. We just need to step on the path already before us, walk a little further and see how much more we can do. For the Lord, to paraphrase 2 Samuel 22:37, provides a broad path for our feet so that our ankles do not give way.



2016 PumpkinPatch

WHAT: Annual Pumpkin Patch to support the Light House, a homeless prevention support center.

DATE OF PUMPKIN SALES: October 15-31, 2016

Hours: Mon - Fri, Noon - 6 p.m.

Sat & Sun, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

WHERE: St. Martin's Lutheran Church, 1120 Spa Road, Annapolis, Maryland 21403

WHY: The Light House rebuilds lives with service and compassion by providing food and shelter and by helping people to empower themselves towards independence. All proceeds go directly to support the Light House.

HOW: Support our congregation's contribution by putting in a shift on our volunteer staffing day – on Oct. 20. A link for volunteer signups is on our website homepage (www.st-margarets.org) on the bottom under "Quick Links."

Volunteers are also needed for an hour or two to unload thousands of pumpkins from the delivery truck, Saturday, October 15 at 9 a.m.

Come to the Pumpkin Patch to buy your pumpkins, and see how much more it has to offer!

For more information, contact St. Margaret's Church Coordinator: Bill Saur at wgsaur@gmail.com



Dinners @ Light House: 4th Sunday of Every Month

Through our partnership with the Light House shelter in Annapolis, St. Margaret's has promised to provide dinner for shelter residents the fourth Sunday evening of every month. If you are interested in helping with this effort, contact our coordinator Bill Saur at wgsaur@gmail.com.



Are you able to provide a meal for a parishioner in need? Whether it is because of illness, new babies, death in the family, etc., parishioners could use a meal of love furnished by St. Margaret's members periodically.

Whether you need a meal or want to volunteer to cook for someone, please contact our coordinator Allison Mayer at allisonhmayer@gmail.com.



All are welcome to join our prayer shawl ministry, knitting prayer shawls which are then blessed for those who need comfort and healing. Whether you are an experienced knitter or novice, join this committed group which meets the first Saturday of every month in the administrative conference room starting at 9 a.m. For questions, contact Jane Piche at star2d2@aol.com.



Endowment Grant Supports New Venture

Last May St. Margaret's Church awarded thirteen Endowment Grants recommended by the Grants Committee for a total of \$85,000 and published the list of grantees. All of the 2016 recipients are listed on our website. Touchstones' Discussion Project, based here in Maryland, published the following article in its newsletter soon after receiving a \$10,000 grant from St. Margaret's. With their permission, I share the the article.

Established Partners Support New Ventures
by Howard Zeiderman Co-Vice Chair
Touchstones Board of Directors

Touchstones is often invited into organizations, schools, and institutions when and where transformation is necessary. This happens throughout the U.S.—with K-12 and post-secondary students, incarcerated adults, elderly adults, community groups, and academic and executive professionals. But Touchstones has a vital role in other countries where the need is great for innovative approaches that foster new attitudes about education and citizenship—such as in Haiti, Jordan, and Myanmar.

In each place, Touchstones undertakes something new and often unexpected. This is especially true when we develop a new program capable of opening participants to new modes of thinking and interacting. As Touchstones is a non-profit, the investment required to design and pilot new initiatives must come from outside—from partners who both recognize a particular need and see Touchstones as a powerful tool for change. This marriage of philanthropic interest and Touchstones' innovation is not always an easy one to achieve. Touchstones' change theory is complex and our programs require a systematic and consistent approach—one that is customized to address barriers and highlight strengths inherent in each population.

Even well-established Touchstones programs must be reconfigured to achieve optimal outcomes in new environments and institutions with their own unique qualities and peculiarities. One of the most recent examples of this type of work has been taking place over the last six months at the Maryland Correctional Institute for Women (MCI-W). Although Touchstones has run discussion programs for nearly two decades in men's prisons, working with incarcerated women requires fresh eyes, ears, and thinking on our part. It is an entirely new endeavor; the demographics and culture within MCI-W are not the same as in the institutions housing men. A mere extrapolation from existing programming is, therefore, not possible if one is addressing the particular educational and socio-emotional needs of incarcerated women.

We are making great strides in cultivating discussion leadership within the women prisoners so they may bring the program to the rest of the population at MCI-W. Already more than 40 women have participated in the program and many have assumed leadership roles in the group. For most, Touchstones has changed how they understand what it means to be a leader. They know through their Touchstones program that engaging, hearing, and respecting others is a fundamental responsibility of any collaborative leader.

Initial funding for this new venture was granted by The Pettus Crowe Foundation last year, who believed in Touchstones' ability to provide the women with new opportunities for transformative growth. This year, we are very pleased to share that St. Margaret's Episcopal Church of Annapolis, Maryland has awarded Touchstones additional support for this project.

St. Margaret's Church has previously supported Touchstones programs in men's prisons but we did not know whether our work in the women's prison would be selected for funding when we submitted our grant application. A couple of months ago, a committee of three liaisons from the church visited the Touchstones program at MCI-W and participated in a Touchstones session with the prisoners. They, in turn, provided a firsthand report to the church's Grants Committee. Then we were invited to meet with the Committee to present our project and to answer specific questions they had about the project.

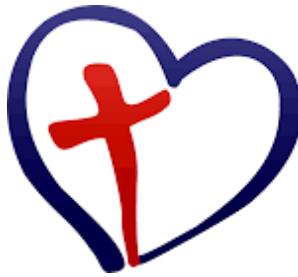
While our proposal was not funded in full, Touchstones will receive \$10,000 for our work at MCI-W this year. St. Margaret's Church hopes that their belief and demonstrated support for Touchstones will attract other donors and foundation support. St. Margaret's commitment to and faith in Touchstones work in prisons is extraordinary and rare. Charitable support from such sympathetic visionaries reinforces our belief that collaboration is positively changing our social landscape.

2017 Endowment Grants

Application Deadline: Postmark by November 30, 2016

Do you know of a nonprofit that could benefit from our endowment grants program?
Send them to our website for the 2017 application (under "Missions" tab)
Questions? Contact Elizabeth (Izzy) Winn, ewinn421@verizon.net





SUNDAY SCHOOL

Registration forms for all children's programs must be submitted before the first day of class. Automated registration is available on the church website under the "Formation" tab at the top.

OPEN HOUSE / SCAVENGER HUNT SUNDAY, SEPT. 11 - 10:20 TO 11 A.M.

Meet your teachers, find your classroom and have a fun time getting to know the church and staff as we gear up for our Formation Year.

FIRST DAY OF SUNDAY SCHOOL SUNDAY, SEPT. 18 - 10:20 TO 11 A.M.



St. Margaret's Church Youth — Get ready to be part of something BIG! There are some exciting changes happening in our youth programs this program year!

All middle school students (6-8 grade) will meet downstairs in the Parish Hall on Sunday mornings for an exciting new curriculum that will "empower youth to ask questions and explore their faith in a way that is meaningful to them." Check out the curriculum at <https://www.wearesparkhouse.org/teens/reform/>.

All high school students (9-12 grade) are invited to join us on Sunday mornings in our newly renovated classroom D where we will take part in team building, fellowship and "compelling conversation about God and what it means to follow Jesus." To view the curriculum, go to <http://www.wearesparkhouse.org/teens/collaborate/biblestudy/>.

CLASSROOM LOCATIONS

Godly Play - Form. Bldg. Room A—PreK
(Lead teachers: Gwen Davis and Ruth Harmon)

Godly Play - Form. Bldg. Room B—Kindergarten & Grade 1
(Lead teachers: Dalyn Huntly and Matt Chasse)

Sparks - Form. Bldg. Room C — Grades 2 & 3
(Teachers: Tammy Anderson, Doreen Campbell & Lisa Body)

Connect - Parish Hall, lower level— Grades 4 & 5
(Teachers: Stephanie Ceruolo, Nancy Saroch and Tracy Blamphin)

Re:Form - Form. Bldg. Room E — Grades 6-8
(Leaders: Catherine Kelly, Julie and Kurt Svendsen)

Collaborate - High School Youth - Form. Bldg. Room D —Grades 9-12
(Leaders: Kirsten Tolley, Elizabeth Parker, Tim Parker, Kyle Courtnall and Richard Swappach)

We need additional teachers and door greeters for Godly Play. Training is hands on and minimal. You don't have to have a child in the program to volunteer! If you enjoy working with young children or have a desire to share your God-given talents with our littlest friends, please contact Gwen at gwen@llamaworks.com and learn how you can be part of our Godly Play team.

A big thank you goes out to our curriculum team for researching, discussing and choosing our new youth curriculum. They aren't quite done yet. Keep watching throughout the year as they work on other ways to engage our youth to further their discipleship.

A big thank you to our youth ministry hiring team and our senior administrator Elizabeth Radley who have worked tirelessly all summer sorting through resumes and conducting interviews to find our new youth ministry coordinator. (See below!)

FUTURE

New Youth Ministries Leader Announced!

We welcome our very own parishioner Jeff Conover as our new leader for the parish's youth program! Jeff, retired from the US Army, has been the Youth Adults in Church leader here for the past two years. He will begin on Sept. 4, assisting with our new Sunday School programs for our youth and planning our youth group activities which will take place Monday evenings starting Sept. 12.

Faith & Fellowship

Join us for...

Spirit Singers (Grades 1-5) at 5 p.m. in the Choir Room
Youth Chorale (Grades 6-12) at 5:30 p.m. in the Choir Room
Acolyte practice at 5:30 p.m. in the Church
Arts & Crafts at 5:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall
Fellowship Meal at 6 p.m. in the Parish Hall
Motet Ensemble rehearsal at 6:45 p.m. in the Church

NEW Middle School & High School Youth Groups at 6:45 p.m.

Kick-off Event – Bubble Mania Sept. 12



We start off our Faith & Fellowship Night for the new year with a fun bubble night! Young children can join us on the playground for bubbles anytime between 5-6 pm. For our youth, we will kick off our NEW youth group by having a bubble soccer game in the field on the church campus. Check out this cool team building game here: <http://www.bubbleballmd.com/howitworks/>.

All participants need to sign and bring this waiver with them that night: <http://bubblesportswaiver.com/>.



A Word About Monday Fellowship Meals

It's a wonderful problem to have—we had so many new participants for our Faith & Fellowship meals, that we have budget funding to only support two more Fellowship meals this fall. It could be because our meals were delicious, organic, and offered dietary options like gluten- and dairy-free. It could be that the Monday night meals were a welcome option for busy families. It could be that with the addition of our adult formation program, we have wonderful intergenerational interaction, with more participants getting to know other members of their parish family. Whatever the reason, we must now ask for small donations to continue to offer these popular Monday night meals.

It costs our volunteers approximately \$150 to run Faith and Fellowship every Monday night. We will have a donation basket available each Monday in the parish hall. You can place your payments there or make your donations online on our church website. Payments can be made each week, monthly, or on a yearly basis. Suggested donations are listed below—

Yearly: \$200 per family, \$100 per individual, \$60 per youth

Monthly: \$60 per family, \$24 adult, \$20 youth

Weekly: \$15 per family, \$4 adult, \$3 youth

Mondays This Fall @ SMC Starting Sept. 12



Adult Formation
6:45 p.m.
Fellowship Hall

Special Guest
Maureen Fiedler

This year's Adult Formation program on Monday nights at 6:45 p.m. in the new Fellowship Hall features a series of visits with faith leaders of different traditions. To begin this journey, we are especially pleased and honored to host Dr. Maureen Fiedler, who will speak to us on September 12.

A Sister of Loretto who holds a Ph.D. in Government from Georgetown University, Dr. Fiedler is one of the leading authorities in the United States on interfaith dialogue. She is the creator and host of the ground-breaking National Public Radio program "Interfaith Voices"—a show that has featured discussions with important thinkers in many faith traditions.

In the weeks following Dr. Fiedler's talk, we will be visited by several faith leaders from other traditions and fellow Episcopalians. (See next page.) Please join us for this spiritual journey on Monday nights in September and October.

Faith & Fellowship Mondays

**Adult Formation
6:45 p.m. - Fellowship Hall
(Childcare provided at 6:45 p.m.)**

Exploring Faith Traditions

Sept. 19 - Exploring Judaism
Guest Speaker - LT Yoni Warren, CHC, USN

Sept. 26 - Exploring the Muslim Faith
Col. (Ret) Rudwan Abu-rumman, President
Anne Arundel County Muslim Council

Exploring the Christian Faith

Oct. 3 - Greek Orthodox
Father Kosmas Karavellas
Protopresbyter of
Sts. Constantine and Helen Orthodox Church

Oct. 10 - United Methodist
The Rev. Jen Carson, Asbury United Methodist, Arnold

Oct. 17 - Presbyterian USA
The Rev. Jessie Lowry, Christ Our Anchor Presbyterian

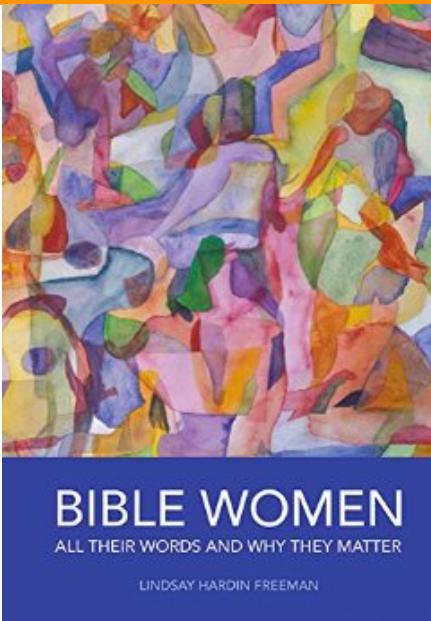
Exploring Episcopal Faith

Oct. 24 -
The Rev. Peter W. Mayer

Exploring St. Margaret's

Nov. 14 -
Barbara Breeden & Mike Winn,
History & Archives Project

Nov. 21 -
Stump Mike Winn -
Anything You Want to Know about SMC!



A months-long, interactive study at SMC

Come to one or all sessions
or study online
on your own time

For all ages-
teens to seniors

Buy books on Sundays in
the Parish Hall in August
& Sept. or [online @ Amazon.com](#).

Women of the Bible have been trapped in dry and dusty literary caskets for centuries. While a few women, such as Mary, Sarah, Elizabeth, and Mary Magdalene, are familiar, many of the women who speak in the Bible have long been ignored. Yet their words are part of God's Word, the Bible, for a reason. Through these women, God spoke, intervened, changed, illustrated, and proclaimed the story of redemption.

In this groundbreaking book named best Bible study of 2015 by Illumination Book Awards, Episcopal priest Lindsay Hardin Freeman identifies every woman who speaks in the Bible, providing their words, context, and historical background. We learn which women speak the most (hint: it's not Mary!) and which books of the Bible have the fewest words from women. Step into God's sacred circle of mothers, grandmothers, warriors, prophets, prostitutes, and murderers. You won't come out the same.

* **Opening Retreat: Sept. 17, 8:30 - 11:30 a.m., Parish Hall**
led by Kathleen Henderson Staudt
a published author & professor at VA Theological Institute
Childcare provided.
RSVP on the church website or call the church office.

Study Sessions:

- * Third Sunday of the Month Study Session, Fellowship Hall, Sept. -May, starting Sept. 18
- * Thursday morning weekly Study Session, 9:15 a.m., Formation Building, Sept.-May, starting Sept. 22 (childcare provided)
- * Weekly Facebook group video/interactive session - posted every Monday, starting Sept. 19 - follow the link from the SMC website or go to <https://www.facebook.com/groups/smebiblewomen/>.

**Sunday Morning Adult Bible Study
New Location: Library, Parish Hall, Lower Level**

By Tricia McVeigh
Day School Director



We are so excited to be back for fall classes! SMDS has had an exciting summer—we expanded our outdoor classroom and butterfly garden, put up our new flags, and had a wonderful time exploring, playing, building, and learning at our summer camps.

This fall, we have plenty of events to look forward to: August 26 is "Meet the Teacher Day" from 10am to 12pm. School starts the next Monday, August 29.

In September, students will participate in "Wacky Dress-up Day" on the 14th and 15th and school photos will be taken on the 21st and 22nd. Back to School Night begins at 6:30 on the 20th. (The school will be closed September 5 for Labor Day.)

We start off October with a Larriland Farm field trip on the 7th. We will host open houses on the 12th and 13th, and a board and vestry visitation day on the 14th. Our yearly Halloween parade will take place on the 27th for the two-year-olds and on the 31st for the remaining students. School will be closed on October 21 for a teacher in-service day.

In November, we will host Grandparents' Day and the Scholastic Book Fair on the 3rd and 4th—Parishioners are welcome to come shop for books (a great idea for Christmas presents) on those days. Our Thanksgiving feasts will take place on the 17th for the two-year-olds and the 18th for the remaining students. School will be closed on the 8th for the election and the 21st-25th for Thanksgiving week.

Since becoming a certified Green School, we have continued to expand our environmental education programs. As mentioned above, we have been working on building our outdoor classroom. This project will include a greenhouse, hands-on exploration tables, an outdoor music station, and more! Visit our website at www.stmargaretsdayschool.org for more information and for a detailed school calendar listing the events for the year.



St. Margaret's Day School welcomes donations of "Boxtops for Education" that appear on many food products found in local grocery stores.

Donations earn cash to buy a variety of items needed, including books, technology, playground equipment and more.

Simply bring the boxtops to the church office and place in the school's mailbox.



J2A Pilgrimage 2016



Note: Our pilgrimage group will be sharing the journey of our pilgrimage with the parish in person this coming fall in a Sunday morning forum on Oct. 23.

Our J2A pilgrims and their leaders made their way to the Appalachian region this summer, finding God working through them and with them. Pilgrims included students Crispin Blamphain, Nellie Bowers, Sydney Davis, Kyrone de los Santos, Lydia Goldthwait, Julia Kanamine-Surwick, Leah Ostrye, Rita Veno, and Abby Wenz. Leaders were Anne Thomas, Margaret Kaii-Ziegler, and Doug Castonguay.

Each member of the group was provided a "pilgrimage booklet" within a notebook that contains prayers and reflections as well as a journal to document their individual thoughts and reflections during the course of the pilgrimage. We also provided a disposable camera to each pilgrim so that we can put together a collage of the trip to share with St. Margaret's.

On July 17, our pilgrims traveled to St. Timothy's Episcopal Outreach Center, in Irvine, Kentucky in a rented 12-passenger van and one co-leader vehicle.

MONDAY, 7/18/2016

The Ven. Bryant Kibler, Priest-in-Charge, St. Timothy's, gave them an introduction to Appalachia, including information on the varied cultures within the region. They also met Manford, a man who resides in a home on the grounds and serves as a caretaker for the property. St. Timothy's began in 1983 by leasing the building and was then bought two years later by United Thanks Offering (UTO) funding. From the beginning, the ministry has been about serving the community vs. establishing a church, per se, and the needs have evolved over the years. One of the needs that has been identified is that of building and providing wooden caskets for burials. These are provided free of charge to those who need them, because people can't afford the expense surrounding burial costs which can range from \$4000 to \$12,000. The caskets also serve as hope chests or shelves.

Continued on the next page

Bryant also serves as Priest-in-Charge of two other congregations in the area and as the Diocesan Administrator, which provides his compensation, including at St. Timothy's. Otherwise, St. Timothy's receives no direct funding from the diocesan budget. The \$ to run St. Timothy's comes from groups such as ours.

Our pilgrims traveled to and toured Bluegrass Heritage Museum in Winchester, Kentucky. The building had been a hospital and a clinic in years past, including an operating room. It is now a museum that traces the history of the area in relation to the rest of our country, such as the telephone and WWII, as well as about the people and traditions of the area such as Homer Ledford who was well known for making dulcimers though he preferred playing the guitar himself and the Bean family's beautiful traditional quilt collection. The museum itself not only demonstrated the local area's history, but it explained how the area became what it is today and the strong sense of connection and community that has always been so important to people in this area.

The group also drove to and hiked up a path to a cannon at the Civil War fort at Boonesboro, alongside the Kentucky River. Of particular note at this site: Kentucky's soldiers used it to defend themselves from confederate raids before the state even took sides in the Civil War. A spirited game of "Bibleopoly" by some members of our group. The "Bibleopoly" game was donated to the game collection at St. Timothy's at the end of our stay.

TUESDAY, 7/19/2016

Our pilgrims went on an historical and craft tour of Berea College in the morning, including Danforth Chapel which holds LEED certification. All students who attend Berea qualify as low income, receive a full scholarship through the College's endowment, and hold on-campus jobs. The college is one of the few work-study programs in the nation. Of particular note, the Christian identity of Berea College is rooted in the two commandments written in Matthew 22: 37-40 and also what has become the motto of Berea College, "God has made of one blood all peoples of the earth (Acts 17:26)." Notably, Berea was founded by abolitionists. It was the first co-ed integrated college in the south and through its history has been an advocate for social justice in the face of a community unready and unwilling to accept change. It has a small population from around the world of students who support one another. We toured their highly impressive pottery, wood working, weaving, and broom-making work studios. Berea is considered the center for Kentucky arts and crafts. They also make a wood board game called "skittles" that our youth loved to play throughout the week at St. Timothy's.

The pilgrims returned to St. Timothy's in the afternoon. The Ven. Bryant Kibler further described more about Appalachia before our group delved into the following service projects: painting part of a fence around the playground at St. Timothy's; taking a wooden casket apart that needed to be redone; and cutting pieces of wood for the base of a weaving loom for use at St. Timothy's. Several of our youth brought guitars and an ukulele which along with many voices prompted an impromptu music jam session before dinner this evening.

THURSDAY, 7/21/2016

This service project day began by traveling into the town of Irvine to spend the whole morning taking apart and building a new wheelchair ramp for a resident's home there. Bryant provided guidance in the use of power and hand tools including employment of safety precautions, so some skills have been newly acquired on the part of the J2A pilgrims in our group!

Back at St. Timothy's after lunch, Bryant gave a talk about the history and traditions of religion in Appalachia, including the origin of the independent Baptist churches (- some were Pentecostal; generally, he referred to them as "mountain churches") and how the "main line" churches, including the Episcopal church, have been viewed and why. He recommends a book entitled *Salvation on Sand Mountain* by Dennis Covington in which the tradition of snake handling is explored. The mountain churches have two sacraments - baptism and foot washing.

In our evening gathering with the community, we asked our group to answer, "What has made this a pilgrimage?" using single words, and jot them down on our developing mural to share with our St. Margaret's community upon our return. We also invited them each to reflect about what they have learned about themselves, society, and their relationship with God, putting their thoughts down anonymously on paper to be shared at some point as part of a wrap up of the J2A pilgrimage. Finally, as a group, we wrote the Prayers of the People to be read at the Friday evening, 7/22, communion service to be celebrated by Bryant before our departure on Saturday, 7/23.



**FRIDAY, 7/22/2016**

The group traveled to Natural Bridge State Park for hiking and ski lift rides up and/or down, and went to the Kentucky Reptile Zoo. After a spaghetti dinner, a communion service was celebrated by The Ven. Bryant Kibler for the group at St. Timothy's. Because this day was the Feast Day of Mary Magdalene, Bryant based his sermon on who Mary Magdalene was and how she faithfully accompanied Jesus who welcomed her in his circle of followers, imperfect as she was. He concluded his sermon by sharing one of his favorite passages from the Bible: Micah 6:8 "He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness (mercy) and to walk humbly with your God?" Bryant included the word "mercy" in parentheses when he sent the precise source of the passage which he described in his sermon.

After the communion service, they gave Bryant a piece of pottery - bowl with lid - that had been made by a group of parishioners at St. Margaret's, in gratitude for his support and guidance throughout the course of this week. He noted that it would be useful, because the paten currently in use has had to be glued once already. The colors even coordinate nicely with the chalice! Later in the evening, they gave Manford a t-shirt from Natural Bridge State Park in gratitude for his support. Word has gotten back to us that Manford really appreciated it.

SATURDAY, 7/23/2016

Everyone was up early to depart by about 5 a.m. The group drove to Savage Run Reservoir in Maryland, making a few stops en route, including for breakfast. They kayaked on Savage Run Reservoir with kayaks and tour guides provided by All Earth Eco Tours. Lunch was provided, and everyone had an opportunity to enjoy some local lettuce and tomatoes. The group headed for Clear Springs, Maryland, staying the night at the Macris' home and headed to Annapolis the next day.

Looking forward to our Past

CHURCH HISTORY

Late spring and summer have found our history & archive project members and other parishioners volunteering to paint and finish their new space on the lower level of the Parish Hall building (next to the former library room). The vestry appropriated funds to renovate the room so that the Archives could have a secure storage area and work space. Many thanks to those who donated funds to help purchase paint, supplies and new archival shelving as well as our thanks to those who came and wielded paintbrushes and tools. They will be hosting an open house in the fall for everyone to come for a visit. Time and date will be listed in Dragon Tales e-news and weekly announcements.

A number of projects about the history of the parish are being completed and are available for your comment. Mike Winn has been leading the way with a database of the gifts given to the church over the past 300 years. If you would like to view it, take a look at the History and Archives link under "About Us" on the church's homepage. Comments are still welcome but the final version will be available soon.

Dalyn Huntley has been compiling a database of the baptisms, marriages and burials of the "colored" individuals and families of Broadneck Peninsula as recorded in the registers of the parish from the mid-1800s to the 1930s. The data is of special interest to those doing genealogical research and we are working with the Banneker-Douglas Museum in Annapolis to make this historic information accessible. Jean Clarke is leading the way with revitalizing tours on the peninsula based on those offered by the Ridout brothers in the past. Through oral interviews, visits and photographs she is recreating the tours that we will begin to offer in 2017. Diane Chasse and Lana Kelty are researching historic land records to help us better understand the glebes and property that the parish owned over time.

Barbara Breeden is researching the lives of our rectors and curates over the 300 years through archival records, correspondence, and other sources. Ernie Tucker will be writing about the significance of some of those individuals. Biographies as well as scanned letters, photos and other artifacts will be linked to our Timeline (also available on the church website).

Speaking of 2017, it will be our 325th anniversary since the establishment of the original 30 parishes in the colony of Maryland. Our official celebration will take place on Sunday, October 22, 2017. Mark your calendar now! If you would like to be involved in helping in any way, please contact Barbara Breeden at bkbreeden@comcast.net.



www.AnnapolisRunForTheLightHouse.org

Half Marathon

Jogging Joe Shafran

Memorial

5KRUN

WALK

for the Light House

Sunday, September 25th, 2016 Blue Heron Pavilion at Quiet Waters Park, Annapolis, MD



The Light House is repurposing its former downtown Annapolis shelter, located at 206 West Street. This project will serve multiple purposes including:

Advanced Culinary Training Center

- Full Teaching Kitchen • Real-Work

Opportunities for graduates of their culinary arts job training program, Building Employment Success Training (B.E.S.T.)

B.E.S.T. Catering Kitchen

- Custom Catering • Lunch Contracts • Prepared Meals • Signature Items

The Light House Bistro

- 50 Seats • Coffee Bar • Open to the public for lunch and dinner

Permanent Supportive Housing

- Four apartments for former residents of The Light House on the second floor

This 206 West Street operation will be a self-sustaining and 'revenue-generating social enterprise' to support the ongoing workforce development and housing programs at The Light House. This project will also contribute to the revitalization and economic development of the West Street Corridor.

For more information, go to
<http://www.annapolislighthouse.org/the-light-house-bistro>



The county's Department of Aging and Disabilities is sponsoring an educational workshop for family caregivers in the Broadneck area.

"Making the Connection: Brain Change and Behavior"

Presented by Ann Morrison, Ph.D., RN, CS.

Wednesday, September 7th from 6:30-8:30 p.m.

at the Arnold Senior Activity Center (44 Church Road, Arnold)

Pre-registration is requested.

Register at www.aacounty.org/aging or by calling 410-222-4375.



**Anne Arundel
Medical Center
Bloodmobile Visit
Sunday, Oct. 9
9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
@St. Margaret's**

The AAMC Bloodmobile visits St. Margaret's on Sunday, Oct. 9, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Each year 3,000 patients at AAMC – your loved ones, your friends, your neighbors and, maybe even you – receive life-saving blood transfusions. That's nearly 7,300 units of blood needed each year in our community. Because there is no substitute for human blood, these patients are counting on caring people like you to donate this precious resource. Please donate if you can!

Be A Baywise Homeowner

Article # 7-At Home with the Natives

By Gail Morton, SMC Parishioner &
AA County Watershed Steward

After two years of intense education and lobbying about the loss of our bee and insect pollinator populations, the Maryland General Assembly passed the Pollinator Protection Act during its 2016 legislative session. House Bill 211/Senate Bill 198 specifically prohibits the use of neonicotinoid based pesticides for sale in Maryland after January 1, 2018. This includes pet products used to prevent fleas, ticks and heartworms; personal care preventives for bedbugs and lice; indoor pest products such as ant bait; agricultural products used on livestock and non-crop fields and by veterinarians.



While not a cure-all for reestablishing our lost pollinator colonies, it will help. You can also help by creating attractive habitat in your own yard. Replace last years' dead growth in your garden or add newly planted areas, only with plants native to Maryland. It's obvious- if they grow here naturally, they are well suited to our climate, soils and rainfall- designed by God to thrive specifically in Maryland without fertilizers, pesticides, daily watering and tiring gardening chores. More importantly, our native pollinators benefit by creating growth areas that provide appropriate habitat for very specific populations.

Native bees and butterflies are designed with specific attributes and needs, specific conditions to live, breed and pollinate. Their food sources, nesting and breeding requirements are compatible with native Maryland plants but not the exotics and invasives most of us have introduced into our garden magazine yards. Unable to find food or habitat suited to their specific needs, they die or move on. When we consciously provide appropriate habitat for these crucially beneficial pollinators, we are rewarded for our stewardship. The bonus? Using Maryland natives eliminates much of the cost and care required by non-native choices, making your yard a pleasure not a chore.



Landscaping with Native Plants
Maryland Native Plant Society

Most local nurseries can provide guidance as well as product. The Annapolis office of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (177 Admiral Cochran Dr.) provides an excellent Chesapeake Bay Native Plant Guide for Conservation Landscaping. Consult web sites such as the Maryland Native Plant Society at www.mdflora.org. The Watershed Stewards Academy at Arlington Echo is an excellent local resource for all environmental questions, be it native and invasive plants, storm water control, bay pollution or proper stewardship of God's creation.

**Interested in joining St. Margaret's "Green Team" efforts?
Contact coordinator Al Todd at ahtodd@verizon.net.**



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Emergency Pastoral No. (443) 867-5463
www.st-margarets.org

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

Contacts:

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

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