

The Spire

St. Margaret's Church
Annapolis, Maryland

Spring 2019

Mark Your Calendar

April 14
Palm Sunday Services
7:30,9:00,11:15

April 18
Maundy Thursday
Service
7:00 p.m.

April 19
Good Friday
Family Service
12:00 p.m.
&
Good Friday
Traditional Service
7:00 p.m.

April 20
Easter Vigil
8:00 p.m.

April 21
Easter Services
7:30, 9:00, 11:15
Egg Hunt
10:20 a.m.

May 12
Youth Service
9:00 a.m.

May 19
Last Day of
Sunday School

June 2
Bluegrass Mass
11:15 a.m.

Following and Knowing God This Season

By The Rev. Peter W. Mayer, Rector

There aren't many Lenten songs, hymns or melodies that are better known than the spiritual "Were You There?".

It's as close to a Lenten carol as we have. It asks the question of presence, because in fact, none of us were there. Yet we were all there. But how? How do we share in the walk down the Jerusalem side of the mountain? What meaning does it bring to walk the week from Palm Sunday through Good Friday with Jesus? That's the question for clergy who prepare liturgy and for parishioners who seek to follow and know God and Jesus through Lent.

Palm Sunday is begun in our parish hall, weather permitting. It is one of two liturgies that we begin in a place other than the nave of the church, the other being the Great Vigil of Easter. Palm Sunday is the only liturgy with props, as we are given blessed palms at the start of the service. These signify the welcome Jesus received on the east side of Jerusalem as he entered. The service moves through the passion narrative, and closes with silence as we contemplate the cross.

Holy Week continues with videos from Patti and me on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. These are fun videos because it's just two sojourners talking about this journey, about scripture and about faith. We'll make sure they're up on our website so you can all watch.

On Thursday, we celebrate the institution of Holy Communion and partake in the annual ritual of footwashing in our Maundy Thursday liturgy. This service closes with the stripping of the altar, and I'd be doing an injustice if I tried to describe how moving and powerful it is. In many ways, this liturgy highlights the incredible work of the Altar Guild, who silently help the clergy in removing all decoration from the chancel area.



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Holy Week



Sunday, April 14 - Nursery 8:30-12:30 p.m.

Celebrate Christ's joyful celebration into Jerusalem with palms distributed. For the 9:00 and 11:15 a.m. services, we will again meet in the parish hall where palms are given out and then we'll proceed following the cross accompanied by brass players into the sanctuary.

Holy Monday-Wednesday - April 15-17

Our clergy will offer videos that will be emailed on those days and posted on social media with the readings for each of these Holy days, prayers, and reflections on the path to Maundy Thursday.



Thursday - April 18 - Childcare provided

This meaningful service begins at 7 p.m. and centers around Jesus' final meal and discussion with his disciples. This year we offer a Tenebrae service, with the readings of the Passion events before Jesus' arrest. Music will be provided by the Third Sunday Band, and a stripping of the altar in preparation for Good Friday is conducted.

Good Friday - April 19 - Family Service at Noon

This year we will host an interactive journey through the stations of the cross with the Rev. Peter and the Rev. Patti. The event is family-friendly for all ages. Participants should meet in the Fellowship Hall at noon.



The service on the Passion event commemorating the crucifixion of Jesus Christ with the veneration of the Cross will be held at 7 p.m. **Childcare provided at 7 p.m.**

Great Vigil of Easter April 20



Starting at 8 p.m. in the columbarium (weather permitting), this service reflects the ancient practice of believers gathering in the hours of darkness the night before Easter morning to hear scripture and offer prayer with baptisms that link the meanings of Christ's dying and rising. The evening offers special music, meaningful lessons, and Holy Eucharist.

Childcare provided 7:45 to 9:30 p.m.



Easter Sunday, April 21 -

Nursery 8:30-12:30 p.m.

7:30 a.m.- in the Sanctuary

9:00 a.m.- in the Sanctuary & Parish Hall

11:15 a.m. - in the Sanctuary



Easter Flowers Order



Parishioners are encouraged to honor or remember a loved one by purchasing Easter flowers to beautify the sanctuary. Cost is \$35 and deadline is March 25th. Dedications will be included in the Easter bulletins.

Purchaser Name: _____

In honor of _____

or

In memory of _____

_____ I have enclosed cash or a check to "St. Margaret's Church" with "Easter flowers" in the memo line.

_____ I will purchase by credit card on the www.st-margarets.org website - Click on the top "Giving" tab

Place in offertory plate or send to the church office.



Join Us ...

*Good Friday
for the
20th Anniversary
Way of the Cross
at Manresa
(WOC 2019)*

“Walk with us where Jesuit Retreatants have worshipped since 1926 at the Stations of the Cross overlooking the Severn River”

St. Margaret's Episcopal

St. Andrew's by the Bay Roman Catholic

St. Martin's in the Field Episcopal

St. Mary's Roman Catholic

Kiwanis Club of Annapolis

Calvary United Methodist

Gloria Dei! Lutheran

Epiphany Roman Catholic Community

St. Philip's Episcopal

St. James Episcopal, Lothian

St. John the Evangelist Roman Catholic

College Parkway Baptist

First Presbyterian Church

Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians

St. Andrew's Episcopal, Pasadena

April 19, 2019 at Noon

Directions: From Annapolis take Route 50 East across the Severn River staying in the right lane. Take Exit 27 (Rt.450 South—Naval Academy). Make the first right turn onto Boulter's Way and an immediate left onto Manresa Road.

Musical Selections begin at 11:40 AM, Come Early - Wear Comfortable Clothes and Walking Shoes

Growing in Faith and Service

By The Rev. Patti Sachs - Asst. Rector

As the calendar moves closer to Easter Day, I pray you're living more and more into your spiritual journey. Have you joined us for Compline by Candlelight yet on Wednesday evenings at 7 p.m.? Take a few minutes for yourself and take advantage of a time of reflection and prayer.

Summer is coming sooner than later! Vacation Bible School registration is open! Sign up to volunteer (always a bunch of fun) and make sure your child is signed up ASAP as space might be limited. We will explore Bible stories that will help us answer the question "Who is My Neighbor?" a theme as relevant to our day as it was in Jesus'.



Recently, I showed you how to access our state government agenda and the bills that the Episcopal Church is tracking and advocating for through the Maryland Episcopal Policy Network . Closer to home, I'd like to give a shout out to Joanna Tillman, Pam Roth and Bill Sauer who are working with (among several agencies) the Annapolis Immigration Justice Network (AIJN). <http://www.aijnetwork.org> This is a program of the United Church of Christ that connects refugees and other immigrants to legal and other support services. Have you ever tried to walk an application or some piece of paperwork through a government agency? Ain't easy, is it? Imagine being completely unfamiliar with the process, the locations, and even the language and trying to get it accomplished! Who is our neighbor? There are many ways to help. Sarah Balcom's family is supporting an Afghani family, helping them to get settled in school and home in America. Russell Jackson just packed and delivered food to our Broadneck neighbors with My Brother's Pantry.

You might consider coming to an ACT meeting. (Anne Arundel Connecting Together) After much listening, this vibrant group is addressing six major areas of concern – safe neighborhoods, fair and just immigration, effective and engaged education, connected and useful transportation, and gun violence and safety. Contact Dalyn Huntley for more information about getting involved! There are so many ways our folks are reaching out into our community. If you're looking for a way to help, check the website missions tab or get chatty at coffee hour! Remember, the things we do for the "least of these" we do for Jesus.

So, as we go about enjoying the beauty of creation this spring, keep this question in mind: Who is My Neighbor and how can I help? May God's peace and abundance be with you!

COMING UP THIS
SUMMER



For ages 3 to 9

Summer Children's Hour
10:20 to 11 a.m. - Fellowship Hall
Sundays - June 10-Aug. 26

Special Time with Clergy
Music
Arts & Crafts

On Good Friday, we will have an interactive, intergenerational liturgy in the Fellowship Hall. All are invited, and the service will include special activities for children. The Stations of the Cross will be explored and talked about in relevant and meaningful ways—or at least, that's what we're going for. A traditional, Prayer Book-based Good Friday liturgy will be offered in the evening, including veneration of the cross.

On Holy Saturday, the Altar Guild and the Flower Guild take over the church in the morning, and start to redecorate the church for the Great Vigil of Easter that night. To prepare, we read the office for Holy Saturday at 9:30 in the nave of the church. All are invited, but it is very special for me to sit with these men and women who have chosen the ministry of preparation and beautification as they get ready for their work.

In the evening, the Great Vigil of Easter begins in the columbarium at 8 pm. We will light the fire, from which the Paschal Candle will be lit and processed into the church. Readings of God's salvation history will be offered, people will be baptized and we will break out of Lent with the first Eucharist of Easter. It's a very sweet and meaningful alternative to the business of Easter morning, and I highly recommend it to Episcopalians who have never tried it. (By the way, everyone who has tried the Vigil comes back!)

Easter Morning is glorious here, and as you know by now, there's something for everyone. We will have our traditional Rite One Eucharist at 7:30 am, with a closing hymn. At 9:00 am, we will have a concurrent service in the Parish Hall to hold the overflow from the church. Try to arrive early and choose where you will worship. We will need help, as always, with our Easter Egg Hunt, so make yourself available for that.



Women's Guild

Monthly Meeting on May 1

12:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall
Bring a bagged lunch - dessert served

Program: Interactive Activity with
St. Margaret's Day School Students

Summer Luncheon on June 5

Tickets \$30 each
Donnelly's Dockside
Gathering at 11:30 a.m.
Lunch at Noon



Prayer Shawl Ministry



Meets first Saturday of the month

April 6

May 4

June 1

9:00 a.m. in the Admin. Conference Room

All knit levels welcome!

Knit and crochet shawls for baptismal candidates and those who are grieving, ill or going through a difficult time in life.

Music

Get Ready for Spring

By Jim Douglas, Director of Music

As we welcome the arrival of the Spring season, (and if you're a college hoops fan March Madness!), the clergy and staff are amidst our annual March Madness gearing up for Holy Week and Easter in just a few weeks. Our choirs and musicians have been hard at work preparing music for Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday. For those who work for the church, Holy Week is the busiest yet most fulfilling time of year. It's the one week of the year different from all others where we pause and step outside the Sunday by Sunday routine. We know that the season of Lent is a time for spiritual renewal and the Easter season a time for renewed commitment to God following the resurrection, but Holy Week is something different, something deeper.



The Motet Ensemble will offer music for Palm Sunday. Aside from singing countless Hosannas, receiving palm branches, processing outside and reading the Passion Gospel, this day serves as a way for us to prepare for the agony of Jesus dying for us all on Good Friday and the joy of his Resurrection three days later.

The Third Sunday Band will offer music for Maundy Thursday. As we all know, Maundy Thursday is the day Jesus celebrated "the last supper" with the disciples and in great humility washed their feet. He then commanded them to do the same for each other and to love one another as he loved them. "Maundy" comes from the Latin "mandatum", or to command.

This year on Good Friday, we will offer two services. The first, an interactive family Stations of the Cross service with simple music at 12 noon. This service is a devotional one that imitates the journey Christ endured on the day of his crucifixion, originating from pilgrimages to Jerusalem following the same path Jesus took. The second, at 7pm, is the traditional Good Friday liturgy and veneration of the cross, with music sung by the Chancel Choir.

My favorite service of the year is the Great Vigil of Easter on Holy Saturday night, this year sung by the Motet Ensemble. It is the first official celebration of Jesus' resurrection. The first half of the service begins in darkness with the lighting of the Paschal Candle and the chanting of the Exsultet. Then, as the prayer book says, the Liturgy of the Word through word and song takes us on a Scriptural journey "where we hear the record of God's saving deeds in history," praying also that God will "bring to each of us the fullness of redemption." We then celebrate a new person(s) to be baptized and renew our own baptismal vows. Then follows Easter Acclamation and the second half of the service which resembles a regular Sunday morning Eucharist. It is true, the Vigil service is a long one, basically two services combined into one, however for me, it is the most important one of the year.

The week culminates in Easter Sunday, with music for choir, organ, brass and timpani in the sanctuary at 9am and 11:15am led by our combined adult choirs, and music for choir, piano, trumpet and flute in the parish hall at 9am led by our Youth Chorale. It may seem like Easter Sunday marks the end of the Holy Week trek, but in truth it marks the very beginning of the Easter season!

I hope you will join us for any and all of these special services, and if you can, try something different and deeper by attending one you may normally not attend. Perhaps the Easter Vigil might become your favorite service too! You may find a list of all of the music for Palm Sunday, Holy Week and Easter on the music page of the church website.

Getting to Know You

Newcomers Jerry Kafka and Rita Cavanaugh

By Jim "Tug" Knorr

Darn, here we've had Jerry and Rita in our midst for over three months worshipping with us at SMC and we haven't taken advantage of their TAX EXPERTISE! Tax Season has nearly come and went as the SPIRE hits the street.

Yes, Rita and Jerry and their three adult children have all been educated in the legal profession. Daughter Andrea is a lawyer in the Justice Department, married daughter Sarah is an attorney with Homeland Security, and son Justin lives in Washington, D.C. and works for the Navy.



You have mostly seen this couple at the 9:00 Sunday services, at Rev. Peter's newcomers class, and most recently Jerry was making pancakes in the kitchen with Brotherhood lads for the Shrove Tuesday dinner. He admits that he feels comfy making meals in his kitchen. Rita and Jerry actually worked together as tax controversy lawyers for 25 years with the same legal firm.

Rita shared that as a young girl she played a mean game of volleyball and lots of badminton. She dabbled in dramatics and performed in plays and in choirs. Growing up in Long Island, she attended SUNY Albany, studied Political Science and Economics at University of California at Berkeley, worked at the World Bank, then studied law at Yale University.

Jerry, in the meantime, was schooled in Ohio, won legal acclaim at Wheeling College in West Virginia then the University of Cincinnati and eventually earned his Masters at Georgetown. Somehow both Rita and Jerry met in D.C. and were intermeshed in legal matters and raising their three children— with legal education a priority apparently.

In a very short time Rita and Jerry have made their presence known by appearing in the Parish Hall not only after church services, but at Faith & Fellowship Monday meals and studies thereafter. We can expect to experience some of Rita's watercolor expertise and love of history. Jerry not only makes pancakes, but attends the parish's men's breakfasts, and they hope to join Foyers. They have also heard about the SEEKERS book club and would like the intellectual challenge that they might present to them.

So much more to learn about this couple. We are so pleased to meet them and share with them life at St Margaret's, and for some, we can learn the rights and wrongs of life in the legal lanes!

Formation

Easter Egg Hunt



Sunday, April 21

Children ages 2-9
on the SMC campus

Adults and youth helpers needed for set
up at 8:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall

No Sunday School on Easter morning

Participants meet in the Fellowship Hall
at 10:20 a.m. for instructions

Donations Needed!

Individually wrapped candy (no nuts or nut oil)
may be left in bins in the Formation building and
church office.



Upcoming Holy Baptism Dates:

April 20th @ Easter Vigil

April 28

June 9

July 14

Go to www.st-margarets.org.
Click on "About Us" tab at top.
Click on "Baptisms"



Youth-Led Service on May 12

Our youth group (made up of middle and high school students) has been tasked with planning and leading the 9:00 a.m. service for St. Margaret's on Mother's Day.

Yes, that means choosing hymns, developing liturgy, providing the sermon, assisting in the Holy Eucharist, and more! Our youth have spent the program year understanding the different parts of a church service. This will be an important step in the growth of their faith. Please pray for these young people as they learn and take on new roles in leadership.

Middle School Retreat

The diocesan annual retreat for middle school youth (Grade 6-8) titled New Beginnings, will be held nearby at Camp Wright in Stevensville, MD, the weekend of May 3-5. The event is dedicated to youth working through the transitions of middle school through talks, skits, and small groups. It is a place where they can find community in Christ and mentors in high school students. BTW, parents and family are warmly invited to attend closing Eucharist at 2 p.m. in the dining hall the last day.

Convention Youth

May 10-11, 2019

(Delegate: ages 16 to 22/ Page: grades 8-12)

Friday at 8:00 a.m. to Saturday 2:00 p.m.

Cost: \$35 Deadline: April 26th

All youth are invited to a lock-in that Friday night where we will create community and have fun! Saturday morning there will be a breakfast with the Bishop, clergy, and lay members where youth will be able to ask questions and have a small group discussion. Come join us for a learning experience that can be counted as service hours.

**St. Margaret's Church
Vacation Bible School
June 24-28, 2019
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Ages 4 to 10**

Who is my neighbor? Neighbors are more than people who live next door. Neighbors are more than people in our families or communities. This VBS will lead children on a journey to discover more about God's great love. From looking at how to be a neighbor to diving into what it means to live out our faith, this interactive VBS series will lead children deeply into Bible stories focused on God's care and compassion for neighbors close at hand and around the world. Join us as we discover neighbors near and far!



**Automated Registration available at
www.st-margarets.org
Fee \$50
For Children of VBS Volunteers: \$25**

Faith & Fellowship

**Adult Education
Mondays - 6:45 p.m.**

April 29: "Living the Questions" hosted by Valery Weekly

May 6: Environment film night with Al Todd on plastic pollution in the oceans of the world

May 13: St. Margaret's and Maryland Episcopal History discussion

May 20: St. Margaret's and Maryland Episcopal History discussion continues

CLASS OF 2019

We will be recognizing our 2018 high school and college graduates at our annual Bluegrass Mass on Sunday, June 2.

If you have a graduate you wish to be identified in the bulletin or at the Mass, please email the following information to info@st-margarets.org by May 26:

- *Name of graduate
- *Family members who are parishioners
- *Name of school graduating from
- *Please also let us know if the graduate will be attending the June 2 service at 11:15 a.m.

Day School

Celebrating the Whole Child

By Tricia McVeigh, SMDS Director

We wish to provide a big THANK YOU to all parishioners for your support of our recent Day School auction. We had a wonderful time and raised nearly thirty thousand dollars for our new playground that we were required to replace due to age and new code.

We continue to offer new and innovative programs that support high standards of early education. In addition to our regular curriculum, including music, Spanish, and STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math). We also offer after school optional activities in art, ballet, soccer, and a special program from the Annapolis Maritime Museum.

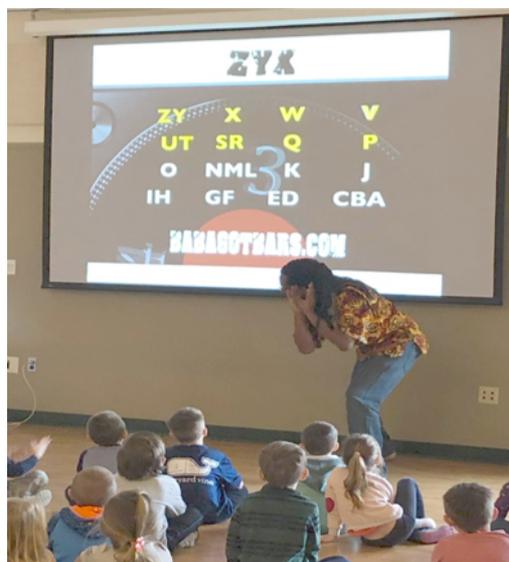
The Rev. Peter and the Rev. Patti with Music Director Jim Douglas led an Ash Wednesday service for our older students and their families as well as SMDS staff.

We will continue our "green" curriculum with our outdoor classroom this spring and celebrate planting on Earth Day on April 26. Our annual Trike-a-thon fundraiser for St. Jude's Hospital and our Muffins with Moms for Mother's Day takes place in May.

Our Kindergarten graduation and family picnic on the campus will take place on June 7. And then we begin our summer camps the next week!



A portion of our new playground that is being enjoyed daily by our students!



Bomani, a dynamic teacher, poet, and hip hop artist recently lead Day School students through a week of learning, music, dancing, and fun!



The Revs. Peter and Patti held an Ash Wednesday service for Day School students, families, and staff in the Fellowship Hall.



June 10th - August 9th
Ages 2-9

Themes: Sea Adventures, Mad Scientist,
Legos, and Pirates

Registration available at
www.stmargaretsdayschool.org.

What brings you joy?

By Susan Roberts,
Day School Chair

As the Board Chair of St. Margaret's Day School for six years, I have experienced many moments of joy-most of which would never have occurred if I hadn't first joined the Board in 2011.



The call is now out for a new Board Chair. The qualifications listed for the position are what every board chair should possess, but are not necessarily required. What is required is a love of children, the desire to provide the best educational opportunities available, a willingness to team up with dedicated, enthusiastic parents and parishioners, and a commitment to our Day School Director and staff, as well as our Rector and St. Margaret's Church. Finally, a belief that St. Margaret's Day School, in partnership with St. Margaret's Church, has only scratched the surface toward being the best pre-school/kindergarten in the Episcopal Diocese of Maryland.

So, what brings me joy as the Board Chair? Just walk through the doors of our school in the morning or afternoon when dads and grandparents can often outnumber the Moms dropping off the kids. Joy also is defined as glee. Watch the two year olds walking to recess with their index fingers on their lips and big, puffy cheeks. They are "catching a bubble" so they can walk down the hall quietly. Watch the classes riding around the parking lot on trikes, scooters and bikes, streamers flying and kids wearing theme-based helmets, participating in the St. Jude's annual Trike-a-Thon.

Rejoicing is another definition of joy. Observe Rev. Peter teaching weekly chapel, accompanied by songs and the kids constantly raising their hands to ask questions or comment about the lesson of the day. Follow that with the Christmas pageant, where every child from two year olds through Kindergarten participates.

Joy is also be defined as gladness. Joining the kids on Earth Day when they plant their flowers, herb garden, and other plants- all native to Maryland. Our pollinator garden with it's butterflies and bees is a big part of the new Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) curriculum. Nothing can compare to seeing students release tagged Monarch butterflies-waving good bye and wishing them a safe journey to Mexico. All the kids participate in raising these endangered and fragile butterflies from eggs, to pupa, to fully fledged adults!

Finally, joy can be defined as happiness. Watching parents and their children with their animals (real and not quite real) participating in "The Blessing of the Animals" with Rev. Peter presenting each child with a St Francis of Assisi medallion. Or observing the kids and staff referring to each other as "friends." One of my happiest times comes with the satisfaction of being part of the scholarship/financial aid process. Thanks to the combined generosity of St. Margaret's Church and the Charles and Elinor Ridout Scholarship Fund, created by Anne Brice, we are able to award annual scholarships to Day School students to assist with tuition costs.

I feel privileged and grateful to have had the opportunity to serve as the Day School Board Chair and work with the Director, Tricia McVeigh, and with Rev. Peter. Teaming with our competent and dedicated Board, we have developed a vision and future for our school. I can say my tenure as Day School Board Chair has brought me immense joy.

Finding Connection through Outreach at SMC

Several years ago as a new parishioner at St. Margaret's, I found myself struggling to get involved in a way that I felt I could meaningfully contribute. I knew there were a lot of meaningful engagement opportunities happening at the church, but it felt overwhelming to explore all the options. So I enjoyed the beauty and sacredness of Sunday services, attended book studies and joined a small group, all of which kept me engaged and edified. But the question that continued to swirl in my head was, "What is mine to do?"

For me personally, the most exciting role the church plays in the world is to be the proverbial "eyes, hands and feet of Christ" (I often think of that verse about watching over the foreigner and caring for the fatherless and the widow.) So things began to click into place for me when I was invited to join the Missions Commission, and through missions & outreach I connected with other parishioners who were passionate about the ways we as a church could make a positive impact in our community.

I can't overemphasize how impressed and inspired I am by the folks I've gotten to know at St. Margaret's - this church is blessed with an amazing array of talents, experience, resources and gifts. Through involvement on the Missions Commission, I get a front row view of the ways St. Margaret's parishioners are making real, positive change in our community and the world.

We'd love for all of St. Margaret's to get a front row view of ongoing outreach projects, so this year the Missions Commission is ramping up our efforts to keep you updated and informed. I like to remember that all of these projects started because someone cared enough to make room in their lives to do something. If you're still looking for a place to plug in, I hope you'll consider this your invitation: be the eyes, hands and feet of Christ in our community and connect with fellow parishioners through outreach at St. Margaret's.



By Joanna Tillman
Missions Commission Chair

The Missions Commission of St. Margaret's Church builds partnerships with the people we serve and with each other. It provides guidance, structure and support for the Endowment Grants, Missions Grants and the parishioner outreach initiatives of St. Margaret's Church, with the goal of:

- Sharing God's great bounty as stewards of God's creation; and
- Transitioning away from stopgap responses to need toward empowerment of and partnering with those served; and
- Encouraging relational experiences between program organizers and participants.

The Missions Commission invites all to participate in these on-going, life-enriching outreach efforts led by St. Margaret's parishioners, or to come to the Missions Commission with your own outreach projects and ideas.

For more information, contact Joanna Tillman: joannatillman@gmail.com.

Ongoing Missions Projects

Community Advocacy Involvement with ACT - This non-partisan community group is organizing members in Anne Arundel county around advocacy efforts, focusing their work on six issues: Mental Health and Addiction; Safe Neighborhoods and Affordable Housing; Fair and Just Immigration; Effective and Engaged Education; Connected and Useful Transportation; and Gun Violence Reduction. Dozens of area faith communities, including St. Margaret's, have signed on to be members. Contact parishioner Dalyn Huntley for more info.



Citizenship Classes at Center of Help - Led by Ann Lallande and Kate Callahan, 8 parishioners and friends are teaching classes to a diverse group of students who are studying for their US citizenship test. These classes cover civics, US government, interview skills, and prepare students for their US citizenship test. More opportunities to get involved exist at Center of Help - contact Ann Lallande or Kate Callahan for information.



Endowment Grants Committee and Liaisons - St. Margaret's is blessed to have an endowment that generates income for providing grants to local, regional and global non-profit programs. Izzy Winn coordinates this amazing ongoing effort. Chaired by Casey Pingle, the Grants Committee involves 37 dedicated parishioners (committee members and liaisons) who will issue new grants this program year for the 19th time.



Homelessness and Affordable Housing - Security Deposit Assistance Sponsored by Arundel House of Hope, this program helps qualified Anne Arundel County residents obtain affordable rental housing by providing security deposit assistance. Involving 70 churches and synagogues that support Winter Relief, this program augments the work of six County agencies and non-profits that seek to provide shelter to underserved populations in Anne Arundel County. Parishioner Harry Caldwell is Chair of the Governing Board of this program. Since beginning in April, 2018, the security deposit assistance program has helped place 11 households, representing 20 adults and children, into secure rental housing. There will be more opportunities to serve in the area of homelessness coming soon. Contact Harry Caldwell to get involved.

The Light House shelter - St. Margaret's parishioners continue to be involved with supporting the Light House through fixing a monthly dinner for Lighthouse residents (led by Marti Engstrom), participating in food drives and Open Table (led by Beth Arruda). Open Table is a relational program where a group of volunteers dedicate a year to assist an individual experiencing economic poverty in developing and implementing plans to have a better life. Contact Marti Engstrom to get involved with the Lighthouse.



My Brother's Pantry - Led by Russell Jackson, SMC parishioners packed and delivered around 225 bags of groceries in support of over 125 families in our community. My Brother's Pantry is also preparing a pilot program this summer to support hungry school children in our community who won't be receiving school lunches during summer vacation. Details are still being fine-tuned for this project but they will be looking for volunteers to help pack lunches for these kids. My Brothers Pantry is also in search of additional board members. If interested, contact Russell Jackson.

Social Justice - Annapolis Immigration Justice Network -The SMC Social Justice Group held a diaper drive in March, collecting over 2,500 diapers to benefit the Annapolis Immigration Justice Network. In addition, the Social Justice Group and the SMC Good Neighbor Team are joining efforts to provide in-person support to an immigrant family in the Annapolis area. Volunteers are needed for this effort - for more information, contact Bill Saur or Sarah Balcom.

Tutoring at Broadneck Elementary - In addition to in-school tutoring, St. Margaret's parishion-ers, led by Jean Clarke, are continuing to deepen their partnership with Broadneck Elementary. This year, several Broadneck Elementary classes have volunteered to pack lunches for Winter Relief guests at St Margaret's.

Winter Relief- Thanks to the leadership of Judy Hall and Harry Caldwell, and the efforts of dozens of SMC parishioners, St Margaret's hosts homeless individuals in the Parish Hall and For-mation building for a week at the end of March, providing shelter and sustenance during the coldest months of the year. Several of our homeless guests have found shelter, employment, and a renewed sense of hope and self-esteem through the efforts of so many of our parishioners

UPCOMING Events

Save these dates for your spring calendar!



The History and Archives group is sponsoring two speakers in May as part of Faith & Fellowship's Adult Formation hour. Join us at 6:45 in the Fellowship Hall (or come early at 6 p.m. for the Fellowship meal).

May 13 Franklin A. Robinson, Archives Specialist at the Smithsonian National Museum of History, will talk about his book, "Faith and Tobacco--a History of St. Thomas Episcopal Parish, Prince George's County". He looks at the role of tobacco in the early Anglican church in Maryland. This is also the home parish of Bishop Claggett. He serves as a member of the National Board of Episcopal Archivists and Historians.

May 20 Michael Parker, retired professor of English for 34 years at the Naval Academy, will speak about "Bones of Contention: St. Margaret's, St. Anne's and the Exhumation of Governor Robert Eden ". Documented with photographs and artifacts from our local history.

All guests are welcome! For more information, contact Barbara Breedon at bkbreedon@comcast.net.

Upcoming Events



Sponsored by the Brotherhood of St. Andrew

All men of the parish are welcome!

Saturday, April 6 & May 18

9:00 a.m.

Riverbay Roadhouse in Cape St. Claire Center

To reserve a seat, call Jim Knorr at 410-757-4549.



An outdoor Eucharist with old hymn singing in Bluegrass style with music from Third Sunday Band

Sunday, June 2

11:15 a.m. - outdoors on campus

Bring folding chairs or blankets for seating

followed by parish picnic in the Parish Hall

Last Names A-G - Bring entrees

Last Names H-R - Bring desserts

Last Names S-Z - Bring side dishes



EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF MARYLAND

235th Diocesan Convention

May 11-12, Turf Valley Resort, Ellicott City, MD. Convention materials and other information can be found at <http://www.episcopalmaryland.org>. Please pray for our delegates: Kathy Lang, Maggy Cullman, and Joanna Tillman as well our clergy the Rev. Peter Mayer and the Rev. Patti Sachs.

Personal Commitment for God's Creation

Episcopalians and friends concerned about all of God's creation are invited to [join Presiding Bishop Michael Curry in pledging to take action to protect and renew God's world](#) and all who call it home. The goal is to gather at least 1,000 pledges with concrete, personal commitments by Earth Day, April 22.

For more information, go to: <https://www.episcopalchurch.org/creation-care>.

Registration now open for Diocesan High School, Middle School, and Children's summer camp weeks at Claggett located outside Frederick, Maryland.

-High School Week: (grades completed 9-12) June 17-22

-Middle School Week: (grades completed 6-8) June 24-29

-Youth Week: (grades completed 2-5) July 8-13

www.claggettcenter.org

Acolytes = Leaders

(By Lisa Brown from BuildingFaith.org)

Quick! When you think of leadership in the church, what roles do you think of? Priests and deacons? Church staff? Choir directors? Ministry leaders? Do you ever think about acolytes?

You should, because these young people, whose often un-noticed presence facilitates almost every service, embody true servant leadership. For a sense of why acolyting is an important and formational ministry, I interviewed members of the acolyte corps at my church. Ranging from 4th grade to college senior, here are ten conclusions they shared about their ministry.

10 Hidden Benefits of Acolyting

1. Acolyting is essential

Think of services where no acolytes are present. Much of the beauty and the glorious pageantry is missing. Processions without torches and crosses, and a Gospel reading without anyone to hold the book? Not as impactful. Furthermore, services without acolytes means clergy have less support when preparing Communion, and facilitating worship.

2. Acolyting allows young people to be active participants in worship

Everyone I spoke with echoed the same refrain. They felt much more engaged in the worship service by playing an active role rather than sitting in the pews. Even young people who reported that their parents had at first "forced" them to acolyte, expressed a newfound connection to worship and an enthusiasm for being at church.

3. Acolyting is intergenerational

A young person who acolytes is more likely to feel a connection to adults serving in other worship-related ministries: clergy, altar guild members, greeters, ushers, lectors, lay eucharistic ministers, and choir members.

This is truly important! Young people who connect to generations of adults in the congregation – rather than only forming relationships with youth peers – are more likely to feel a deep connection to their church community. Faith formation is strengthened by these intergenerational relationships.



4. Acolyting is relational

Acolyting helps young people form bonds with their peers, and with older and younger teens at church. Faith is meant to be practiced in community, and when a young person finds community for themselves, they are more likely to grow in faith. Young acolytes spoke proudly of having older teen friends who they knew through acolyting; older teens spoke proudly of acting as role models to the younger teens on their acolyte teams.

5. Acolyting is a family affair

Many young people recalled that they began to acolyte as a way of emulating older siblings. Families are more likely to attend and be connected to a church community when their children serve at the altar.

6. Acolyting allows kids to play with fire

Admit it, everybody likes to play help with fire. But more importantly, when we trust young people with significant and potentially dangerous tasks, we show them that we see them as capable and competent. Inevitably they then live up to our expectations.

If it's time for your child to take on a serious liturgy role at St. Margaret's, please contact Julie Svendsen, coordinator, at julesannap@yahoo.com or the Rev. Peter W. Mayer at peter@st-margarets.org.

7. Acolyting makes a young person the center of attention

This surprised me. Many young people commented on how they enjoyed the feeling of having all eyes on them as they walked down the aisle with the cross. But isn't it supposed to be about God? Yes. So are we raising a generation of egomaniacs? I don't think so. Everyone's deepest desire is to be known, accepted, and loved. We want to have value in the eyes of others. Consider scripture and the many instances where Jesus paused to truly see and engage people who were otherwise invisible in society.

Often our young people feel unseen and unimportant in our faith communities. Acolyting allows them to be seen, to be important, and to make a difference in our communal worship.

8. Acolyting makes young people nervous

When asked what they wished other people knew about being an acolyte, many young people said they wished others knew how seriously they take their role. They try very hard not to make mistakes, and when they do, it weighs heavily on them. Yet in talking about lessons learned as an acolyte, one young person told me the following: "Whatever I do, even if I'm not sure of what I'm doing, as long as I do it with confidence, it will be ok." Or as Julian of Norwich wrote, "All shall be well."

9. Acolyting is formational, and teaches liturgy

In conversations replete with teenage slang, I also heard vocabulary that reflected a deep knowledge of liturgy and church tradition. In fact, one of the many reasons youth enjoyed being acolytes is that they learned more about the shape, structure, and flow of liturgy and worship traditions. Young people even mentioned some of their favorite services: Maundy Thursday and Good Friday – services often under-attended, especially by young people.

10. Acolyting is leadership

A component of good church leadership is being able to grow more fully into a ministerial role. The young people I spoke with reflected on their evolving acolyte responsibilities, and how moving from torch to Eucharistic server was "...a big leap." One young person explained how managing her acolyte team was an opportunity for her to demonstrate maturity and responsibility. Some young people spoke proudly of how acolyting encouraged them to seek out other roles in the church – as vergers, altar guild members, lay eucharistic ministers, and as members of the church's worship commission.

So Let There Be Acolytes!

Acolyting is an essential ministry, and one that imbues our worship with beauty, solemnity, and pageantry. Acolytes support both clergy and laity, ensuring that the behind-the-scenes tasks and logistics of worship flow smoothly.



Transforming Lives in Tanzania

By Janice Roper Graham, parishioner
Liaison with the Dageno School

Twenty four St. Margarets parishioners and friends spent eight days on safari and three nights at the Dageno Girls Center in Tanzania. The Safari was magical and the girls from Dageno super sweet. We saw lions, cheetahs, giraffes, elephants, hippos, leopards, the great migration of zebras and wildebeests – and much more wildlife.

The difference between Tanzania and South African safaris is that the animals in TZ are in their natural habitat – as it has existed for hundreds of years. The great migration follows the rain and stretches from horizon to horizon as far as the eye can see. It's beautiful.

We remained in our safari vehicles along mostly unpaved, dusty roads. Several folks wisely brought masks to filter the dust. Lions were outside our tent at night – we could hear them growl. Two lions strolled by as we ate dinner. The Masai warriors guarded us by patrolling through the night with flashlights. We needed an escort at night.

The Dageno Girls Center was also awesome. I was a bit worried when Executive Director Andi Trotter came by for dinner when we were in Karatu four days before the end of the safari. She shared that 14 girls were possessed by black magic curses put on them by jealous step mothers or others wishing them harm. They had fits and tried to bite other girls. Andi was leading a meeting about being strong and not letting a curse be put on you when our donation suitcases arrived. The girls were amazed, asking “who sent this?” It was like Christmas. With the help of St. Margarets suitcases, Andi made the point to the girls that people far away care about you and want you to succeed. That set the tone for an warm and loving three nights and two days with the Dageno girls.

When we arrived at Dageno, the girls welcomed us with a song.

Each girls took responsibility for an American and proudly leading us around on a tour, holding our hands. We learned about their entrepreneurial efforts – raising geese, rabbits, and a cow (pregnant, so milk soon) – growing vegetables – making necklaces and other beaded crafts – sewing aprons, purses, making soap, etc.

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We saw the 3-tiered bunks that St. Margarets provided—bed flush together so you could roll from bunk to bunk and not fall out. The water tower and underground storage take to catch water during the rainy season. The place was efficiently and well-done. They fed us the best “boxed lunch” of our entire trip in hand-made bags that we got to keep.



We sang songs, had a fashion show, played games. I tried to teach the girls chess. They liked kings in the corner and checkers. Together with the girls, we threw Frisbees, played soccer. Brian Williams set up and flew a drone that Andi had purchased a while back. It was fun.

Happy Days accommodations were rustic, with electrical and plumbing problems – but improved through our stay. You could see the efforts.



The next day, Andi and select Dageno Girls took us on a tour to their village to visit five homes. The homes were either sticks with thatched roofs or partially constructed brick. No running water. Only one had electricity. All were very poor by American standards – living very simply, close to the land. Some poorer than others.

The 4th house was a single mother of six daughters. In a patriarchal society where a woman’s name changes to “1st Son’s name-Mama” (Billy-Mama) after she has a son – and there is no child support or alimony when a man runs off, this is a hard road. She lived in one room of an unfinished brick house that she was building slowly herself. She had three small pigs, some goats and raised vegetables on a loaned plot nearby. Despite having almost nothing, she gave us three bottles of goats milk as a gift. For the closing ceremony, the girls built a fire pit. We sang songs, had dinner, provided tributes to each other – it was very emotional.

Since the end of the 3-year UK grant last summer, the Dageno Girls Center does not have outside funders. Roughly 90% of the girls are on scholarship. Happy Days Camp is not yet profitable but could become so with some upgrades and publicity. A recent vocation school offered scholarships to Dageno graduates. Several will train to become plumbers, electricians and more. Since the summer, Andi has been spending her own inheritance money to improve Happy Days so her graduates have a way to raise money for college. Several from St. Margarets promised to help her, including me. Youth Leader Jeff Conover and his wife Alice are looking at ways to foster positive interaction between the Dageno girls and St. Margarets youth. It was a moving experience for everyone – transforming lives all around.

Come to the 4/7 coffee hour for more pictures and songs about the trip curated by Al Todd and Brian Williams.



ST. MARGARET'S CHURCH

ANNAPOLIS · MARYLAND · ESTABLISHED 1692

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Office (410) 974-0200 Pastoral Emergency (443) 837-5463
www.st-margarets.org

Office Hours:
Monday-Thursday 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Friday by appointment

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

Rev. Peter W. Mayer, Rector - peter@st-margarets.org
Rev. Patti Sachs, Asst. Rector - patti@stmargarets.org
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