

Maggie's Cross

Monthly News from St. Margaret's

February 2012



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Lent: a Season of Journey *a letter from our Assistant Bishop*

Wednesday, February 22nd is Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent, the forty days of the Church Year in which we prepare ourselves as individuals and as the Body of Christ to celebrate again the Feast of the Resurrection. The traditional focus of Lent has been an intense engagement with the fact that "we have all sinned and fallen short of the glory of God," as St. Paul reminds us. This is a season in which we do spend intentional, focused time on the themes of the Prayer of Humble Access: "We are not worthy so much as to gather the crumbs up under thy table" **and** "but thou art the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy" (BCP, p. 337) and so this same Lord has "raised us to the new life of grace" (BCP, p. 308) and in Christ "made us worthy to stand before [him]" (BCP, p. 368).

The Church invites us to a "good and holy Lent" through various spiritual disciplines of prayer, study, and fasting. This is a journey of repentance, of turning back again to God, not so God can make us feel guilty and punish us, but so that, re-focused and re-oriented, we can hear again God's call to renewed relationship through forgiveness and reconciliation with the Father through the Son in the Spirit. It is not, therefore, a season of scaring the hell out of us in some literal kind of way. Repentance is about recognizing that we, like sheep have gone astray; we have lost our way; we realize we are lost. We turn again to the One Who is the Way and shows us who we are and Whose we are and for what life we are created, for what life we are redeemed, in what life we live with the Spirit in this world. The Way is not an other-worldly abstraction. The broken relationship with God is not a theory. The consequences of sin are real and concrete.

"Repentance is about recognizing that we, like sheep have gone astray; we have lost our way; we realize we are lost."

The will of God is that we have life and have it abundantly (Jn. 10.10). God loves the world to give us that life. God's ultimate expression of this love and will is God's own incarnation in Jesus, the Way of our journey, the hope of our journey, and the light of our journey.

This Lent, my brothers and sisters, embark on your journey as individuals and as a parish toward Easter. It is a journey of repentance, and there are dark places along the way. These are places of pain and brokenness, places where we as individuals and as community of faith need the healing of God. The discipline of Lent teaches us that we do not have to be afraid of the dark places. God will go through them with us. We do not have to fear that we shall not have the strength, courage, or ability to do this journey, for God has promised to be with us always. We only have to begin, and with God's help we shall arrive at Easter, still loved, and newly forgiven and reconciled with ourselves, with each other, and with God. With God's help, the journey of Lent is possible. At the end of the journey is the light and life of the Risen Christ who in love, welcomes us into Himself, breathes His Spirit into us again, and sends us into the world to love and serve the Him day by day.

Resources for reflection:

George Herbert's poems, "Love III"; "Come my way, my truth, my life" (Hymnal 1982, 487); "King of glory" (Hymnal 1982, 382)

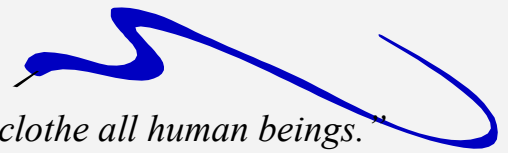
+The Right Reverend William O. Gregg



Bishop Gregg will be in residence with us at St. Margaret's for Holy Week 2012.



From the Deacon's Desk



"God made the world rich enough to feed and clothe all human beings."

-Mother Teresa

When many of us were growing up, it was not unusual to have a parent say to us when we did not clean our dinner plates, "Eat your vegetables...finish your meat...think of the starving children in other parts of the world." In today's world absence of food, malnutrition, the debate between buying food or medicine are epidemic. It is no longer "think of the starving children in other parts of the world" but "think of the starving children a few neighborhoods over." School systems find themselves providing breakfasts and lunches to children, and food cupboards are experiencing a drain on the resources given to them. Food is one of the five basic needs of life, yet daily over 900 million people worldwide suffer from malnutrition.

In Matthew 6 Jesus says, "...do not worry about your life, what you will eat..." Mother Teresa is "right on" in saying that God made the world rich enough to feed...all human beings; isn't that what Jesus is implying when he says "do not worry"? YET, inequality persists throughout the world and seems to worsen with each passing year. Hence, as Jesus' hands and hearts in the world today, we are called upon to respond to the needs of the hungry so that they DO NOT need "to worry about what they will eat."

At St. Margaret's the month of February will see us responding to the cry of the hungry in our world. On SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 11th, the St. Margaret's family will enjoy CARNAVAL DE CRISTO, an evening of fellowship and fundraising in the name of our Lord Jesus and in service to his people worldwide who do not have adequate food to eat. All proceeds from the Silent and Live auctions at Carnival will go to support our scheduled Stop Hunger Now event on Saturday, February 25th.

STOP HUNGER NOW is a Raleigh based relief agency founded in 1998 to stop world hunger. It is a "first responder" to crises around the world. A Stop Hunger Now EVENT is intergenerational...a time for all ages to work together packaging meals that consist of rice, soy, dehydrated vegetables, and a flavoring mix with 21 vitamins and minerals. On SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25TH, we will package 10,000 meals between the hours of 10 AM and Noon! Plan on participating in this fun, life-giving event.

Simultaneously the Youth of St. Margaret's will be involved in WORLD VISION'S 30 HOUR FAMINE. Following lunch on Friday, February 24th, the youth will not eat again until dinner on Saturday, the 25th, experiencing a "shadow" of what it really means "to be hungry." They will be seeking sponsors, thereby raising money so that because they do not eat, others will be able to.

All of the above events are timed around LENT, which falls in the midst of these happenings, beginning on Ash Wednesday, February 22nd. Throughout this Holy Season we are called to include sacrifice and simplicity in our lives and to ponder our relationships with God and with our fellow human beings. What better way to enter this season than to share in the relief of world hunger and of the worry that burdens those who do not have food to eat. Let us remember Jesus' words, "Truly I tell you, just as you (fed) one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me."

In Service to The Bread of Life,

Deacon Susie




Carnival de Cristo

An evening of fellowship and fundraising in service to our Lord Jesus Christ.

Saturday, February 11th
7-10pm

Will you be there?

Tickets available Sunday, Feb 5th or in the church office.



NETS FOR LIFE
A partnership for Malaria prevention in Africa

TOGETHER WE CAN SAVE MORE THAN 100,000 LIVES

For Exemplary Contributions to the Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina
Nets for Life Campaign
the
GOLDEN NET
CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION
is presented to:
St. Margaret's Episcopal Church
Waxhaw

Thank you for helping to move whole communities from sickness to strength by meeting your fundraising goal for the purchase of mosquito nets on behalf of the Social Relief & Development's program to eradicate malaria in Africa.
January 2012 - January 2012

Presented by:
Bob Dwyer
Bob Dwyer, Executive Director of Nets for Life

St. Margaret's outreach efforts in 2011 to support the Nets for Life program received the **GOLDEN NET AWARD** for surpassing our goal and buying **489 nets!**

Many thanks to Deacon Susie and Diana Lovelace for their hard work on this successful campaign.



Anglican Answer Man

Question: Why do we ring bells at the 11:15 service?

Why do we ring bells at the 11:15 service?

The use of bells is a hold-over from centuries ago. In Medieval times, people were required to attend Mass. The key word is attend. There was really no way to follow the action at the altar given the size of the church or cathedral, no PA system, and the service in Latin. The priest was far removed from the congregation, and often hidden behind wood screens or a wall.

Given the above circumstances, people were permitted to carry on business or conversations during the mass. They had to stop and be silent only during the consecration. The bells were to inform them that this is the time to be reverent. The system was: Three bells at the Sanctus. (We are getting close to the consecration. Hush.) One bell before the consecration of the bread. (You were warned by the previous three now this is it.) Three bells at the elevation of the Host. Three bells at the elevation of the wine. Three bells at the Amen after the consecration. Now you may go back to selling horses or talking with your friends. You were silent for the consecration, and all you need to be is present in the building.

In many cases, the tower bell was also rung at

the same time as the altar bells. This was to signal the persons in town or in the fields to be aware of what was happening in the church or cathedral. Some churches still ring the tower bell. In 1958, I was summer organist at Grace Episcopal, White Plains, NY. I was most surprised to hear the tower bell rung the thirteen times during the mass. It was totally new to me. But in the old days, the use of bells was the best PA system available.

We ring them today, not of necessity, but of choice. We can also ring the bells fewer than 13 times because we can follow the service with or without them. We ring six bells, but in the old days the 13 were necessary.

Our Anglican Answer Man is our own Father Wendell Phillips.

Father Wendell will be a contributing writer each month in Maggie's Cross and will take your questions.

Please mail your question to: parishad-min@saintmargarets.net and we will get the answer in a future edition.



Getting to know

Bridget Ervin

A column by Andrew Travers



What kind of pets do you have and what are their names?

I have a cat named Samantha and a dog named Jada. Jada does not like to be alone at home so she comes to church with us. She rests in the car.

What is your favorite dessert or desserts?

I love vanilla ice cream with a hot chocolate chip cookie on top.

How did you find out about St. Margaret's and when did you start coming?

I found out about St. Margaret's through the internet. I have been here for about 4 years.

What ministry or ministries do you do at St. Margaret's?

I teach Sunday school. I'm on the Parish Life Committee. I also have helped with VBS and the St. Nicholas Festival.

Do you do any jobs (work) and what are your hobbies?

I am a Special Ed Teacher for Middle School and High School. I also tutor after school. My job keeps me busy.

When I'm not working, I enjoy learning to make new dishes and I love reading home magazines. I also love to play tennis, singles is my favorite!

What is your favorite sport to watch on T.V. and what Sports did you play growing up?

I like to watch college basketball. I played tennis, swim, ran track and cross country.

Where are you from?

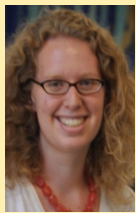
I was born in Virginia Beach, VA, but I grew up in Columbia, SC since 3rd grade.

What is your favorite restaurant?

My favorite place to get a cheeseburger is Outback. I think they have the best burgers.

What is your favorite part of the church service?

My favorite part of the service is right before the gospel is read when we make the sign of the cross on the forehead, over our lips and heart. Every time I am making these signs of the cross and saying "in my thoughts, on my lips and in my heart", I think of my Nona (Italian for grandmother). She taught this to me at the kitchen table as I was preparing to receive confirmation. She has been to St. Margaret's and I know she is happy I have found a church family.



YOUTH Spotlight

Elizabeth Pfeifer
Assistant to the Rector, Youth Ministries

Overcome Hunger 2012

925,000,000. People go to bed hungry each day. That's 3 times the population of the United States.

22,000. Children died every day from hunger and poverty-related causes in 2011.

30. Amount it costs to provide food for a child for a month

12. A child's life ends due to hunger every 8-12 seconds

1. Amount it costs to provide food for a child for a day

**We won't eat so others can.
We can overcome hunger.**

Help St. Margaret's overcome hunger by sponsoring a youth while they fast for 30 hours.

Speak with a member of the youth group or contact Elizabeth for more information at pfeifer@saintmargarets.net





February Calendar

Shrove Tuesday 2011

- 2/5 Golden Wedding Anniversary:
Fred & Priscilla Dabney
- 2/11 Carnaval de Cristo, 7:00 pm-10:00 pm
- 2/15 Men's Group monthly meeting, 7:00 pm
- 2/18 DOK (Daughters of the King) 10:45 am
- 2/18 CREW - 11:30 am
- 2/20 Sun City/St. Margaret's Group, 3:00 pm
- 2/21 Shrove Tuesday, Pancake Supper
in the Parish Hall 5:30 pm- 7:00 pm
- 2/22 Ash Wednesday:
Service times, 12:00 noon & 7:00 pm
- 2/24-25 EYC - 30 Hour Famine
- 2/25 Stop Hunger Now! food package
outreach event, 10:00 am



Shrove Tuesday 2011



Laura Brown

Laura Brown has replaced Mimi Schott on the 2012-2013 Vestry. Mimi has taken a job in San Diego, CA and will be relocating this month. We thank Mimi for her very short time on Vestry and for ALL she has done for St. M's as an active member of our Stewardship Committee, Greeter Committee and Meals Ministry.

Blessings to Mimi and her family and thank you to Laura for her service.



Mimi Schott



Stop Hunger Now Event 2011



The Order of the Daughters of the King is an international religious order for women who are communicants of the Episcopal Church. The Order's purpose is to bring others into a living, loving relationship with Jesus, and to help strengthen the spiritual life of our parishes and missions. We currently have 12 daughters in the St. Margaret's Chapter.

A Daughter vows to uphold the two parts of the Rule of Life of the Order: The Rule of Prayer and the Rule of Service. Through the Rule of Prayer, Daughters promise to pray daily for the spread of

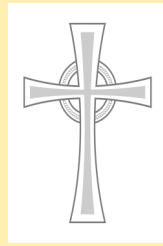
Christ's kingdom, for God's blessing on all members of The Order and for spiritual growth of their parishes. Through the Rule of Service, Daughters regularly take part in the worship, study, and work of the church, and work with their clergy. A Daughter is faithful in her personal devotional life. The Order is a spiritual community in a busy world where women with similar interests can pray, study, share together, affirm ministries and support each other.

As a constant reminder of our vows, Daughters wear daily the emblem of The Order: a silver pin in the form of a modified Greek Fleury cross with the Latin inscription, MAGNANIMETER CRUCEM SUSTINE, broadly translated means "with heart, mind, and spirit uphold and bear the cross"

The St. Margaret's chapter of The Order of the Daughters of the King invites anyone interested in becoming a part of this group to contact the chapter president, Jan Sims, at 478-747-0538 or simsjan21@gmail.com or contact the church office.



www.saintmargarets.net



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2012 VESTRY

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JOHN BARR, JUNIOR WARDEN
FRED DABNEY
CRAIG REEDER
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RICH HOFFMAN
LAURA BROWN
JIM THORNTON
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