



Maggie's Cross



ST. MARGARET'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

JULY 2009

Living in the Ordinary...*a letter from our Rector*

As I write to you today, summer is upon us, school is out, and the day-to-day rhythm of our lives has changed, if even for a short time. This change is also reflected in the life of the church. Easter is past, the schedule is a bit less hectic, and families within the parish are traveling and taking a well-deserved vacation to reconnect with each other and "recharge" their batteries. In the liturgical calendar, we are in what the church designates "Ordinary Time", the numbered time between distinct liturgical seasons. It is a time in which I feel it is appropriate to assess where the life of St. Margaret's is as we continue to grow and to worship together.

Unbelievably, I have been your rector for over eleven months. What an extraordinary time it has been! There is so much that has changed during that time. The preschool is changing and growing, the Men's Group is serving breakfast every Sunday, and our Adult Choir is adding members almost every month. In the past six months, we have added Lynda Kizer to our staff, updated a new website, and many ministries are growing and thriving. Children's choirs, the Women of St. Margaret's, St. Margaret's 101; I could go on and on. All of this, coupled with the extraordinary growth we have seen on Sunday mornings, is reason to give thanks and praise for the many blessings that God has bestowed upon this wonderful church.

The challenge for St. Margaret's is to continue the good works that have begun here in this parish. While we are in "Ordinary Time", we are called to be an extraordinary parish. With that in mind, I would like to share my hopes and dreams with you as we plan for the future. You will hear much in the coming months, both from the vestry and myself, about our priorities at St. Margaret's for the

coming year. What you need to know is that we are going to be very intentional in reaching out to the youth of our community, to pastor to them, and to get them involved in every aspect of our lives together. Here is what I hope that you will

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see in the coming months:

- A revamped Christian Education curriculum on Sunday mornings for our middle and high school students
- More involvement of our youth in the liturgy, i.e. reading, serving, ushering, greeting and choir
- Youth outreach and mission opportunities throughout the year
- For the adults, we are already planning new education opportunities for the fall, including a Friday night teaching series on Holy Matrimony, Financial Peace University, and an Alpha course during the Sunday school education hour.

In addition to all of this, the most ambitious challenge for us is the calling of a youth minister. I believe that our young people desperately need a full time youth minister that can help teach them about Jesus and empower them to live their lives in ways that are reflective of God's love for them. The world is an increasingly difficult place for our youth to

navigate, and I believe that it is essential for us to support each of them in their walk with Christ. It is my hope that by this time next year, we will have someone in place. I believe that God has already called someone to be the youth minister at St. Margaret's. The vestry and I are committed to doing all that we can to bring that person and all of his and her gifts to our community to be in relationship with us, and more importantly in relationship with our youth.

This will not be easy, and it will require sacrifices from all of us to make these things happen. We will need to continue to grow, continue to reach out beyond the walls of our church, continue to ask for God's guidance, and to invite more and more people into our midst. I believe that all of this is possible. What I have come to learn about all of you is the amazing capacity you have to do extraordinary things, even during the "Ordinary Time." With God, all these things are possible.

May God continue to bless us as we seek to glorify His name by being obedient servants of His Holy Kingdom!

Fondly,
Father Todd+



Log on to our new website:
www.saintmargarets.net

Info

November Women's Retreat (at Montreat Conference Center)

Save the Date for November 13-15 and plan to attend. For more information, call Dee Lawson at 704-814-6929.

Wednesday Weekly Mass

Each Wednesday at 7pm. Holy Eucharist, healing prayers and anointing.

Summer Sunday Breakfast in the Parish Hall

9:00—9:45 every Sunday. Prepared by Men of St. Margaret's. Please come and enjoy!

St. Margaret's Youth Group (SMYG)

Sunday's at 4:30 - 6pm Grades 6-12. Contact Rick at rjordanii@gmail.com.

St. Margaret's Preschool Registration

Register for our Fall 2009/2010 school year. Please contact Joanne Schmidhausler at (704) 243-3523.

Women of St. Margaret's (WOSM)

WOSM has an email loop to keep all women in the church updated about events, activities, service opportunities, and small groups. To get added to the loop, simply email Rebecca Bednar at rjbednar@earthlink.net

Men's Meetings

Come join the men's group for the first Saturday of every month at 7:30 in the Parish Hall.

Loaves and Fishes

In this continuing ministry each Sunday, we invite your children to bring a canned good up to the basket each Sunday during collection time. Please fill the basket to help feed the hungry in our own community.

Prayer Requests

Call the office with prayer requests or fill out a card at the prayer request box in the Narthex. Each Wednesday morning, Intercessory Prayer is offered here in the Prayer Room.

Congratulations Newly Baptized

Sara Delouchry

Henry Clifford Strickland

Nicholas Mackenin Ciaccio

Rachel Anna Pauline Sells



Congratulations Newly Confirmed

Kevin Carsten

Jerry DeBerry

Emily Dodge

Marti Hejl

Julie Jenkins

Hugh Laughlin

Cynthia Laughlin

Jake Liles

Abby Liles

Leslie McCorkle



Did You Know?...VBS is here!



Head out on a camping adventure this summer with St. Margaret's Vacation Bible School. Camp E.D.G.E. (Experience + Discover God Everywhere) is a trek to help children ages 4 through rising 5th become closer to God as they discover that God is with them at all times. The adventure is the week of July 20th - 24th from 9:00am-12:15pm.

Campers will start out at our base camp for songs, lessons and helping others through our mission project. Each camper will journey to different activity centers, such as Exploration Ridge for science, the Art Apex for crafts and the Rec Plex for games. Campers will meet different Bible characters along the way on the Extreme Bible Trek and stop on the trail for a rest at the Snack Express. This ministry is a fun and exciting way to teach children about God's faithfulness and love that is everywhere at all times. It takes a lot of faith, time and volunteers to create an unforgettable adventure for the children in our church and community.

There are over 40 volunteers who help with this week and make it possible to share the Good News. If you would like to give your talents and time for this ministry, there are still opportunities to help. We are in need of Bible story helpers, game helpers, and childcare volunteers. If you are unable to participate in the week's events, please pray for a smooth week and that God touches the hearts of the children and families, volunteers, and staff involved.

Each year the children work on a mission project. This year our mission is to help feed the hungry through the Society of St. Andrew. This society works with local farmers to take produce that doesn't meet market standards by size or appearance and send them to food agencies to feed the hungry. The Society of St. Andrew volunteers glean the vegetables and ship them in tractor-trailer loads throughout the nation at a cost of five cents a pound. The campers will raise money to pay for the shipping of the food. Please visit the Society of St. Andrew at www.endhunger.org to learn more.

Join the trek to Experiencing and Discovering God Everywhere! For more information please contact Joanne Schmidhausler at (704)243-3523 or email jmschmidy@carolina.rr.com.

MISSIONS MINDED

by Liz Odendeck

Our mission focus at St. Margaret's is to help those in need, with particular emphasis on women and children, and help them to develop self-sufficiency. We are seeking to serve needs at the local, national and global community level, and recognize that The Holy Spirit is alive and at work through us as we are invited to draw closer to Jesus Christ.

"And the King will answer and say to them, Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of Mine, even the least of them, you did it to me."

Matthew 25:40

What's Hot Now:

- **Stop Hunger Now** (International) St. Margaret's is raising money to support STOP HUNGER NOW, an international relief organization based in Raleigh. This organization is primarily focused on supporting school feeding programs where education is combined with meals. Just \$.25 buys a meal, and can help transform someone's life....

Once St. M's raises enough money, we will sponsor a food packing event. For each \$75 raised, a volunteer can pack (on average) 300 meals in a 2 hour shift. Charlotte is home to an Operation Sharehouse facility where packaging events are scheduled. This is a great activity for families because everyone can participate, both in the fundraising and packing events. **Bring on the quarters, dollars and checks!! Collection jars will be located in the parish hall and Narthex.**

Volunteers needed

Crisis Assistance Ministry
Saturday, July 25
9:30-12:00



- **Crisis Assistance Ministry** (Local to Charlotte) St. Margaret's is scheduled to volunteer on Saturday, July 25 from 9:30 to 12:00. We need to have at least 12 volunteers to work this shift; they will inspect, sort and hang donated clothing. Volunteers need to be at least 5th grade age or older. A volunteer sign up sheet will be on the Ministry table. Plan to arrive at 9:30 and enter via the Donations door. We'll get a brief orientation and then start working. Address is: 500-A Spratt Street, Charlotte 28206. Crisis Assistance Ministry would love for us to come with donations. A collection bin will be put at the Ministry table. What they need most:

- Men's clothing-summer seasonal wear
- Kid's clothing-for ages 6-16, summer wear
- Household goods (towels, blankets/sheets, pots/pans, kitchen utensils)
- Stuffed animals

What's Coming Next?

A Child's Place (Local to Charlotte) This organization is focused on homeless children here in our Charlotte community. As of March 2009, there were a record 2,749 homeless children enrolled in CMS! Every other month, A Child's Place donates two apartments for a family to occupy. Groups sponsor an "Extreme Apartment Makeover" to paint and furnish the dwelling before the family moves in. Everything from bath towels to pots and pans is needed! We'll evaluate available dates and gauge the level of support to see if our church family is ready to take this on as a weekend challenge. Other ongoing needs include daily school provisions to help the students succeed, including food snacks to substitute for lack of meals, and school supplies.

Mission Trip to Bay St. Louis, Mississippi (Domestic) United in outreach, a group of churches within our diocese has made semi-annual mission treks to support the rebuilding effort around the


Christ Church Episcopal community in Bay St. Louis since Hurricane Katrina. **Leaders from St. Albans Episcopal in Davidson are planning the next trip for this fall...and St. Margaret's is invited to participate!**

There is still extensive work to be done in the area, so there are many opportunities for adults of all skill levels to participate. The most important qualification: Flexibility! Many of the nearby residents are still trying to get back into their homes, and they suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder which limits their ability to organize their lives. The past several trips have been over a long weekend. Usually there is a construction manager on site, and an advance team arrives on a Wednesday to scope out the jobs. The rest of the work team would drive down Thursday, work Friday and Saturday, rest on Sunday, work on Monday and drive home on Tuesday. The 700 mile drive (12 hour trip with stops) would be coordinated on a passenger bus or pooled cars, depending on the number of volunteers making the trip. Cost is \$20 per night to stay at the air conditioned facility at Mission on the Bay (close to Waveland and Bay St. Louis), and would include breakfast and some dinners. Gas and supply costs for work projects would be additional since grant money is running out. More information to come as the dates and details of the trip are confirmed.

Mission Accomplished!

St. Margaret's has participated in the following mission activities:

- *Dove's Nest*: We provided all the necessary paper goods when their kitchen was being remodeled. We provided all their favorite picnic foods for their Memorial Day cookout. We received thanks back for the delicious feast they enjoyed outside in their backyard... good thing for the umbrella tables that provided shelter from the raindrops!
- Helping to build homes for families in Union County through *Habitat for Humanity*
- Providing food for the hungry with the weekly donations to Loaves and Fishes.


*To Proclaim by
word and deed
Jesus as
Lord and Savior*

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Telephone: 704-243-3523
Fax: 704-243-3541
website: www.saintmargarets.net

Rector: Rev. Todd R. Dill
Choir Director: Libby Tilson
Parish Administrator: Lynda Kizer

Preschool Director:
Joanne Schmidhausler

**SUMMER SUNDAY
WORSHIP SCHEDULE:**

Rite I Holy Eucharist 8:00 am
Rite II Holy Eucharist 10:00 am
Sunday School will resume in September

*Breakfast served from 9:00–9:45 am every
Sunday.*

Vestry

Senior Warden, Steve Keeney
Junior Warden, Howard Bender

Finance and Administration
Jim Warren

Outreach and Missions
Trish Furr

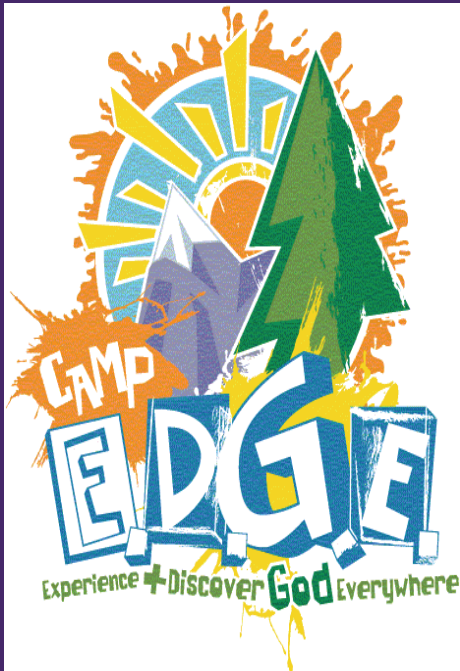
Communications
Marcy Keyser

Music and Worship
Dan Rushing

Christian Education
Kevin Sells

Pastoral Care
Ken Templeton

Fellowship and Integration
Eric Schmidhausler



JOIN US FOR:

VBS 2009

JULY 21-24

9:00–12:15

Details inside!



*“The Lord is my strength and my might.”
Psalm 118:14a*