



Maggie's Cross



ST. MARGARET'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

OCTOBER 2009

Seek first the Kingdom...a letter from our Rector

Years ago, when I attended college, I wasn't particularly faithful in my church attendance. I still believed in Jesus, but had lost my zeal to get up on Sunday mornings and attend worship services. (This happens quite often to college students!) I was too busy with studying, too busy with practicing my French horn, too busy hanging out with friends, and too busy dating my future wife.

After a few years of dating, Reg began encouraging me to attend church with her. After months of ignoring her requests, I finally gave in and agreed to try out some churches in the area. We went to the Methodist Church, the Presbyterian Church, the Catholic Church, and the Episcopal Church. Much to my amazement, all four weeks in which we were visitors at these different churches were kickoff Sundays for their Stewardship campaign! Four weeks of people I didn't know asking me for my money. Needless to say, I went back to my quiet life and did not try another church for two more years!

Money and the issues that arise around finances are often difficult discussions within a church family. In today's current economic climate, many families are struggling just to make the monthly bills. Mortgages, heating, air conditioning, cable bills, gas prices, car loans, school fees, soccer fees, etc. The list can go on and on. There never seems to be enough to go around, and the financial strain on families is very real. The church has not been immune to the financial struggles of the country, and in the midst of all of this, we are about to begin a vital program which will be an integral part of our shared ministry together; the 2010 Stewardship campaign.

What lies before us, beloved, is one of the most important years in the life of St. Margaret's. In the last year, our av-

erage Sunday attendance has increased from slightly less than 100 people on Sundays to over 260! Our classrooms are packed during the Sunday school hour, we have evening functions many nights during the year, we have a thriving preschool, we sponsor a Boy Scout troop, have an ever increasing youth group, and we have active Men's and Women's ministry in our parish. There is much to be excited about, and much thanks to give to God! He certainly has

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blessed us in this holy place!

All of these activities takes resources. To provide ministries, both within the church and outside in the community, takes the commitment and resources of our time, talent, and treasures. The Vestry and I have committed together that the next step for St. Margaret's is the calling of a full time youth director. It is vital to our young folks as we continue to grow to provide them with the resources that they need to equip them for this world. We need a program that will help our young people learn about Jesus, and help them to have a closer relationship with Him. This will take the dedication of every member of the church to support this endeavor with a commitment of financial resources to help make this priority a reality. With this letter, I am asking for you to pray deeply in the coming weeks and to pledge your support to this parish, both with your time and your money.

After years of resisting my wife's requests, I finally gave in and went back to church. What I then quickly realized was that I always had enough

time for Jesus, I had just convinced myself that I was too busy. The same was true with my money. When I re-committed myself to Jesus and to the life of the church, I decided to try and put Jesus first. I would first go to church to start my week, first plan my week so that I could donate my time to the ministry of the parish, and write my first check of the week to the church to fulfill our financial pledge to the work of the parish. Even though the money in our account and the hours in the day had not increased, what I learned was that when I had my priorities straight, there was more than enough time and money for God, and more than enough resources for mortgages, heating, air conditioning, cable bills, gas prices, car loans, school fees, soccer fees, and everything else that we needed. What went away were things that were not important, things that in reality I put before God.

I ask you to search your hearts and commit a pledge to St. Margaret's. I invite you to donate your time and talents to help propel the Kingdom work that we are doing into the world. I am asking that you put God first in your lives. As the Evangelist tells us, "Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you." (Matt 6:31-33)

The joyful tasks are set before us. Let us go together, dedicate ourselves in the Lord, and seek His Kingdom first in our lives, and in the world!

Fondly,
Fr. Todd+



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Important Dates 2

Did You Know? 2

Invitation for Stewardship 3

Office Hours 4

Info

November Women's Retreat (at Montreat Conference Center)
Few spots left...for November 13-15's retreat.
 For more information, call Dee Lawson at 704-814-6929.

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

Sunday Breakfast in the Parish Hall
 8:30—9:20 every Sunday. Prepared by Men of St. Margaret's.
 Please come and enjoy!

EYC-Episcopal Youth Community
 Sunday's at 4:30 - 6pm Grades 6-12.
 Contact Brian McCarthy(bcmcarthy@bellsouth.net) or Sue Powell (slkpowell@aol.com)

Rising Stars
 Kids in grades 4 and 5 are invited to attend this fun event every second Sunday of the month. We meet in the Parish Hall from 1:00-2:00. Please contact Johnna Fary at 704-243-0884 for more information.

St. Margaret's Preschool
 Please contact Joanne Schmidhausler, Director 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

- Benjamin Wallace Rhule
- Grayson Frank Rullo
- Emmersyn Jeanne Schoeller

Did You Know?...

- We ask that you not to bring in coffee, water bottles, or snacks into the worship space of the church. We appreciate your understanding and respect for our beautiful building.

Do you have a question you want answered in a future DID YOU KNOW? If so, please email parishadmin@stmargarets.net.

Mark your calendars...

- October 25:** Stewardship Kick Off and Chili Cook Off event
- November 22:** Commitment Sunday and St. Margaret's Day
- November 26:** Thanksgiving Day Mass 10:00
- December 5:** Saint Nicholas Festival

2009 Stewardship Campaign UPDATE



As you are considering your 2010 pledge, we are asking that you get current on your 2009 pledge. *Quarterly statements will be mailed to you by the end of October.

We are currently \$20,000 behind our 2009 pledge commitments.

We thank you for your prayerful consideration at this time of giving.



2009 Average Sunday Attendance: **252**
 Expenses to Date: **\$247,428**
 Total Offerings to Date: **\$194,696**
 Weekly Offering Needed: **\$6,708**
 Average Weekly Offering: **\$4,992**



It's in OUR hands

Giving Commitment

2010

Dear Parishioners,

It has been a remarkable year of growth for our parish. Our mission: "To Proclaim by Word and Deed, Jesus as Lord and Savior" is being realized in many ways. We have much to be thankful for as a congregation and we have many more opportunities ahead of us in 2010.

St. Margaret's 2010 Stewardship focus is 'It's In Our Hands.

So what does that really mean? It means that each and everyone one of us, whether you've been coming here for weeks or for years, can make a difference at St. Margaret's. As our church plans for 2010 and beyond we are asking for your commitment in helping St. Margaret's continue to grow and be a vibrant part of this community. *It's In Our Hands.*

We come together to celebrate Stewardship. We celebrate this wonderful parish family, celebrate the many ministries we offer, celebrate the outreach we provide. *It's In Our Hands.*

What does Stewardship mean? Stewardship means giving of our time (time), performing a special act of service (talent), giving a financial offering (treasure). Stewardship is a way of life and here at St. Margaret's, everything we do and everything we have involves Stewardship. Being a good steward of what God has given us is about giving back to God. God is the giver of all that we have and as such we are called to give back to God and to help others. Simply put, Stewardship is giving back to God that which He has put in our care. *It's In Our Hands.*

What has God given you? As you think about God's generosity in your life, what are you being called to give back to God in grateful thanksgiving? Where do you place the importance of giving back to God? Is it at the top of your priority list: Giving to God first or is it from what you may have leftover? What special talents do you have that can be shared with others to make a difference? All that we have and all that we are come from God. *It's In Our Hands.*

What can you do?

Pray – Include the St. Margaret's family in your daily prayers, give thanks for the fellowship we share and ask for God's guidance in your Stewardship journey.

Share – Join us each Sunday for Holy Eucharist, volunteer for a ministry; participate in fellowship events throughout the year.

Give – Give generously by making a financial commitment. Remember every pledge counts, every tithe matters.

We thank you for your prayerful consideration and participation in St. Margaret's Stewardship.

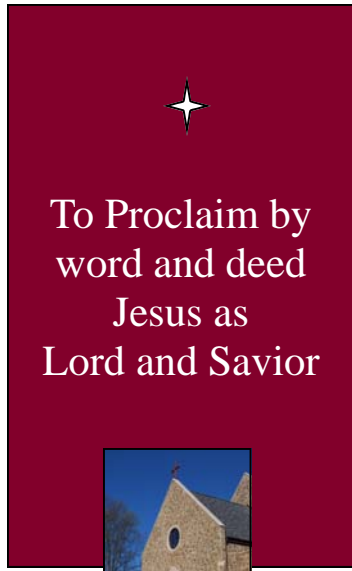
It's In Our Hands,

Jodi Rourke, Stewardship Chair & the Stewardship Committee

KEY DATE:

November 22nd: Commitment Sunday and St. Margaret's Celebration

St. Margaret's Episcopal Church



8515 Rea Road
Waxhaw, NC 28173
Telephone: 704-243-3523
Fax: 704-243-3541
website: www.saintmargarets.net

Rector: Rev. Todd R. Dill
Choir Director: Libby Tilson
Parish Administrator: Joanie Cameron

Preschool Director:
Joanne Schmidhausler

Sunday Worship Schedule:
Rite I Holy Eucharist 8:00 am
Breakfast 8:30-9:20
Christian Education for all ages 9:00 am
Rite II Holy Eucharist 10:30 am

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
Open

Fellowship and Integration
Eric Schmidhausler

Giving Commitment

2010

- Did you receive your pledge card?
- Are you receiving Thursday email announcements?
- New to our parish?

Contact parishadmin@saintmargarets.net with any questions.

Thank you.

St. Margaret's Episcopal Church

Office Hours:

Monday– Friday, 9:00-3:00