



Maggie's Cross

St. Margaret's Episcopal Church



DECEMBER 2009

Make Haste to see what has happened...*a letter from our Rector*

Advent, which translated means “coming”, is the Christian season set aside for preparation. Preparation for the recalling of the birth of Christ, and preparation for His second Advent. It is a time given to us by the Church for deep reflection and prayer, in the hopes that all Christians, whatever their circumstances, might come to know the power of peace that only comes through a knowledge and love of our Lord and Savior, who came to live among us, so that we might cherish him more completely.

While this is the expectation for all of us, it strikes me that this time of year is often the one of the most stressful seasons of the calendar. End of the year budgets are being closed out at work, our children have end of the year plays, parties, sports, etc. Everyone needs to make sure that we shop and buy all of the right presents for our family and friends, and there are plenty of year-end functions that we must attend. To top all of that, holiday travel adds yet another event to our already busy calendar. And the church is not immune to this dynamic. We, too, have end of the year parties, spaghetti dinners, St. Nicholas festivals, additional liturgies; the list could go on an on. The frantic pace that besets all of us can become quite consuming, and wear us down until we have

little left to give; to ourselves or to the Lord.

For some time, I have grown concerned that the added pace in our lives during this season makes it more difficult for us to encounter the Divine, the Holy Presence among us. But I have recently been drawn to the Scripture that recalls the wonder and glory of the night that our Savior was born:

“And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying:“ Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men!”

What is so striking about this passage is that the angel of the Lord comes precisely at a time when the world was busy! We do a disservice to Scripture if we convince ourselves that we are the only society that has ever been busy. They were busy with a census, which required hard travel and dangerous roads. Families were busy, laboring hard just in order to put food on the table. Busy, too, for the shepherds, who were likely not resting in the pastures, but hard at work tending to

the needs of the flock. Upon hearing the angels, the shepherds went immediately *with haste* to see this thing that had happened!

The reality of Jesus is that He can reach out to us, even in the busiest of times. While we shouldn't go out of our way to consume our schedules with countless activities, neither should we sit idle waiting for something to happen. Jesus reached Mary and Joseph, Jesus reached the innkeeper, and He reached the shepherds in the field, while they were busy fulfilling their purpose in the world.

My prayer for all of you during this Holy season of Advent, is that our Savior will bring you his Peace, even during the increased pace of the season. He brought it to Mary and Joseph. He brought it to the shepherds, and He can and will bring it to you, He can do it in the most surprising ways and surprising times.

Fondly,
Fr. Todd



Reminder:
Office Hours: M-F 9:00-3:00
Are you on our email list? We send out information each Thursday, and hope we are reaching everyone.
Contact:
parishadmin@saintmargarets.net

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Info

Congratulations Newly Baptized

Elisabeth Grace Bednar

Conley Edward Nicholson

We welcome you into the household of God.

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.

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 3:30-4:30. Please contact Johnna Fary at 704-243-0884 for more information.

St. Margaret's Preschool

Please contact Director, Joanne Schmidhausler at (704) 243-3523.

Women of St. Margaret's (WOSM)

WOSM is the Women's group of St. Margaret's. They participate and coordinate church events, activities, and service opportunities. All women of our parish are invited to get involved. Please call Caroline Reeder at 704-900-5530 for more information.

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.



10 yr. old "chef" Danny Schott was the winner of the best overall chili at our Stewardship Kick Off/Chili Cook Off event. Great Job Danny!

Stewardship Update 2010

Dear Parishioners,

As you have heard for the past few weeks, our 2010 Stewardship theme is 'It's In Our Hands'.

Fr Todd and the Stewardship Committee called upon each member of the St Margaret's family to prayerfully consider their commitment of their time, talent, and treasure toward the operation and ministries of the St Margaret's parish. By your response, you did that and we want to say 'Thank You' for your commitment to St Margaret's.

statement reflecting where you are in your financial commitment to the church.

On behalf of the Stewardship committee, thank you for your response and commitment to St Margaret's for 2010.

Every contribution of time, talent, and treasure makes a difference. It's In Our Hands.

With gratitude,
Stewardship Committee

...we want to say 'Thank You' for your commitment to St. Margaret's.

It's in OUR hands



Thank you for your financial and ministry commitment to St Margaret's. If you are not yet engaged in the ministry that you signed up for, you will be contacted by the Ministry chairs after the new year. You will also receive a quarterly

2010 PLEDGES TO DATE:

- 120 pledges
- 26 youth commitments
- \$310,000 to goal of \$400,000.

For those that have not yet returned their pledge card, please do so before December 31st.

STOP HUNGER NOW!

How do you prepare a meal for 10,000 people in under two hours?

On November 8, volunteers at St. Margaret's met in the fellowship hall and did just that...through Stop Hunger Now. SHN is a Raleigh, NC-based relief agency founded in 1998 with the commitment to end hunger through the distribution of food and life saving aid to children and families all over the world. In 2005, they created a meal packaging program called Operation Storehouse, through which over 18 million meals have been provided.

The program has perfected the assembly process that combines rice, soy, dehydrated vegetables and a flavoring mix including 21 vitamins and minerals into small meal packets.

Each meal costs \$.25, is easily stored for up to five years and is transported simply. Agencies in countries distribute the majority of the meals via school lunch programs because when children attend school, they not only receive nutrition, but also an education. With that education, those children are able to secure employment as adults, thus breaking the chain of poverty and hunger.

St. Margaret's received a grant to cover the \$2,500 cost of food supplies in exchange for hosting a packaging event. Fifty volunteers, as young as 5 years old, donned hairnets and gathered around assembly stations where ingredients were funneled into plastic bags, which were then heat sealed and boxed for shipment. Every now and then, someone would strike a gong, signaling the completion of another 1,000 meals, and a cheer would go up from the volun-

teers. While we worked, the SHN staff prepared several of the meals so we could experience a taste of the meal the children will receive...and it was good! Our work was given a new impact when we were told that our packages will be shipped to children in Haiti during the month of December and we will receive email notification from SHN when the meals are delivered.

For more information about Stop Hunger Now, please visit their website at: www.stophungernow.org and if you would like to help package meals, look for an upcoming packaging event in 2010. Everyone agreed we want to do it again!



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Mandy Watkins and her team all worked on the assembly line to help package 10,000 meals.

EPISCOPAL YOUTH COMMUNITY Update

The St. Margaret's EYC meets once a week either through meetings at the church, participation in community service projects, or just having fun at an off-site field trip.

We enjoyed the fall months with fundraising via the church's "Chili Cook-off" and participating in a Habitat for Humanities workday in Monroe. During the holidays we'll be involved in Operation Christmas Child, adopting a

family for Christmas and participating in the Bishop's Ball retreat weekend.

In 2010, we plan to travel to Ridgecrest, NC in January for YouthQuake and in the spring we plan to participate in the Happening, a local retreat.

Each month we'll have a service project and a fun day, such as go-karting at Nascar, laser tag or bowling.

EYC is open to youth in junior high and high school and newcomers and friends are always welcome.

EYC meets on Sunday's from 4:30 – 6:00.

For more information on St. Margaret's Episcopal Youth Group, please contact:

Sue Powell slkpowell@aol.com
Tracey Johnson tjohnson882@carolina.rr.com
Millie LaMonica mrsmlamonica@hotmail.com



Our youth and dedicated parents helped at the Operation Christmas Child warehouse.

St. Margaret's Episcopal Church



To Proclaim by
word and deed
Jesus as
Lord and Savior



The parish is invited to
attend monthly Vestry
business meetings.

They are scheduled on the
third Tuesday of each month
at 7:00 pm.

Please join us in 2010.

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



2010 Vestry

Senior Warden, *Jim Warren*
Junior Warden, *Dan Rushing*

Finance and Administration
Jim Warren

Outreach and Missions
Eric Schmidhausler

Communications
Kitt Kirchner

Worship and Music
Craig Reeder

Christian Education
Howard Bender

Pastoral Care
Kevin Sells

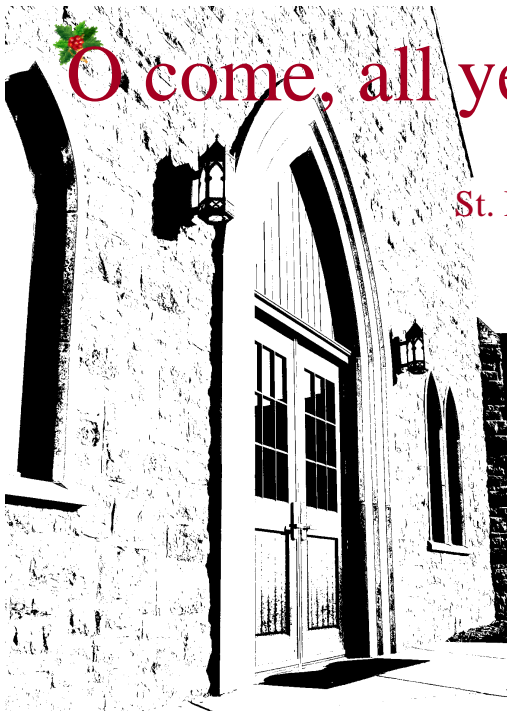
Fellowship and Social Events
Rich Hoffman

Integration and Stewardship
Jodi Rourke

A very special thank you to
outgoing Vestry members **Marcy Keyser,**
Trish Furr and Senior Warden, Steve
Keeney.



We thank them for their commitment to the Vestry over the last few
years and are truly grateful for their time and faithfulness to our parish.



O come, all ye faithful...

St. Margaret's Episcopal Church
2009 Christmas Service Times

Thursday, December 24th

4:00 pm
6:30 pm
10:30 pm

Friday, December 25th

11:00 am

Sunday, December 27th

9:00 am

Wishing you
a very
Merry Christmas
and a blessed
New Year.

Then the angel said to them,
"Do not be afraid, for behold I
bring you good tidings of great
joy which will be to all people.
For there is born to you this day
in the city of David a Savior,
who is Christ the Lord."

Luke 2:10-11