



## **St. Margaret's Episcopal Church**

### **Outreach 2011**

*"It's not about doing great things,  
it's about doing small things with great love".*

*Mother Teresa*

Over the past year, quietly and faithfully our dedicated outreach volunteers from St. Margaret's and our local community went about the business of helping children, adults, seniors, and families. Thank you sincerely to all who participated with their time, talent, and treasure in our efforts to change the world. If you are interested in getting involved in our outreach programs, please call Chet at 760-346-2697 x102.

#### **Highlights:**

**The St. Margaret's Outreach Center (SMOC)** fed, clothed and gave referrals to over 12,000 adults, children and seniors including 30 Thanksgiving and Christmas Baskets.

**F.I.N.D. (Whitewater Park Food Distribution)** fed over 10,000 hungry people in our community this year with a much needed box of groceries to help put food on their tables.

**Angel Tree** distributed holiday gifts to over 160 children and shared a holiday meal with over 50 children and their families at our Angel Tree Holiday celebration.

**The Outreach Bonus Bag** is a monthly supplemental food outreach program designed to help out outreach center families stretch their food budgets. In our first 2 months, over 100 bonus bags were purchased to give to a family in need.

**Camp Stevens** work crews from St. Margaret's are making regular trips up to camp to help with camp maintenance and other projects.

**Glean Team** our fruit gleaners have picked over 2,000lbs of fresh fruit and fed hungry people over the last year.

We are excited about what how we can Change the World Together by being involved in a greater way in our community, nation and world in 2012.

## **PASTORAL CARE REPORT**

During 2011 the Pastoral Care Committee has continued its ministry of reaching out to members of the Parish who are having difficulties with health, support, or other problems. The committee also maintains an active Bereavement program, keeps in contact with military families, has members who visit parishioners who are hospitalized, in nursing homes, or just homebound, and provides a conduit for requests to have Eucharist ministers visit.

The composition of the committee has changed during the past year, the greatest addition being the full-time participation and leadership of Fr. Troy Mendez. Having a member of the clergy always participating has enabled us to more fully attend to the spiritual as well as the physical needs of our church. Four former members resigned due to illness and/or job requirements. We have added one new member who is providing a much needed service in visiting patients.

The current membership is: Fr. Troy Mendez, Jean Smith RN, Kate Reeves RN, Jane Daugherty, Lori Meena, Ken Hughes, Ann Wilkins RN, Joan Minnick RN, and Gladys Martin. Two other people are associate members: Suzanne Peterson RN, and Dr. Tom Hathaway. We always have the assistance of Fr. Lane and Deacon Cherry when needed.

Respectfully submitted,

Kate Reeves RN, MA, CHPN

## **Family Ministries**

In the past year the Family Ministries at St. Margaret's has continued to strengthen and grow. In the Fall there were 6 family dinners, 15 parents and teens volunteered and led Kids Word, The Kids Zone at the Harvest Festival was a hit, the Camp Stevens work day rocked, the trip to Disneyland was magical, Acolytes were trained, Youth Choir continues, and Natalee Herrera and Lynn DeKock did an amazing job leading the youth group. The chair of the Children, Youth, and Family Ministries, Aimee Downer has done a great job coordinating events and meetings. Aimee also headed up the Christmas pageant with the help of Becky Hensley, Jo Bice, and Graham Sutherland. The Family Ministries had a great year.

# ALTAR GUILD REPORT

2011

## **The Altar Guild is a special ministry... our service is our gift to God and to our parish.**

The Altar Guild is, indeed, a special ministry! Imagine coming to a church service at St Margaret's and not having communion! Did you ever think of what it takes to make that happen?

- Order the elements (wine and wafers, including gluten free) and set out appropriate amount for each service (estimating numbers from previous week's and previous year's records for each of four services per week).
- Wash and iron the linens (purificators, corporals, fair linen, and hand towels) after every service.
- Clean, polish, and set out flagons, chalices, and ciboria (receptacles for serving the elements)
- Fill Eucharist candles and torches with oil for each service.

This is only the beginning of what is accomplished by the Altar Guild each week to ensure that the Eucharist will be prepared for every person who attends a service at St. Margaret's. During the Season, St. Margaret's schedules at least five services each week. Can you imagine the opportunities and responsibilities this ministry provides for those who love to serve the Lord in this important way?

- In October, we were blessed when Sally Hooper agreed to serve as Associate Director of the Altar Guild.
- One of our most important accomplishments in 2011 was the creation of the Junior Altar Guild, with founding members, Alexa Frederick and Carmen Frederick, who are currently serving as active members of the First Sunday Team.
- Our combined Altar Guild family currently consists of 30 men and women. We are singles, couples, young, and seasoned. We are widows and widowers, partners, young parents, students, retirees, and full-time employed. We are year-round and seasonal residents. We mourned the loss of two precious members, Joyce Hanes and Michael Campbell-Argyll. We are blessed with two new members, Debbie Reber and Shirley Pierce.
- The Altar Guild operates within a weekly team structure. Each team is chaired by a year-round member and assistant to share the responsibilities and to train the next generation of Altar Guild leaders. All members are provided a manual and ongoing training and support.
- Because we have the weekly team structure and new members, we work toward unifying the group so everyone will know each other and feel a part of the whole Altar Guild, rather than just their weekly team. To that end, we installed photographs with names of each Altar Guild member in the Sacristy and purchased name tags to identify Altar Guild members to the congregation. Each member is a blessing to us.
- We work closely with our three wonderful priests, with whom the Altar Guild meets for a Brown Bag Lunch/Meeting on the first Wednesday of each month throughout the year.
- We continue to recruit new members for both the Junior and Senior Altar Guilds. We especially encourage young families with students in eighth grade and above to contact us, as we are building the future of our Altar Guild from the roots up.
- Please call (760) 773-1980 for more information.

Respectfully submitted by  
Betty Baxter, Ed. D., Altar Guild Director

## **St. Margaret's Episcopal School**

SMES early childhood program was founded in 2002. With a small budget, 5 students and one teacher we opened our doors. We knew there would be challenges ahead.

But with faith and determination our program began to flourish and at present date we have 34 students enrolled with 2 lead teachers and 2 assistant teachers.

Some of the changes we have seen this school year are the removal of the two portable classrooms, the licensing of Lee 2 and Lee 3 and the transformation of Lee 3 into a staff resource room and preschool office. A few scheduled projects that we are looking forward too are; school community garden and sod to be laid on the Lee Field.

Patti Whittle  
Director

### **Membership Commission**

2011 saw many changes for the Membership Commission. The Rev. Troy Mendez arrived in July and one of his responsibilities was to guide the commission both in program and process development. He instituted the monthly Sunday Brunch for newcomers and with a cooperative effort of the sextons, membership group, Vestry and Clergy the Sunday brunches have been a valuable addition. To date, 55 people have attended the brunches. We are still working on a consistent follow-up to these occasions.

Another change for the commission is the name and function within the rest of St. Margaret's ministries. The membership Commission is now under "Community Life" and shares that identity with the events promoting fellowship. The name of the initial welcoming group is called, "Incorporation of New Members." Going forward, then, under the larger charge of "Build the Body" is a vision of cooperation between welcoming newcomers and parish hospitality. The fleshing out of this vision will continue through 2012 with the cooperative guidance of Troy and Chet Hecht (staff), the Vestry liaison, Rita Saari and members of both Membership and Hospitality Committees.

## **THE LABYRINTH GUILD ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2011**

St. Margaret's Labyrinth Guild had another successful year in 2011. Our season began in October of the previous year and ended in May. The evening candlelight walks were usually held on the third Wednesday of each month at 6:45 PM. These walks are partly an outreach activity, because about 50% of the attendees are from the community. The introductory speaker slots were generously filled by our adjunct clergy, who this year included the Reverends David Burgdorf, Dennis Maynard, Dan Rondeau, Clark Trafton, Joseph Lund, Bishop Shannon Mallory, Julie Christian, Alphonso Murray. The theme for each walk is based generally upon the liturgical theme of the month. In addition to the introductory talk, brief instruction is given for those who have never walked the labyrinth.

It takes an average of thirty minutes to walk the labyrinth, and there is always an opportunity to walk it again if one wishes. We suggest journaling after the walk to further enhance walkers' experiences. If you have not yet tried this activity, we encourage you to do so. The labyrinth is available 24 hours daily. Try it; you'll like it!

Respectfully submitted,

Alice R. Sleight, Chairman  
St. Margaret's Labyrinth Guild

## **Music at St. Margaret's 2011**

The year 2011 was a very full and productive one in the music ministry of St. Margaret's Church.

The Desert Friends of Music had another great year with outstanding concerts by the Cornell University Glee Club, The Westminster Chorus, The Bach Collegium San Diego, a fun "Showtime" concert of Broadway favorites, and organists Frederick Swann and Christopher Houlihan. Desert Friends of Music has continued to grow in national exposure as a respected music concert series. Special thanks is offered to the members of the Board of this great group and to all those who support and attend our concerts.

Appreciation is offered to all the donors who make our special days so great. A large number of people contributed to the unbudgeted music of St. Margaret's Day music for bagpipes, drums, brass quintet, timpani, choirs and organ.

The Festival of Lessons & Carols for Christmas was well received even though this year for financial reasons a full orchestra was not used. Only three additional instrumental

musicians were used. The Adult Choir was the best ever! A full church offered great appreciation to the singers and musicians for a beautiful service of music and readings.

Special appreciation is given for the great assistance in music to Frederick Swann, Craig Gahnz, Tom Barker and Rita Saari.

Special thanks also to all the members of the Adult Choir, Chamber Singers, and Youth Choir. Their dedication to our work together has allowed us to grow immeasurably in musicianship, fellowship as a community, and working well as a “large” small group.

Many organists from all over the country continue to stop by St. Margaret’s while in town to see our wonderful Quimby Pipe Organ which has gained national attention through our concert series.

John Wright  
Organist-Choirmaster

## **Community Life**

Enjoying being the people of God together is an active expression of our faith and over the past year we have gathered together for a variety wonderful of events and activities.

We have shared great fellowship together including weekly breakfasts, men’s prayer breakfasts, bridge groups, artist group, luncheons, and supper clubs. We have celebrated as a congregation and community together hosting our first annual Fall Harvest Festival. We have traveled together with trips to the Padre game, the Getty Villa and Camp Stevens. We have welcomed scouts, quilters, recovery groups and many other groups and clubs to meet here at St. Margaret’s. And, we have welcomed 2 new clergy into our church and celebrated one into the priesthood.

It has been a great year and we are looking forward to an exciting 2012. If you have community life ideas, or are interested in organizing a trip, program, event or weekly group, call Chet Hecht at 760-346-2697 x102.

## **Troy Mendez**

### **Annual Report 2011**

Reflecting on the year past in a report can either be a very introspective and formative task, or it can be very dry and mechanical. I believe the summary of my ministry thus far at St. Margaret's has been one of excitement and discovery. Excitement in the fact that there is new manifestation of God's joy on the horizon, and continual discovery, because St. Margaret's always presents new opportunities for me to learn and grow in ministry. In the little time that I've been present in the community, our parish has been able to create structures of ministry that will continue to develop, continue to form, and continue to realize Christ's presence among us.

#### **Pastoral Care**

The Pastoral Care Team at St. Margaret's is a committee of faithful parishioners who meet each week to respond to the needs of the parish. The team has explored new ways to approach ministry, and we have learned how to pray and share our own concerns with one another. The enthusiasm of the team to support our parishioners has developed into a quest to making sure that St. Margaret's is responsive to the needs of parishioners when they reach out to us. The Holy Spirit is empowering our parishioners to care for one another, and to bring the love of Christian community into situations that can be difficult, and even sometimes joyful.

#### **Newcomer Incorporation**

The sheer volume of visitors and guests that St. Margaret's receives from week to week confirms our excitement about building Christ's body when we discover new families and individuals in our midst. Since late August, our Newcomer Incorporation team has hosted over 52 new people at our monthly welcome brunches. In addition, we have been able to record information about newcomers and actively welcome them and engage them in the life of our community. Many who find St. Margaret's remark that our people are friendly, our church is inviting, and most importantly, they feel the loving presence of Jesus when they walk into our worship space.

#### **Christian Education**

Formation of adults is a life-long journey. Naturally, people will have moments of inspiration and joy when they encounter the loving presence of God through learning. Each program put in place this year will continue to build on one another, so that St. Margaret's parishioners can expect a full and diverse exploration of the Christian faith over a three year cycle. More classes will be developed, and more parishioners will see how on-going learning enriches and deepens faith.

Spiritually, I see St. Margaret's as a place that has been and will be a shining light upon the greater Church. Our people see the benefits of many years of perseverance and hard work. The gifts of the Spirit have been realized over and over, but I personally believe we are being called to go deeper. Yes, change is sometimes difficult, but what we are actually wanting is to know God and the loving presence of Jesus Christ in a more profound way. When we continue to discern Jesus' presence in our community, we continue to discover new directions and new possibilities. Every day is new day of discovery when the Kingdom of God has come near. The blessings of St. Margaret's are many. I have found a great presence of the Holy Spirit in the midst of this congregation, and I know, with God's help, we will continue to see a greater presence of Divine Love that exists for all of us. Thank you for the opportunity to be your Associate Rector.