



## ST. MARGARET'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Carrollton, Georgia

The Reverend Jeff Jackson  
Rector

ANNUAL REPORTS JANUARY 2019– DECEMBER 2019

### THE VESTRY

To serve through January 2020

Randy Coggins  
Paul Jarrell  
Eric McDonald

To serve through January 2021

Marcy Brewer  
Margaret Louttit  
Ryan Weber

To serve through January 2022

Randy Denmon  
Catherine Gordon  
Jeana Langford

**St. Margaret's Annual Parish Meeting**  
**Sunday, January 12, 2020**

1. Opening Prayer
2. Appointment of Secretary
3. Pass out Annual Reports & Budget
4. Prayer for Election  
    Vestry Elections
- (While ballots are being counted...)
5. Resolutions
6. Finance & Budget Report
7. Officer/Committee Chair appointments
8. Commissioning of elected Vestry Members
9. Other business/Questions?
10. Adjournment

## **Celebrating Life in 2019**

**“You are sealed by the Holy Spirit in Baptism and marked as Christ’s own forever”**

Baptisms:

*Vivian Long*  
*Elena Forero*  
*Gabriel Forero*  
*Zayvion Jones*  
*William Willox-Jones*  
*Richard “Ricky” Willox Jones*  
*Jasmine Willox-Jones*  
*Wynn Maxwell*  
*Hagan Russell*  
*Grace Russell*  
*Maxwell Griffin*

**“Defend, O Lord, your servants, with your heavenly grace..”**

Confirmations:

*Lindsay McCormick*  
*Myriam Vela-Ortiz*  
*Lara Willox*

Receptions:

*Janice Sundberg*  
*Lee Sundbert*  
*James Tollerson*  
*Stacey Tollerson*  
*Rebecca Hill*  
*Carol Moyses*  
*Gary Moyses*  
*Amy Shiflet-Whitworth*  
*Gail Whitworth*  
*Stephanie Hardeman*  
*Angela Elliott*

Reaffirmations:

*Galen Hobbs*

**“Into your hands, we commend your servants..”**

Deaths:

*Robert Coe*  
*Robert Claxton*  
*Phillip Martin*  
*Andra McGill*  
*Jackie Sopira*

## January 6, 2020 - Epiphany I - Baptism of Our Lord

Rector's Report 2019

Acts 10:34-43

Dear People of St. Margaret's,

If the season of Epiphany is about finding Jesus and giving him our gifts, like we heard the Magi did last week, then I think St. Margaret's has been living in Epiphany all year. Today, I'm giving my Rector's report to you in the context of today's sermon in addition to handing you a report so that you can hear from my mouth how proud I am of this congregation and the ways we continue to find Jesus and share our gifts with him.

Peter, in our lesson from Acts today, goes from being a fisherman with little to no formal education to a man who boldly proclaims that the love of God in Jesus is for all people to Cornelius, a non-Jewish Roman centurion, and his family. In finding Jesus, Peter is transformed and in the Acts of the Apostles, we see how Peter uses his gifts to do what Jesus called him to do to be a "fisher of people." In the same way, I see you, the people of St. Margaret's, doing the same thing. Because of your faith and love in Jesus, 2019 was a great year for St. Margaret's.

1. The Vestry's first goal was to develop a Master Site Plan, a roadmap to guide us through the future to better use and develop the gifts of our buildings and grounds. The Vestry appointed a team of people who engaged an architect, Randy Young, to guide us through the process of gaining feedback from you all, and then creating a plan that addresses our long-term building needs. That committee did a great job of listening and discerning, and I think we have a good plan. The next steps of that plan are up to the Vestry. What I learned from that process is that while we have a solid vision, we have some spiritual work to do before we can begin. We have to better utilize what we already have, and we have to address some financial challenges before we jump in fully, and that's OK. Sustainable growth takes time. Peter wasn't proclaiming to anyone the minute after Jesus called him. It took a while, and several mistakes before he got there. (Remember how he fell into the water when Jesus called him to walk on the sea, and how he denied Jesus three times? All of that was part of Peter's process.)
2. What continues to amaze me is the hunger for spiritual growth St. Margaret's has. This year sparked several new and continuing opportunities for people to learn together. So many of you have been engaged in Bible studies, forums, classes on the Enneagram and Deepening Prayer, Education for Ministry (EFM), Episcopal 101 and 201, Brotherhood of St. Andrew, and our first Parish Retreat. Our children and youth continue to grow with all our programs, including St. Margaret's hosting Vacation Bible School and our Core 4 Youth gatherings with the Presbyterians, Methodists, and Lutherans. Our choirs continues to grow and make beautiful music to enhance our worship. We've also started a Grief Support Group to walk alongside one another in the difficult times of life, which has been amongst the most beautiful things I've participated in at St. Margaret's. There are so

many ways for folks to expand their capacity for spiritual growth, and with things like the Bible Challenge we're doing now, I see that only increasing. In my opinion, this is amongst the most important things we do. This is where people find Jesus and learn to share their gifts.

3. Our community involvement has increased at St. Margaret's. From the ECW setting up a tent at Mayfest to Ashes to Go at UWG to Loads of Love twice a month to a booth at Carrollton's first LGBTQ+ Event to playing Rec Volleyball, St. Margaret's continues to be an active church in our community. That's not to mention the numerous boards and organizations that many of you volunteer for on a regular basis including the Humane Society, Child Advocacy Center, Rotary, Kiwanis, Circles of West GA, and many, many more. Every time you step outside these walls, you represent St. Margaret's, and you do so very well. When you do, you find Jesus there, too, and you share your gifts with him.
4. This year, we looked at the difficult topic of racial reconciliation. Our Lenten Series focused on local and global ways to address the sin of racism. I spent a week in Ghana, and made several presentations on the trip, which increased our connection and knowledge of our larger Anglican history and partnership with the Diocese of Cape Coast. This resulted in seeking a partnership with St. Teresa of Avila in Cape Coast and a visit from Bishop Victor Atta-Baffoe on All Saints Sunday. It is difficult to talk about such issues, yet when we look for Jesus in those who are most different from us, we find him there as well.
5. We baptized 11 children & youth and 15 people were either confirmed, received, or reaffirmed this year, which might be a personal record for me. We even sent one young man and his wife off to Austin, Texas for seminary! Talk about sharing gifts!

These are just a handful of ways St. Margaret's is finding Jesus and sharing our gifts with him. We have some challenges ahead too, like continuing to maintain our current buildings and grounds, determining ways to eliminate our Organ Loan and also increase our capacity to financially sustain the ministries we have, inviting more people of our diverse community to discover the love of Christ that we experience here, and better communicating with one another about who we are and what gifts we bring to the table. We're not done yet. But I do know this, if we continue to seek Christ in all that we do, we will find him. If we continue to shower him with our gifts like we did in 2019, then it will be Epiphany all year long.

I continue to laugh with and love this parish more and more, and I cannot thank you enough for calling me to be your Rector. I continually find Jesus in you, and it is my prayer that by the gifts God has given me, you continue to find Jesus here. Amen.

Love,

The Rev. Jeff Jackson  
9th Rector of St. Margaret's

## 2019 SENIOR WARDEN REPORT

### Senior Warden Letter

This report should probably be about what a great year we had as a church family and what a wonderful church family we are - ALL TRUE! However, it struck me that I was allowed to go on a wonderful journey over the past three years on Vestry. You see, I believe that I am who I am, have what I have, and do what I do because God gave me these gifts - and then said to share them. Over the past few years as St. Margaret's has grown spiritually, financially, and capably, I would wonder many times if these gifts were enough for me to handle the task at hand. I would look inside to see if I had the right answer to whatever the challenge was. There was seldom peace in there. God wanted me to look outside of myself and look at you. You are a gift to St. Margaret's. You are a gift to our community. You are a gift to each other. You are a gift to me.

So, instead of a report, I offer this: Thank you for sharing your gifts! Please keep doing so because I love this place and we need each other.

Eric

## **St. Margaret's Building and Grounds 2019**

### **Vestry Annual Report**

**January 12, 2020**

The following repairs and projects were performed in 2019:

- Pressure wash and paint the wooden fence behind the Bass House.
- Address leak above Parish hall with repairs made to fire escape exit door and landing, new hardware and exit signs added. Work performed by Langford Construction.
- New kitchen entry door installed, also by Langford Construction.
- Overseed of rye grass in early spring in courtyard behind the Callahan Center.
- Repairs to Bass House due to leaking hot water heater. Repairs itemized and submitted as insurance claim to cover repair expenses:
  - Flooring
  - Dry wall
  - Water heaters
  - Environmental inspection for mold and mildew
- Grounds clean up day with Brotherhood of St. Andrew.
- Purchase and mount cabinets for AEDs.
- Installation of labels and plaques recognizing Wilton Key and Susan Leneaus' gifts to St. Margaret's.
- Repairs to roof liner above Coleman Street entry door to address ceiling leak.
- Installation of landscape lights along pathway between Church and Callahan Center, and along path at the scattering garden.
- Addition of motion activated light on columns at rear of Callahan Center.
- Observed camera inspection of drain line from Parish Hall to Coleman Street performed by North Georgia Liners. Inspection determined blockage in drain at sidewalk. Obtained quote for cleaning of the drain line toward Coleman Street and drain line toward restrooms and kitchen, including plastic liner installed from building to Coleman Street. Repair scheduled for week of January 6<sup>th</sup>.
- Various maintenance items as identified by St. Margaret's staff and parishioners.

Submitted by:

Randy Denmon – Jr. Warden

<b>St. Margaret's Financial Snapshot</b>					
<b>2020 Stewardship Campaign</b>					
Total Pledge Units - 2020					128
Total Pledge Units - 2019					106
2020 Pledge Amount					\$482,000
2019 Pledge Amount					\$430,000
<b>Pct Increase in Pledge Units</b>					<b>20.8%</b>
<b>Pct Increase in Pledge Amount</b>					<b>12.1%</b>
<b>Operating Income</b>		<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>% of Tot</b>
Pledge Income		429,709	424,404	482,000	90.8%
Plate Income		4,753	4,093	4,000	0.8%
Non Pledge Income		31,629	45,379	36,000	6.8%
Endowment Income		9,000	28,412	9,000	1.7%
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>475,091</b>	<b>502,288</b>	<b>531,000</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
<b>Operating Expense</b>		<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>% of Tot</b>
Personnel Expense		332,862	374,230	367,968	64.4%
Diocesan Pledge		50,513	47,112	46,765	8.2%
Organ Loan		32,391	32,391	32,391	5.7%
Building and Grounds		56,350	53,803	58,572	10.3%
Supplies & Other		58,665	52,055	65,528	11.5%
<b>Total Expense</b>		<b>530,781</b>	<b>559,591</b>	<b>571,224</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
<b>Net Income</b>		<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	
<b>Net Income</b>		<b>-55,690</b>	<b>-57,303</b>	<b>-40,224</b>	

## **Report from Organist-Choirmaster**

As I reflect on the music program over the past year there are several highlights that stand out :

- Our series of Recitals and Evensongs have been well-attended and enthusiastically received. A few singers from outside St. Margaret's have committed to joining us on a short-term basis several times a year as we prepare for Evensong.
- Both the 9:00 choir and the 11:00 choir have seen significant growth in membership. We have even had to add chairs in the chancel on some Sundays to accommodate the growth in the 11:00 choir. The 9:00 choir has started singing some anthems in addition to leading in the hymns and psalms.
- New choir vestments have been purchased for the 11:00 choir.
- A joint venture between the music and youth programs, our two Church Coffeehouses were resounding successes. Funds raised by the event go to support the youth program.
- Copies of "Lift Every Voice and Sing", An African-American Hymnal, were donated to the choir by an anonymous donor, and further copies have been placed in the pews that were purchased by donations from members of the congregation. We are still hoping to purchase more copies for the congregation in the coming year.
- The Blue Christmas Service was offered in December and was once again a profoundly moving and helpful experience for those in attendance.
- When I think of the music program at St. Margaret's, however, what I'm most grateful for are the people who show up to rehearsals on a regular basis so that they will be ready to lead us in worship every week. It is this week-to-week commitment, rather than any singular special event, that is most meaningful to and appreciated by the membership as a whole.

Dock Anderson

Organist / Choirmaster

**Annual Report for 2019 St. Margaret's Altar Guild**  
**January 12, 2020**

St. Margaret's Altar Guild has had several changes in 2019. A major change was the retirement of Susan Lenaeus as Chairman. Susan has been a loyal and devoted member for fifty years, twenty-four of those years serving as Chairman. Her knowledge and devotion will be greatly missed. Special recognition, dedication of the sacristy in her honor, and a reception with food, flowers, cake, and parting gifts were held at the church on Sunday, July 28, 2019 to honor her. Susan thanked everyone who helped her through the years to make it a beautiful and meaningful experience to serve for such a long time. Marilyn Cusick was appointed by Fr. Jeff Jackson to take her place as Chairman of the St. Margaret's Altar Guild as of August 1, 2019.

The Altar Guild has also had changes in its membership with the loss of six members and the addition of two new members. Those leaving the Guild are Margaret Louttit, Julie Parrish, Debbie Covington, Laura Lenaeus, Ali Garrett, and Catherine Minor. New additions are Jan Uhlich and Cassy Nickle. We are always sorry to see members leave, but happy to have new additions. We could certainly use more members and anyone wishing to serve the church in a very sacred and devoted way would be welcome to join us.

Currently there are four teams which is one less than the beginning of the year due to the loss and shifting of members on teams. The teams are:

- \*Stephanie Turner, Jeana Langford, Diana Rash, Alice Robinson, Lindsey Langford, Cassy Nickle.
- \*Jane Lyons, Carol Bachus, Debbie Pyles, Elisabeth Coggins, Fran Robinson.
- \*Liz Key, Jeanette Bernhardt, Fred Bernhardt, Rose Dufour, Judy Link.
- \*Marilyn Cusick, Kathryn Grams, Betsy Sutton, Julie Lindahl, Jan Uhlich.

The Altar Guild had training sessions and meetings on May 5 and October 19 to learn and discuss changes and issues. Some of the changes implemented were the emphasis on spiritual guidance, larger priest hosts, a substitute list for altar duty, and recruiting of junior altar guild members. Reminders and issues of current practices were also discussed.

An inventory of all altar items is being conducted and will be completed within the next month. A few altar items have been retired due to wear. That includes the altar hangings for Palm Sunday and a few "holy" linens. A big thank you to Dock Anderson for providing deodorizers for the sacristy. A dehumidifier and some linens have been replaced. The Altar Guild has begun a "wish list" of items needed to bring the guild up to date. Among those items are a new set of altar hangings for Palm Sunday and various linens. Long term items for acquisition are pew candle torches and a votive candle rack.

It is with great reverence and devotion that the Altar Guild of St. Margaret's Episcopal Church serves in this special ministry of preparing the Lord's table for worship and every member is truly appreciated beyond measure.

Humbly serving,

Marilyn Cusick, Altar Guild Chairperson

# Children and Youth

2019 went fast! The Children and Youth Ministries have done so much and had a great year!

In the spring the Children's Ministry had the dedication of the Children's Church kneelers, a Zootopia Lenten Series about perseverance, Club 56 taught us different ways to pray, Easter egg dying and cookie decorating, Flowering of the Cross and an Easter egg hunt, Family Services, Sunday School and more!

The Youth had Sunday School, EYC, Trips to Camp Mikell for New Beginnings, hosting the Easter egg hunt, The Hunger Walk in Atlanta, Youth Sunday, and the two Coffee Houses.

The Children's Ministry got to partner with ECW and other ministries to promote St. Margaret's at Carrollton's Mayfest.

This Summer we didn't really slow down that much. St. Margaret's hosted Vacation Bible School for the first time, as far as my understanding is. The Theme was Roar and the energy of the kids that attended was infectious to all. We got to be a beacon of light to the children and teens of our community in a unique way. It was my first VBS here and it was amazing and fun to equip others to use their gifts to share God's love with Carrollton. We had around 60 kids registered and about the same for youth and adult volunteers making for a wonderful fun week. We also had two Lake days this summer, one for EYC and one for the Young Maggies. The Young Maggies had a swim night at the Midtown Water Park. At the end of Summer we went to Camp Mikell for the parish retreat. The Youth and Children love being at Camp Mikell! We explored our gifts and talents in different ways as we explored Camp! The kids loved swimming in the pool and exploring the creek on our hike. It was a special time to bond as a church family!

Fall brought us Back to Business! When we start our routine of Sunday School and EYC for the school year. St. Margaret's Sunday school teachers are the most fantastic and dedicated Sunday school teachers I have ever worked with. I am so grateful they are the leaders in our children's and Youth's lives.





We started a new schedule on Wednesday nights for the children and families. We have Family Eucharist the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month, and the 2nd Wednesday of the month we introduced Messy Church! Messy Church is a fun night of play and learning Bible and life lessons. It is a fun event that lifts your heart and reminds you how fun it is to learn through play. Our next one is January 15th from 6:15-7:15pm. All are welcome! The fourth Wednesday of each month is Family Activity night! We have played board games and carved pumpkins.



Another new event that came out of this year's VBS is the Core Four Youth Events. The churches (Grace Lutheran, West GA Methodist, Carrollton Presbyterian and us!) had such a good time at VBS that it was decided to get together once a month to host youth events that include social and educational components.



Later in the Fall, while the Children's Ministry sponsored the Pet Parade the youth headed back to Camp Mikell for the Fall's New Beginnings.

October brought with it the Pumpkin Patch!

A huge THANKS to all who helped unload the truck in the heat and for those who volunteered to sell. The Pumpkin Patch is a special event that gives broader Carrollton community a taste of who we are as a church. In so many ways this is one event that gets everyone in Carrollton to St. Margaret's!



This year's Monster Mash was really fun and after the event EYC youth went Pumpkin Caroling! We got to sing all the great Pumpkin Carols of the season. It made a lot of people's nights.



The first Sunday in Advent the Young Maggie's and some of our Awesome parishioners hosted an Advent wreath making day. It was so fun to see "kids" of all ages make their Advent Wreath to help get them ready for the season.



Rite 13 fundraised and bought Christmas gifts for Project Noel. EYC went to Jr. DYC at Camp Mikell in December, and the children worked hard rehearsing their parts in the pageant so they could share the good news with the congregation on Christmas Eve.

We had a busy and fun 2019! Thank you to all of our supporters and cheerleaders and a special thanks to the Sunday school teacher/facilitators and your EYC leaders. We are excited to make 2020 even better!



## **ST. MARGARET'S COMMUNITY OUTREACH**

### **2019 ANNUAL REPORT**

What a GREAT year at St. Margaret's Community Outreach! We continued to serve our neighbors in need through General Assistance and we served more people through the Hand Up Program (formally Intensive Care and Follow Through). We outsourced BackPack Snacks to Feeding Families supporting their mission to feed entire families for a weekend instead of just one child. Our food pantry continues to grow and Loads of Love has become a community of friends working together more than just "us serving them." We made Blessing Bags at the Parish Retreat and provided Christmas gifts to 31 children through Project Noel (each of the 11 Project Noel Families also received a family quilt sewn by two of our church members). And we continued our relationship with the local foster care community by assisting with the foster parent appreciation dinner and joining with a network of other churches to support foster parents and case managers with smaller financial needs for the families they serve. We attended State of The Community at the University of West Georgia and learned so much about where our most vulnerable live in our community and The Carrollton City Schools Homecoming Parade to collect those Paper Pantry Items. We supported other community partners by attending Empty Bowls and sponsoring a monthly meal at Circles of West Georgia. And we networked with other community agencies at Family Connection Strategy Team meetings and other networking events.

For all you do: for keeping our food pantry stocked, for putting coins in the washers and dryers, for keeping up with our database, for donating and wrapping and picking up those presents and putting together those bicycles, and making those quilts for Project Noel, for helping at the parade collection, for talking with our neighbors in need and letting them know they loved, for donating your money, for putting on and entertaining at the Valentine Luncheon, for SHOWING UP and most importantly for showing God's Grace to our most vulnerable neighbors by your actions more than your words - I say Thank You.

I would be remiss if I didn't also thank Marcy Brewer, the volunteers assisting her and of course my coworkers for jumping in when needed while I am out on maternity leave. Drew, William, Charlie and I know what a gift this time is and we couldn't be more grateful to all who are making this possible.

With thanksgiving and excitement as we move forward with this important work God has called upon us to do-

*~Meghan~*

## **St. Margaret's Community Outreach 2019 Numbers Served:**

In 2018, St. Margaret's Community Outreach provided 1,099 services to 325 households with 931 people (of which 463 were children) in those households. We gave 15 paper pantry boxes and 36 food boxes. We served over 300 volunteer hours not counting Loads of Love hours served.

## **Sources of Financial Support (*excluding SMCO Endowment Fund contributions*)**

Alice Huffard Richards Foundation, Amazon Smile, Carroll EMC Round-up Foundation, Carroll EMC Board of Directors, Carrollton Golden K Kiwanis, CoBank, Community Foundation of West Georgia, Community Donors (individuals), Gifts and Memorials, Kroger Community Rewards, St. Margaret's ECW, St. Margaret's ECW Valentine Luncheon, St. Margaret's Endowment, St. Margaret's Members, St. Margaret's Vestry, Tyus City Club.

## **In-Kind Donors / Volunteer Sources**

Bill Brewer-Lawyer, Carrollton Dawnbreakers Rotary Club, Carrollton City Schools, Carrollton Golden K Kiwanis, Central High School Show Choir, Chick Fil A, Community Donors (individuals), Community Donors (business/professional), Flower Cart  
-Grace Lutheran Church, Oak Mountain Academy Higher School, Oak Mountain Academy Middle School, Oak Mountain Academy Lower, Middle and High Schools, St. Margaret's ECW, St. Margaret's EYC, St. Margaret's Members, St. Margaret's Children/Youth Sunday School Students, Tanner Health System, University of West Georgia.

## **Ongoing Programs:**

Bread Ministry, Community Support, Food/Paper Pantry, Intensive Care and Follow-Through (ICF), General Assistance: Housing/Rent  
Food/Medicine/Health Care/Transportation/Utilities  
Loads of Love

## **Special Projects:**

Carrollton High School Homecoming Collection/Distribution, Project NOEL  
Zachariah Backpack Snack Program

## St. Margaret's Community Outreach 2019 Profit and Expense Report

St. Margaret's Community Outreach (SMCO)					
Profit and Loss Standard				1/2/20	
January through December 2019					
					<b>Jan - Dec '19</b>
<b>Income</b>					
	Cash Contributions				
	General Donations			118,688.62	
	Cash Contributions - Other			5,000.00	
	Total Cash Contributions			123,688.62	
<b>Total Inome</b>				123,688.62	
<b>Expense</b>					
	Misc. Office Expense			1,419.55	
	Fundraising			1,598.93	
	Refund			307.84	
	Check Printing Expense			146.96	
	Program & Services				
	Housing			675.00	
	Hand Up Program			20,406.33	
	Loads of Love			13,926.58	
	Misc. Assistance			1,259.16	
	Volunteer Appreciation			61.05	
	Circles of WGA Barrior Reduction			3,248.80	
	Community Support			5,619.93	
	ICF			85.81	
	Project Noel			3,599.79	
	Utilities			38,608.88	
	Clothing			305.95	
	Transportation			2,716.76	
	Medical/Prescriptions			564.07	
	Food				
	Food-Backpack Snacks			1,259.23	
	Food - General			42.66	
	Food - Other			80.00	
	Total Food			1,381.89	
	Housing			26,809.94	
	Pape Pantry			933.72	
	Education				
	Youth Scholarship			510.00	
	Total Education			510.00	
	Program & Services - Other			7.48	
	Total Program & Services			120,721.14	
	Travel and Meetings				
	Conference, Convention, Meeting			618.81	
	Travel			55.06	
	Total Travel and Meetings			673.87	
Total Expenses				124,868.29	

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

### **Worship Commission Annual Report | 2019**

#### **Worship Commission Meetings**

Meetings were held on March 4 and August 8.

#### **Worship Service Highlights**

- Lent included Stations of the Cross this year.
- Semi-quarterly Evensong services were held and included guest musicians and recitalists. The June Evensong included a recital by guest soprano Wanda Yang Temko and organist Paul Campbell. Former St. Margaret's parishioner, Lindsay Cunningham sang with the choir along with other visiting singers. The recital series will continue as part of Evensong services and recent Evensong services have been recorded.
- Family services continued at 6:15 during the regular year on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday nights.
- Children's sermons have occurred once a month at the 9 AM service.
- Youth lead worship every 5th Sunday.
- Summer worship was held from May 26 through September 8 with once service at 10 AM.
- Pentecost Sunday worship was enhanced and included processional ribbons.
- The choir officially took a break for the summer.
- Youth Sunday was held on September 29.
- St. Margaret's joined with other churches in the Diocese of Atlanta for the bell ringing event acknowledging the 400th anniversary of the beginning of the slave trade in America. A special service was held which included the bell ringing.
- New Consecration Sunday was held October 20 and included a guest speaker and catered lunch. Pledges were increased a second year in a row.
- On Sunday November 3, Bishop Victor Atta-Baffoe from our companion and partner Diocese of Cape Coast, Ghana joined us for worship, preached and served as celebrant.
- St. Margaret's Day was observed on November 18 and included a visit by Bishop Wimberly who assisted in numerous baptisms and received new members into the Episcopal Church and St. Margaret's. The master site plan was also presented between the services.
- The second "Blue Christmas" service was held.
- Christmas Eve: Services included the 5 PM Pageant, which had a record 180 in attendance, a Service of Lessons and Carols at 7 PM and the traditional 11 PM Christ Mass services with congregational carol singing prior.
- 9 AM services have been streamed live for those who cannot attend services.
- Approximately eight new lay readers have chosen to serve and include those who only want to read the lesson and do not wish to serve at communion.
- Father Jeff has put together informational videos regarding different aspects of worship including symbolism, worship spaces, giving, practice, singing and etiquette.

## Worship Action Items and Discussion Highlights

- Susan Lenaeus stepped down as Altar Guild chair and her service was honored with a plaque outside the sacristy.
- Marilyn Cusick committed to serve as the chair of the Altar Guild for a 3-year term.
- Emie Fleck is now the new Head Acolyte.
- Ryan Roenigk and his son Reese took an inventory of Books of Common Prayer and hymnals in the church.
- New choir vestments have been purchased that include longer surplices and cassocks with sleeves.
- Copies of a supplement to the Hymnal 1982, “Lift Every Voice and Sing,” was donated for use in the church.
- Future establishment of a junior altar guild and formation of acolyte teams.
- Healing services on particular Sundays are discontinued but will be revisited in the future.
- There is a continued desire to hold joint Evensong services with neighboring parishes.
- Future purchase and use of pew torches for special services such as Evensong, Christmas, and weddings was discussed.
- The separate St. Margaret’s music Facebook page was discontinued.
- Summer worship attendance has remained high, so two services will remain just like the rest of the year.
- It was recommended that lay readers not serve until they received current training.
- The last few years of average Sunday attendance (ASA) was discussed and what it means for the function of programs at St. Margaret’s.
- The desire for a children’s choir was discussed but likely not possible without Dock being fulltime. This led to a more in depth discussion of the growth of the music ministry and Dock’s current level of employment. The Worship Commission recommended its desire to develop a plan to move Dock into full time, in stages and as it is feasible.
- The Worship Commission and related ministries was represented at a joint ministry meeting to discuss the proposed master site plan.
- In preparation for the parish retreat held in August at Camp Mikell, the Worship Commission discussed the general needs and purpose of the worship ministry at St. Margaret’s which resulted in the drafting of a mission statement;

### Worship Commission Mission Statement:

To support the Rector and spiritual life of parishioners by promoting collaboration and planning between all ministries within the life of worship at St. Margaret’s.

Gratefully,

Paul Jarrell

## **Parish Life 2019**

One of the most basic functions of a Christian community is hospitality and table fellowship following Christ's own practice. Parish Life offers the opportunity to experience fellowship and to learn more about God's love for us through one another. Our Parish has a very strong feeling of family, and we welcome newcomers as family.

Please join us—we'd like to get to know you.

Activities for Parish Life involvement:

- Lenten Suppers
- Wednesday Night Suppers
- Ecumenical Service Sandwich Luncheon
- Newcomers Get Together
- Evensong Reception
- Ice Cream Social
- July 4<sup>th</sup> Picnic
- Fish Fry
- Back-to-Business Picnic
- Pumpkin Patch Hotdog Supper
- St. Margaret's Day
- Foyer Groups
- Epiphany Party
- Any parish time for food, fellowship, and celebration.

Parish Life depends on committee members and parishioners to help carry out the activities that occur all year long. For more information about getting involved in any of the Parish Life activities, contact Randy Coggins or Julie Foreman.

Parish Life 2019—Randy Coggins

## ECW Annual Report

“Our mission is to empower, motivate and nurture the women of Saint Margaret’s in utilizing their gifts and talents to serve Christ in the world.”

Saint Margaret’s ECW is a small but busy organization. We average about 15 to 20 women at each meeting. In 2019 ECW continued to have our monthly money-making project Feeding the Flock. Other things we did included hosting 3 Family Night dinners. We provided funding for 3 meals for Circles of West Georgia. We hosted our annual Valentine luncheon benefiting SMCO. This year ECW had a booth at Mayfest to promote St. Margaret’s Ministries, highlighting VBS and Outreach. ECW also hosted a reception honoring our seminarian, Andrew Gordon and his wife, Julie. ECW provided funding to purchase T-shirts for the children in Vacation Bible School and some members worked to help where needed. Let’s not forget the work in the Pumpkin Patch, St. Margaret’s Day Reception, our gifts to Project Noel, our gifts to the Youth, and our December Luncheon thanking our Church Staff and women for all they do to help us in our different projects.

Thanks to our ongoing money-making project called “Feeding the Flock” and all the women who cook and work the sales and to our annual Valentine Luncheon, we are able to share with the different ministries of our beautiful and loving church. Below is a chart showing our contributions for 2019:

Respectfully submitted,

Marsha Daniel, President

ECW Contributions 2019: Annual Report	
Amount of Contribution	Where did it go?
\$5,000	St Margaret’s Community Outreach (Valentine Luncheon proceeds)
\$1,201	Valentine Luncheon Expenses (Food, Flowers for Gallery, Cleaning Parish Hall/Kitchen/Restrooms)
\$800	Rector’s Discretionary Fund
\$500	Catherine Gordon Scholarship to Camp Mikell
\$375	Circles of West Georgia (ECW provided 3 meals)
\$100	Mother’s Day Gift to Molly Jackson
\$500	Gift to Andrew & Julie Gordon
\$250	T-shirts for VBS Kids
\$700	SMCO – Project Noel
\$400	Gift to Youth/EYC
\$500	Christmas Gifts to Staff (\$100 each)
\$100	Diocese of Atlanta ECW
<b>Total: \$10,426.00</b>	
<i>NOTE: ALL of our financial contributions are outside of the normal operating budget of St. Margaret’s.</i>	

## Adult Formation Report

The Episcopal Church website states that “Christian formation is the lifelong process of growing in our relationship with God, self, others, and all creation. Every experience in our lives can provide us with the opportunity to express our faith; the challenge we face is recognizing these opportunities and learning ways to live a sometimes counter-cultural life in a secular world.” In keeping with these views, the Adult Formation Commission set about to expand our educational offerings to reflect the diverse spiritual needs of the parish. These included:

- The Adult Sunday School Class - The adult class meets in the Vestry room between Sunday services which follows the lectionary reading for the day. This is the third year following the lectionary and the class will have completed all years by St. Margaret's day 2020. Ideas of moving on to a study of the hymnal are being considered.
- Contemplative Prayer Sunday School Class – The class focused on deepening the quality of the internal prayer life while exploring the corresponding effects of a prayer life on the external environment. References from multiple Christian writers and supported by Biblical verses and other spiritual traditions, scientific research and business process improvement techniques were added to provide techniques to enhance people's prayer life.
- The Ladies Bible Study - In 2019, the class joined the Episcopal Church worldwide in participating in the Good Book Club, studying the book of Romans with thousands of Episcopalians. They also participated informally in Lent Madness, which focused on saints from early days of Christianity until now. They studied Bishop Michael Curry's "The Way of Love" curriculum, and went on to Church History as told by Diarmid McCullough. They finished the year with Walk in Love by Scott Gunn and Melody Shobe. This was an in depth study of the Book of Common Prayer.
- EfM - EfM is a four-year theological education program for lay persons and is administered through the School of Theology at The University of the South, Sewanee, Tennessee. We all receive the call to Christ's ministry when we are baptized, and EfM provides the foundations of a theological education in order to develop knowledge and confidence about the ministry we all share as well as our own personal ministry. Many people come to EfM for in-depth Bible study, but find that growing together in faith and friendship is the most valuable part of their EfM journey.
- Biblical Matriarchs Class – This five weeks study of the biblical matriarchs was designed to introduce the parish to the history, significance, and spiritual legacy of the Mothers of the Faith. While intensely focused on a textual analysis of Genesis and the Gospels, the course also introduced realms of study not often explored in such offerings. Including: Jewish theology and philosophy, Islamic history, Black Liberation Theology, Liberation Theology, and Gender Studies.
- Episcopal 101 and 201 – Fr. Jeff offered both Spring and Fall catechism classes with confirmations being made from each. Additionally, he offered a summer 201 class which was a 16 week in depth look at the Prayer Book, and Episcopalian customs and practices. These have been well received as parishioners seeking to understand the Episcopalian expression of their faith more clearly.
- Ghana Pilgrimage Series - During the Easter season Fr. Jeff offered a Sunday school offering highlighting his recent pilgrimage to our companion diocese of Cape Coast, Ghana. The series focus on the lasting legacy of the transatlantic slave trade and colonization, the Anglican Communion

participation in those institutions, and the current efforts to heal the lasting wounds through racial reconciliation. This series resulted in the formation of a committee to explore continuing the conversation, comprised of Catherine Gordon, Joshua Waits, and Randy Hill. They presented a resolution to the Vestry to seek a Sister-Church partnership with St. Teresa of Avila in Cape Coast. This was approved by the Vestry and Bishop Wright, as well as the Bishop and Vestry of St. Teresa, Cape Coast.

- The Adult Forum – The Adult Forum is well established at St. Margaret’s. The Wednesday Night Lecture series bring in experts and speakers on a variety of ethical and moral questions of our day, and encourages the parish to think deeper about these issues, and how best we can respond to the needs of our community and beyond.
- Centering Prayer Group - Centering Prayer is a method of meditation used by Christians placing a strong emphasis on interior silence. The Centering Prayer group meets on Wednesdays in the Vestry room. The practice involves the facilitator reading a poem or insight. Following that, silent prayer for 20 minutes, then reading excerpts from selected books on contemplative prayer, and closing with some form of The Lord's Prayer. The practice is designed to guide participants into deeper prayer and calmness of mind.
- Parish Retreat - Retreat was the first of its kind for St. Margaret’s. The goal for the Retreat was for participants to “connect” with each other and with Camp Mikell and to learn about themselves, their “spiritual giftedness,” and their places in the “weave” of St. Margaret’s and beyond.
- Advent Mini-series - Purpose was to “bring home the Retreat” by sharing highlights from the Retreat and bring more of our St. Margaret’s family to a common place, so that together we can continue the conversation.
- Volleyball – because the commission believes that formation occurs in all areas of life, and that fun and fellowship constitutes as some of the strongest ways to build a person up spiritually, we organized a church Volleyball team to compete in the city league.

As we move into 2020 we plan to continue and expand the offerings we have. We are looking into forming a more unified curriculum to focus study on a parish wide bases. To that end we are encouraging the parish to take part in the Bible Challenge, a program that encourages congregations to read the entire Bible in a year. We have asked Hugh Russell to continue his Sunday school class, which will be moving on from prayer into larger themes of personal spiritual practices. A Lenten series is being developed focusing on a biblical and contemplative reflection on the Stations of the Cross. Additionally, Catherine Gordon has purposed a Vision 2020 theme that focuses on the various gifts and ministries of St. Margaret, as this develops<sup>6</sup> the commission will stand by to support and assist in any way we are able. 2019 was great year for formation at St. Margaret’s and we look forward to seeing how we continue to grown in this coming year.

Adult Formation Commision  
Joshua Waits - Chair

## **PASTORAL CARE COMMISSION REPORT JANUARY 2020**

Let all that you do be done in love.  
1 Corinthians 16:14

The heart of pastoral care is to be sensitive and attentive to the needs of parishioners...nourishing and supporting each other in times of need, and celebrating with each other during times of joy.

St. Margaret's Pastoral Care Commission and Father Jeff continue to meet monthly to pray for parishioners currently experiencing pastoral care needs. Assignments are made to team members if any action or response is indicated. The Commission then writes cards to parishioners who will celebrate birthdays or anniversaries in the coming month. Between meetings new prayer requests or updates are communicated via email or texts.

This year Father Jeff and the Pastoral Care Commission began a monthly grief support group. Co-led by Father Jeff and Hugh Russell, the group provides a safe space for those who are grieving to share (if they want), to learn how others cope and deal with grief, and above all to walk through the valley of grief in community. The group meets on the third Thursday of each month and is open to all who may be experiencing any kind of grief.

Resource Teams demonstrate God's love by extending love, support and practical help to parishioners in a variety of ways. During 2019 our teams prepared and delivered meals to parishioners following the loss of a loved one, to those experiencing illness or medical challenges and to families celebrating the birth of a child. When requested our teams assisted with receptions following a funeral. Other teams provided transportation to parishioners who cannot drive to church or to medical appointments; completed minor home repairs; visited parishioners in nursing homes or the hospital; or offered brief respite care for caregivers. Lay Eucharistic Visitors brought Communion to homebound or hospitalized parishioners. Other Resource Teams offered tangible reminders (e.g., care notes, prayer shawls, afghans) to remind parishioners that the church is praying for them during times of joy as well as during times of sorrow or illness. A list of Pastoral Care Resource Teams is included at the end of this report.

Please contact Marsha Solomon (770 712-4540, [doctormsolomon@aol.com](mailto:doctormsolomon@aol.com)) or Julie Foreman, Parish Administrator (770-832-3931, [stmargaretsga@gmail.com](mailto:stmargaretsga@gmail.com)) to let us know of any pastoral care needs that you your family are facing.

Respectfully submitted,  
Marsha Solomon, Pastoral Care Commission Chairperson

## **PASTORAL CARE RESOURCE TEAMS**

If you're interested in becoming part of a resource team please contact Marsha Solomon (770 712-4540 or [doctormsolomon@aol.com](mailto:doctormsolomon@aol.com)).

## **PASTORAL CONVERSATIONS**

Parish clergy are available to meet with parishioners to explore life issues. Please call the church office (770 832-3931) to schedule an appointment.

## **CARE NOTES/CALLS**

Holidays and birthdays without the presence of a loved one can be lonely, and the first anniversary of a loved one's death is often a time of renewed grief or sadness. Illness or surgery can cause anxiety. We're ready with a note or a phone call as a reminder that God's love is always present and that we stand together during challenging life circumstances. Cards are also sent to those celebrating birthdays, anniversaries or birth of a child...

## **PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY**

Prayer shawls or afghans are knitted or crocheted with tender loving care by many of our church members. They are often delivered to those experiencing an illness or grief.

## **TRANSPORTATION**

For those able to attend church but unable to drive, this ministry offers transportation to church services on Sunday, as volunteers are available. Rides to and from medical appointments can be arranged on an as needed basis.

## **MEAL DELIVERY**

Meals are provided to parishioners who are ill or grieving. Please communicate any special dietary needs to the volunteer at the time the meal is set up.

## **FAMILIES WITH NEWBORNS**

A newborn baby is a joyous occasion, but with this bundle of joy comes overwhelming responsibility and demand for time and energy. Volunteers are ready with a meal, baby rearing advice, or maybe just a phone call.

## **EUCHARISTIC VISITORS**

Communion may be taken to parishioners who are homebound or are temporarily unable to come to church. Both clergy and Lay Eucharistic Visitors are available to provide this holy and sacred sacrament that most completely demonstrates God's love for us.

## **FUNERAL RECEPTIONS**

If desired, a reception may be held in the parish hall following a funeral or memorial service for a church member.

## **MINOR MAINTENANCE REPAIR**

Minor maintenance repairs, safety checks and adaptability modifications such as handrails, grab bars, faucet levers to allow parishioners to stay safely in their home.