

ST. MARGARET'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Carrollton, Georgia

The Reverend Jeff Jackson

Rector

ANNUAL REPORTS JANUARY 2020– DECEMBER 2020

THE VESTRY

To serve through January 2021

Marcy Brewer

Margaret Louttit

Ryan Weber

To serve through January 2022

Randy Denmon

Catherine Gordon

Jeana Langford

To serve through January 2023

Juan Forero

Sarah Jones

Ryan Roenigk

TO BE SELECTED: Three vestry persons to serve full terms of three years

St. Margaret's Episcopal Church
Annual Parish Meeting January 24, 2021

Agenda

1. Opening Prayer Father Jeff

Almighty and everliving God, source of all wisdom and understanding, be present with those who take counsel in St. Margaret's Episcopal Church for the renewal and mission of your Church. Teach us in all things to seek first your honor and glory. Guide us to perceive what is right, and grant us both the courage to pursue it and the grace to accomplish it; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

2. Appoint Julie Foreman as secretary

3. Vestry Elections

+Who can be elected to Vestry:

1. Be a confirmed member of the Episcopal Church enrolled as a member of the parish, 18 years of age or older.
2. Have been regular in attendance at the services of the church in the year preceding election.
3. Made and maintained a financial commitment to the parish, known to the treasurer, in the year preceding election.

+ NO Nominations from the floor

+Motion to close nominations

+Prayer for election

Almighty God, giver of every good gift: Look graciously on your Church, and so guide the minds of those who shall choose Vestry members of this parish, that we may receive faithful leaders, who will care for your people and equip us for our ministries; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

+ VOTE by acclamation or announce winners.

4. Thanksgivings for Ministries

+ Resolution honoring those who have served

Resolution:

Whereas **Marcy Brewer** has served a full 3-year term on the Vestry, 1 year as Senior Warden, and as liaison for Outreach, and

Whereas **Margaret Louttit** has served a full 3-year term on the Vestry as liaison for Children's Ministries and Pastoral Care, and

Whereas **Ryan Weber** has served a full 3-year term on the Vestry as liaison for Adult Formation, and

Whereas **Brenda Hattaway** served this year on the Vestry as liaison for Communications, and

Whereas **Marcy Brewer, Randy Denmon, Jeana Langford, and Margaret Louttit** served as representatives to Diocesan Annual Council in 2020, and

Whereas **Marsha Daniel, Catherine Gordon, Brenda Hattaway, Carol Bachus** have served as officers of ECW,

Be it resolved that the Rector, Vestry, Staff, and congregation of St. Margaret's Episcopal Church give our most sincere gratitude and love to these individuals for their service to Christ and his Church.

+ Moment of silence for those members we lost this year:
Randy Turner, Fran Chalfant, Larry Ashmore

+Thanksgivings for Staff (Julie, Meghan, Dock, Debra)

+Thanksgiving for Marcy Brewer & Randy Denmon as wardens

5. Finance & Budget Report - Craig Williard, Ryan Roenigk, Bill Parrish

6. Committee Appointments

- +Senior Warden – Ryan Roenigk
- +Junior Warden elected by Vestry at next meeting
- +Treasurer – Craig Williard
- +Children & Youth Ministries –
- +Communications –
- + Outreach –
- + Pastoral Care – Marsha Solomon
- + Parish Life –
- + Building & Grounds –
- + Hospitality –
- + Worship – Paul Jarrell
- + Adult Formation - Joshua Waits
- + Finance
- + Stewardship -
- + Altar Guild - Marilyn Cusick
- + Lay Readers - Jo Fortner
- + Ushers - Randy Denmon
- + Acolytes - Wright Roenigk

7. Commissioning of Vestry

The Celebrant says these or similar words

Brothers and Sisters in Christ Jesus, we are all baptized by the one Spirit into one Body, and given gifts for a variety of ministries for the common good. Our purpose is to commission *these persons* in the Name of God and of this congregation to a special ministry to which *they are* called.

The Celebrant asks the sponsor or sponsors

Are these persons you are to present prepared by a commitment to Christ as Lord, by regular attendance at worship, and by the knowledge of *their* duties, to exercise *their* ministry to the honor of God, and the well-being of his Church?

Sponsor

I believe they are.

The Celebrant then says these or similar words

You have been called to a ministry in this congregation. Will you, as long as you are engaged in this work, perform it with diligence?

Candidate

I will.

Celebrant

Will you faithfully and reverently execute the duties of your ministry to the honor of God, and the benefit of the members of this congregation?

Candidate

I will.

Wardens and Members of the Vestry

Sponsor

I present to you *these persons* to be admitted to the ministry of Member of the Vestry in this congregation.

Antiphon

The Lord gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding; he stores up sound wisdom for the upright; he is a shield to those who walk in integrity.

V. I am your servant; grant me understanding:

R. That I may know your decrees.

Let us pray. (*Silence*)

O Eternal God, the foundation of all wisdom and the source of all courage: Enlighten with your grace the Vestry of this congregation, and so rule their minds, and guide their counsels, that in all things they may seek your glory and promote the mission of your Church; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

In the Name of God and of this congregation. I commission you [N.] as Member of the Vestry in this Parish.

8. Next Vestry meeting – Feb. 5 & 6 (Second Tuesday of each month at 6:00pm)

9. Q & A

10. Vote to adjourn

Rector's Report 2020

January 24, 2020

Dear St. Margaret's,

As I reflect on the last year of ministry, I can't help but feel relieved about having made it through 2020, and also hopeful about what lies ahead for us. Our year started off with so much promise as we pledged to renew our ministries with our Vision 2020 effort. Sadly, we weren't able to complete that renewal, yet we renewed ministry in a completely different way. In the first weeks of the pandemic, everything shut down, and we began this marathon effort to be the Church even when we couldn't go to church. I've said often that this has been the hardest chapter of my ministry to date, but with that difficulty has also come a tremendous amount of grace and gratitude.

There are many things that make me proud of our church. Despite this pandemic, St. Margaret's has pulled together in many different ways. Our congregation's generosity during this time has been unparalleled, which has sustained us in some very uncertain times. We have cared for one another, and checked in on one another, offering gifts of love and notes of kindness. We have worshipped with one another in ways we never expected and opened a new virtual window into our liturgy for everyone to see. We dug in deeply into the Bible and read it all the way through, some of us for the first time. We prayed, and prayed, and prayed together, often 4 times a day! We stood for justice in a time when people in our local and national communities cried out for it. We listened when our community called upon us to help the homeless and kept people sheltered when they needed it most. We sang even when we couldn't sing in person. We created space for our children and youth to continue learning about the God who loves them unconditionally. We have adapted and innovated, pivoted and persevered. That is something worth celebrating.

I want to thank our incredible Staff - Julie, Meghan, Dock, & Debra - who all had to reinvent their jobs. These are the folks with whom I am grateful to be in the foxhole in the midst of this global crisis. I also want to thank one of the most incredible Vestries I have ever worked with - Marcy, Randy, Margaret, Ryan, Jeana, Brenda, Juan Carlos, Ryan, and Catherine. They went above and beyond their call of duty as well. Many of our Commissions also galvanized and adapted our ministries in new ways. I am also really proud of so many of our parishioners who have solidified their commitment to St. Margaret's during this time with their virtual presence. Just being there, even online, even if you don't like it, matters. Lastly, I want to say a special thank you to Molly, Tai, Bronwyn, Liam, and Grey, who have supported and carried St. Margaret's at a time when no one else could. I literally don't know what I would do without them.

Yet, I know that several of you are frustrated, tired, dissatisfied, and concerned, and I share those sentiments. There are many things we cannot change about where we are. We await further instructions from the Bishop on what we are able to do in terms of worship, while also maintaining a safe environment for our most vulnerable members. We continue to do the things we can do and adapt as we need to respond to the needs of our members and the community. The only things that *can* change is how we approach this strange dynamic we're in. Being innovative, taking initiative, reaching out, getting together in small, safe ways, and talking to one another will help. Here are a few tips that I highly recommend if you are feeling disconnected from St. Margaret's and truly desire to be more connected:

1. **Commit to Worship:** Worship however you can. No, online worship is not better than in-person, we all know that, but it's what we've got for now. Lean into it. Create a sanctuary in your home. Read the liturgy as a family, each taking a part. Only play the parts of the livestream service that you want to hear, like the hymns or the prayer list or the readings. Call up a few St. Margaret's people and/or other neighbors and commit to gathering safely on their porch to watch the service together and then discuss the sermon afterwards. There are truly a million great ways to worship during these days and you have the unique opportunity to create worship that fits your life!
2. **Commit to Study:** Attend some kind of Formation class. If there's nothing we're offering that you're interested in, start a book club or a discussion group of your own on a topic that matters to you. Let us be a resource to helping you find a small group that you can connect with.
3. **Commit to Serve:** Join a Commission. Worship. Adult Formation. Children's Ministries. Youth Ministries. Buildings & Grounds. Communications. Hospitality. Outreach. Pastoral Care. Parish Life. Finance & Stewardship. Episcopal Evangelism. There are so many options and these will help you understand our ministries more and help you use your gifts and ideas to make these ministries even better. Some of these ministries require some in-person gathering in small groups even in the building if you want to connect that way. If Zoom meetings aren't your thing, contact a Commission chair and ask them what ministries need some help.
4. **Commit to Prayer:** We pray 4 times a day together as a parish: 8:30am, 12noon, 5:30pm, & 8:00pm on Facebook. If that's not a way you enjoy praying, then set aside some time during the day to pray by yourself or with a few others. Let us be a resource to help guide you to a way of prayer that works for you. Also, if you didn't know, we can allow our sanctuary to be

open for people to come and pray by themselves or in small groups. Just contact us and we will let you in.

5. **Commit to Making an Appointment With Your Priest:** I am slowly making my way to connect with parishioners, but we have quite a few, and I don't always know which ones want me to buzz off or which ones are struggling. So take the first step if you have something on your mind. I love taking a walk, or a run, or sitting outside or on a porch with a cup of coffee or tea, especially with you.

If you do these 5 things, I promise you will feel better. I don't know how long this season will last, but I do know that we will be a new St. Margaret's when we get through it. I am grateful that St. Margaret's is the parish that God gave me to be with in the midst of COVID-19. I love you all dearly, I care about you all deeply, and I pray for you all daily.

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

Senior Warden 2020 Annual Report

Dear St. Margaret's family,

A little over a year ago Jeff asked me to serve as Senior Warden for the 2020 year. He explained that he saw me as being frequently present at church functions, and also at the office in my duties as Outreach volunteer. He was looking forward to my representing the Vestry at church activities and also being able to be available to meet with him on a regular basis to sort and review the workings of the parish, and to be his sounding board and support. When I accepted, I told him I wouldn't promise to be ALWAYS present and available, but would do my best. Then ... Covid.

So, obviously, this year didn't go quite as expected, and my presence was not nearly as frequent. When we were told we could no longer work from, or meet in the church offices, I felt at a loss as to how to perform my Senior Warden duties. Jeff and I talked on the phone some, and certainly texted often, but the inability to relate to all of you was frustrating to say the least. As restrictions lifted some, and we were allowed to get back to the offices, we kind of developed our own new routine, masks on, 6 feet distant.

As I look back on all this now, I realize how lucky I have been to be able to make those connections, even during this time of social isolation. I know many of you are feeling separated from your church building and your church family. If I could change that for every one of you, I would. It will get better, but is likely to remain different. In the meantime, when you are feeling separated or isolated, be present. Call someone, put on your mask and come by and wave at us in the outreach office, or make an appointment with Jeff, or Meghan, or me or whoever, and mask up and have an outside meeting, or lunch in the grove. Join a virtual coffee hour, pray along with a daily office. I miss you all so much, and long for the warmth and peace of our traditional worship space.

It's been an honor, both to work with The Reverend Jeff Jackson, and to serve all of you.

Marcy

St. Margaret's Building and Grounds 2020

Vestry Annual Report

January 24, 2021

The following repairs and projects were performed in 2020:

- In February, North Georgia Liners performed cleaning of the drain line between Coleman Street and the Parish Hall restrooms and kitchen. Work including plastic liner installed in pipe from building to Coleman Street city sewer pipe. A clean out was also installed in the drain line outside the Gallery door to Newnan Street.
- Grounds clean up day with Brotherhood of St. Andrew in October.
- Settlement of Insurance claim for campus roof repairs was completed in November. Worked with Paul Stein, roof contractor, and Robert Dunlap, Claim Adjuster, to assure claim payments cover repairs with no out-of-pocket expenses paid out of Operating funds.
- MLW All Phase Roofing completed Bass House roof work in December. Parish Hall roof work started in January 2021.
- Various maintenance items as identified by St. Margaret's staff and parishioners.

Respectfully Submitted:

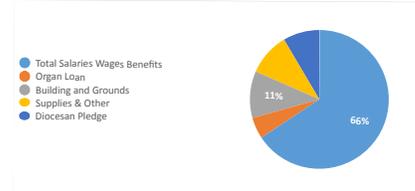
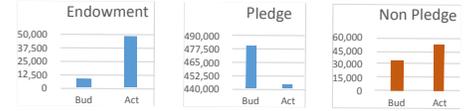
A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Randy Denmon".

Randy Denmon – Jr. Warden

St. Margaret's Financials

St Margarets Financial Summary

Income	Dec 20	Budget	Jan - Dec 20	2019 Actual	2020 Budget	2020 Actual	Variance	2021 Budget	Pct of Tot
	Pledge Units				106		128		106
Endowment Income	0	0	49,217	28,412	9,000	49,217	40,217	9,000	2%
Pledge Income	50,191	58,944	445,171	424,404	482,000	445,171	-36,829	419,286	92%
Plate Income	0	485	647	4,093	4,000	647	-3,353	2,700	1%
Non Pledge Contributions	3,085	4,405	53,139	45,379	36,000	53,139	17,139	24,000	5%
Total Income	53,276	63,834	548,174	502,288	531,000	548,174	17,174	454,986	100%
Expense				2019 Actual	2020 Budget	2020 Actual	Variance	2021 Budget	Pct of Tot
	Total Salaries Wages Benefits	31,198	31,596	357,836	374,230	367,500	357,836	9,664	355,311
Organ Loan	2,699	2,699	26,993	32,391	32,388	26,993	5,395	32,388	6%
Building and Grounds	5,987	9,608	102,762	53,803	58,600	59,547	-947	58,000	11%
Supplies & Other				52,055	69,724	54,215	15,509	50,305	9%
Diocesan Pledge	3,897	3,897	46,765	47,112	46,764	46,765	-1	49,040	9%
Total Expense	43,781	47,800	534,355	559,591	574,976	545,355	29,621	545,044	100%
Net Cash Flow	9,495	16,034	13,818	-57,303	-43,976	2,818	46,794	-90,058	
PPP Cash on Hand								72,000	



Notes

Under run in pledge income offset by increase in special gifts during the pandemic and above average returns in building and grounds investment account in 2019.

Total number of pledges and total amount pledged for 2021 is a significant decrease from 2020.

Salaries, Wages and Benefits under budget with Outreach Director in part time status in 2020. Youth Director doing likewise in 2021. No increase in salaries/wages in 2020 and not in budget for 2021.

Building and grounds included repairs of drain lines in main church building and purchase of Audio Visual equipment to stream services online.

Supplies and Other under budget due to lack of use of facilities and programs during the pandemic.

2021 is final year of organ loan.

Diocesan pledge is based on rolling 3 year average of total expense.

Payroll protection plan obtained for \$72,000. Awaiting final approval of forgiveness before use in 2021 operating year.

Investments Q3	Outreach	\$ 831,708	St Margarets Endowment	\$ 301,767
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ST. MARGARET'S COMMUNITY OUTREACH 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

St. Margaret's Community Outreach was no exception to the madness that 2020 brought. It wreaked havoc on everything we knew, and made serving the vulnerable, which was already a monumental task, that much more difficult. We were forced to shut down all our programming, some of which had been a part of our "weave" for 29 years, and pivot to something new.

We quickly realized that housing was what our community needed and we were in a position to answer that call. Every Monday people would call in and leave messages. We would weed through them and return every call, providing rental or hotel assistance to most everyone that needed it. We helped nearly 800 families this year, tripling our budget, thanks to all of you and so many in our community who offered prayers and gave extra money during this very tough year.

It would be easy, when this is over, to go back to our old programming and it is so tempting to want do just that. But if 2020 taught me anything-it's that to do really purposeful work, we must listen to God and the needs of our community. After many conversations with The Outreach Commission, Jeff, and Marcy, we all feel a calling to focus our work and resources on housing for the homeless. We don't yet know exactly what that will look like and we thank you in advance for your prayers and patience as we all work together to discern this important call.

It would be impossible to list every person who helped keep Outreach running this year. You know who you are and I truly cannot say thank you enough. This work is hard and important and you all helped make it happen. I'm so grateful for each of you.

Love and Thanks-
Meghan

01/13/21

St. Margaret's Community Outreach (SMCO)
Profit and Loss Standard
January through December 2020

	<u>Jan - Dec '20</u>
Income	
Cash Contributions	
Foundation Grants	17,100.00
General Donations	161,018.04
Cash Contributions - Other	133,648.11
Total Cash Contributions	<u>311,766.15</u>
Total Income	311,766.15
Expense	
Julie's pot	-20,000.00
Misc. Office Expense	563.19
Refund	-2,323.49
Check Printing Expense	150.89
Programs & Services	
Misc	301.67
Housing	650.00
Hand Up Program	5,429.13
Loads of Love	4,456.95
Misc. Assistance	1,733.17
Circles of WGA Barrier Redu...	4,083.32
Community Support	5,846.65
ICF	90.07
Utilities	26,593.15
Transportation	3,231.80
Housing	279,306.71
Programs & Services - Other	113.09
Total Programs & Services	<u>331,835.71</u>
Total Expense	<u>310,226.30</u>
Net Income	<u><u>1,539.85</u></u>

YOUTH AND CHILDREN MINISTRY

Two weeks ago Jr. EYC sat down and wrote three lists: one with all the good things that happened in 2020, one with all the bad things that happened in 2020, and the last one with all the experiences that we want to carry with us into 2021 as well as all the new experiences we want to have in 2021. It was a real cathartic moment to say our truth out loud to others and to not feel so alone.

This past year in Children's and Youth Ministries has been like no other I have ever experienced. We had a lot of changes and it we had to refocus and adapt.

We started out the year like any other. Sunday school met upstairs, each doing Godly Play or a Lego Bible adventure. The Youth met for Rite 13 and J2A in the mornings and EYC in the evenings. In February, our J2A group traveled to Austin, TX for their Urban Adventure. We had such a spirit filled trip. There were so many little things that we experienced in which we felt God's hand. This group of Youth and their facilitators were so adventures, and it was an honor to see each of them stretch and grow. We went to museums, tried new food, and reconnected with Andrew and Julie Gordon, who were facilitators for them before journeying on to Seminary. We walked the Labyrinth, learned how to navigate without using electronics, prepared food for hungry and food insecure children, prayed and played, worshiped and kayaked. It was an incredible adventure.

We came back from Austin and hosted our annual Mardi Gras Low Country Boil and Silent Auction fundraiser party! We had a great time working together to serve you! I've so glad we got to do that this past year.

Our Children had just started our Parable Lenten series when we had to make some quick changes from in-person to online. I am grateful that we live in a time that we could continue our lessons virtually if not in-person. While we were under shelter-in-place orders Facebook live and then Zoom became our new places to meet.

Our youth started exploring the topics of injustice in our nation and our community as it was something that they were noticing and dealing with in their communities. We were honored to meet via Zoom with Dr. Catherine Meeks of the Absalom Jones Center for Racial Healing in Atlanta. As we got to summer our youth read and discussed the book "The Hate you Give". Our children finished their Sunday school online, and we went into summer mode with the challenge of how to do Children's and Youth Ministries without being able to see our Youth and Children as we did in the past.

After lots of prayers, research, and talking with other ministers it became clear St. Margaret's needed to focus less on teaching and more on equipping families to learn and explore the Bible as well as their spiritual practices at home. Having our norm taken away and being thrust into "the wilderness" opened up opportunities to grow together as families. This also worked well for me and my new family as my new husband and I and our two sons seek to grow spiritually together.

In the fall the Sunday School teachers and I tried a new way of Sunday School through a hybrid of easy and fun at-home lessons and Zoom meets. We explored Moses and the Israelites' time in the wilderness, which is particularly relatable now. We do one story lesson a month. Our first week had our children using the Bible with their families and looking up the story as well as Moses himself, sharing his story on

Youtube. Good thing he filmed his times of struggles and faith for us to watch! We learned God is with us and that God gives us what we need, so “Trust God!”

The second week we met via Zoom with our Sunday School classes and talked about the story as well as doing an activity that goes along with the story.

On our third week we revisited the story at home with our families on a photo scavenger hunt!

On our fourth and final week of our lesson we met again with our classes and did another activity!

In December we paused our time with Moses and we did a new Advent practice, the Jesse Tree. I really enjoyed giving our families simple and fun opportunities each day to learn all the ways God kept his covenant promises to His people and how much God loves us.

I loved how much our children enjoyed our Advent Times Between the Pines videos.

This Christmas Eve we also got to have the BEST CHRISTMAS PAGEANT EVER!

Our youth had a different path they followed this fall. We were allowed to meet in person again with strict safety guidelines! This was and is really exciting for us, because we all were experiencing Zoom fatigue as a community.

We started slow with EYCs starting back in-person and then J2A and Rite 13 getting to meet in person. (Did you catch what I wrote EYCs?) One of our changes this past year was also that we were now able to split our groups into a Jr. and Sr. EYC to better connect to our youth age-appropriately. This had been a goal for our Youth Program since I came to St. Margaret's, and the work still continues!

Our J2A have been planning their Pilgrimage. The destination is Cape Town, South Africa. Time will tell if we will be able to go as planned or if we will have to figure out a Plan B. No matter where we go our hopes are to continue to explore the ins and outs of injustice and how we can help be healers and leaders now and in the future. We also really hope to see penguins up close! Like I said previously, this group is really adventurous, and I pray we will be able to travel safely and explore other cultures and learn from their past and present.

2020 gave our youth several opportunities to lead the church in worship! I love all that they give to Youth Sundays and the different sermons and perspectives that our youth have shared. Our next Youth Sunday is going to be January 31st.

This has been a very different year for all of us. There was a lot that we couldn't do and a lot that we did in different ways, as well as new things we added! When our Jr. EYC sat down and wrote out the three different lists I mentioned at the beginning of this report we found out that we all experienced sadness, loss, and isolation in different ways, but we also experienced a lot of good. In fact, most of them had much longer “Blessing” lists than “Negatives” list. In the end, we grieved our losses and gave thanks for our blessings as we burned our 2020 list to close out last year and look forward to our future.

I want to thank everyone that has been such a big support to our Children's and Youth Programs this year and always! I want to thank our Sunday School Teachers and Youth Facilitators for being so adaptive and committed. I am blown away from their faith and it is an honor to work with them.

Thank you Margaret Louttit, Susana Velez, Catherine Gordan, Blake Adams, Nicole and David Long, Rebecca and Randy Hill, Juan Forero, Andrea Hitzeman, Ketty Cusick, Marilyn Cusick, Jeana Langford, Jane Lyons, Noah and Beth Brewer, Sarah Jones, Craig Willard, and Mary and Terry Shadrix. Thank you to our whole St. Margaret's Family for trying new things, staying connected, your encouraging comments on our Youth Sundays and Pageant, prayers and everything you do! All the little things are so holy and special to us, and as I remind our children and youth all the time, YOU ARE LOVED!

Debra Adams

REPORT FROM ORGANIST-CHOIRMASTER

The year of our Lord 2020 started off in most ways like any other. We were full of optimism about the year ahead, had made New Year's resolutions which we were likely to break within a month or so, and were preparing for plenty of puns which related to our ability to see and the year ahead ("Vision 2020" was a popular one).

In January many of us participated in ReviveATL, an Episcopal revival in Atlanta featuring our presiding Bishop Michael Curry, attendees from across the diocese, speakers (of which I was one), a massed choir (which I was privileged to conduct), and a praise band which was a joy to work with. Members of St. Margaret's choir sang in the massed choir and St. Margaret's was recognized across the diocese for the work done by our own Mary Hooper in the organization of the event. It was a real success.

Still riding high after the ReviveATL event, we had a coffeehouse in February in support of the youth program. We packed the Parish Hall with folks of all ages for a wonderful evening of entertainment by our members and some guests and we enjoyed sweets and hot and cold beverages together in close proximity to those that we loved and who loved us back.

A few weeks later—well, we all know what happened then. Everything changed. We stopped gathering for worship. We stopped gathering for ANYTHING. We retreated to what we hoped was the safety of our homes and learned how to do worship online. Holy Week and Easter services were conducted from our homes and Jeff's office. It was like no Holy Week and Easter in history. And we can say that for the rest of the year as well. All the way through Pentecost and Advent and Christmas we struggled to make worship meaningful and to feel connected with our beloved Parish. At times we succeeded, at times we did not. But we did our best to handle an unparalleled situation.

Many have grown accustomed to worshipping from home—indeed, members of the youth program have extolled the virtues of online worship because they don't have to get up early and get dressed, and they can worship in their pajamas! We have upgraded our audiovisual equipment to provide better quality videos; we have rearranged the chancel to improve the "look" for the cameras; and I have learned more about copyright law than I ever wanted to know in order to prevent us from copyright violations in our streaming services. Even after we are able to "return to normal", whatever that might mean, it is clear that our streaming services will be a vital part of our parish life as we have reached many members and friends that could not have been reached otherwise.

This year was one for the record books—and not in a good way. But maybe 2021 can be a year for the record books, too, in a wonderful way, and as we look to the future, I pray that we will soon be able to return to worshipping together in our beautiful worship space and that choirs and congregations can sing again and raise our voices together in praise of the Almighty.

Dock Anderson

St. Margaret's Altar Guild

Annual Report for 2020

January 24, 2021

The year 2020 has been an unprecedented year for St. Margaret's Episcopal Church as well as our Altar Guild. We began the year in the usual manner with teams faithfully performing their duties setting up the church altar for Sunday services. With the threat of a new unknown virus, the church practically shut down, but St. Margaret's is resilient and we persevered with new protocols and dramatic changes. One of those major changes for the Altar Guild was the fact that team members were no longer allowed to enter the church building. Many of our church members may not know that, in the absence of Altar Guild members, Molly Jackson and her family took on the entire responsibilities of setting up the altar, laundering linens, and polishing brass. What a blessing they have been to our church and the Altar Guild ministry! Our sincere gratitude and blessings!

Just before the pandemic prevailed, a devoted parishioner, Lisanne Denmon, expressed an interest in joining the altar teams. Welcome Lisanne. Once it is safe to return to church, we will be looking for more parishioners to join us in this very rewarding ministry. Hopefully, Molly Jackson and her "team" will continue to help us after they get a well-deserved hiatus.

Currently there are four teams. It is my sincere wish that these wonderful members will continue their commitment to the Altar Guild. 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, Jan Uhlich.

Julie Lindahl has resigned due to personal reasons.

The Altar Guild will need to implement some "refresher" training sessions since we have been furloughed so long. Of course, this will not happen until we get some new and more lenient protocols.

An inventory of all altar items has been completed. The Altar Guild has compiled a "wish list" of items needed to bring the guild up to date. Among those items are matching chasubles (priest vestments) for some of our altar hangings, a new set of altar hangings for Palm Sunday, and a set of blue Advent oil candles. Long term items for acquisition are pew candle torches.

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. And again, a HUGE thank you to Molly Jackson and her family for their devoted and faithful work on the altar.

Humbly serving,
Marilyn Cusick, Altar Guild Chairperson

ADULT FORMATION COMMISSION ANNUAL REPORT

The Adult Formation commission has been pleased to offer the following offerings in 2020.

The Adult Sunday School continued to meet every Sunday morning, switching to virtual meetings Sundays at 10:30 am through ZOOM. They finished studying the gospel readings for the liturgical year "A" in November. Then starting in Advent they started including a look at the hymns used for each week and how they relate to the readings, church calendar, and service. Attendance has remained strong and meeting virtually has allowed the inclusion of participants outside our area.

The Ladies' Bible Study was established several years ago with a threefold purpose: fellowship, Bible study, and prayer. They continued this year via Zoom. They participated in the Bible Challenge, but with a condensed version. Using "The Path" as their guide, they hit all the major stories of the Bible. Then they read Kate Moorehead's book, "Angels of the Bible," which they highly recommend! Although they usually break for summer, this year they decided to take a break from Bible study but continued to meet for fellowship and prayer.

The Bible Challenge was started to encourage more folks to become familiar with what the Bible actually says. To date, 16 people have indicated that they completed the challenge. Several other people participated and continue to read through the Bible, but at a slower pace. In addition to the Bible, a "bonus" section was added for those who were up to it - The Apocrypha. Congratulations to those who competed and to those who continue the challenge.

Education for Ministry (EfM) is a four-year theological education program for laypersons and is administered through the School of Theology at The University of the South, Sewanee, Tennessee. The seminar meets weekly from September through June. This year (2020/21) there are 6 participants (1 in Year 1, 3 in Year 2, 1 in Year 3, 1 in Year 4) and 2 mentors (facilitators). In June 2019, one participant (Brenda Hattaway) completed the 4-year program and was awarded a Certificate of Completion.

Calvary Reflections: Lenten Series was an opportunity to go deeper in our faith by examining and identifying ourselves with the crucifixion of our Lord. It created a space for each person to look inward to the crucified Christ in us by contemplating on the history, words, and spiritual life found in the Way of The Cross liturgy (commonly called The Stations of the Cross). It started as a Wednesday night offering with roughly 25 people in attendance but then had to move online due to Covid-19. It was the first offering we had online, so it went from stages of being recorded

live in Go-To-Meeting, and then being post later to Facebook, and then ended being on Zoom. Average attendance was believed to be around 14.

We've Been Here Before was offered in May and June from Fr. Jeff and Joshua Waits. It focused on how God's people throughout history experienced moments of darkness, plague, and isolation. It was a mini-survey in Biblical and Church history ranging from Noah and the Flood to the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s. The course was offered via Zoom and streamed live on Facebook. It averaged between 9 and 12 participants.

Job, Grief, and Justice was a five-week course in August offered by Fr. Jeff and Joshua Waits that examined the Book of Job, and analyzed it in the context of wisdom traditions, loss, believed persecution, and social justice. The course was offered via Zoom and was streamed live on Facebook. The average attendance was 9, with Fr. Dominic from St. Teresa in Cape Coast making appearances to aid with the teaching.

African Saints in the Bible was an offering in September that focused on the significance people of African descent had in shaping our faith. It explored 5 biblical people of color, who were people of great faith, and examined what they teach us living in 21st Century America. The series took place via Zoom and Facebook Live; averaging 10 in attendance. The class focused on Hagar, Zipporah, The Queen of Sheba, Simon of Cyrene, and the Ethiopian Eunuch. It was facilitated by Joshua Waits and Fr. Jeff.

Joshua Waits

EPISCOPAL EVANGELISM (EE)

Episcopal Evangelism was officially designated as a St. Margaret's Commission for 2020. Juan Carlos Forero and Catherine Gordon were named as Vestry liaisons for the Commission. 2020 saw preliminary conversation regarding St. Margaret's definition of Episcopal Evangelism, structure of EE Commission, and future ministry possibilities. Conversation/development continues.

EE 2020 Activities

Ashes-To-Go

- Staff and volunteers from St. Margaret's imposed ashes to over 100 people outside the walls of St. Margaret's on Ash Wednesday 2020. Locations included outside Elizabeth Village, outside St. Margaret's, Adamson Square, Tanner Health System, Carrollton (afternoon service at Tanner and imposition of ashes on patient floors), and the Jackson House.
- Training was conducted for volunteers and a "round-up" conversation was held afterwards to evaluate the day and begin planning for the next Ashes-To-Go opportunity.
- Feature article appeared in 2/28/2020 edition of Times-Georgian, Faith and Values Section.
- We tried to do this activity at Spanish speaking areas of the city, but only one person stopped to get them. Still we want to reach out to the Spanish speaking community in our region.

Parish Partnership

Margaret's/St. Teresa's Partnership

For the Bishop and people of our companion and partner Diocese of Cape Coast, Ghana and our sister parish St. Teresa of Avila, Cape Coast, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

- Prayers for our partner diocese and sister parish continue to be incorporated into our worship.
- Fr. Jeff and St. M's group of five parishioners meet virtually regularly with St. T's Fr. Domenick and wardens (as available.) Calls include general updates on each parish's state and conversation aimed at identifying ways for parishes to support each other and grow the relationship.
- Fr. Domenick continues to participate in various St. M's online worship and education offerings, as well as writing regularly for St. M's newsletter.
- Development of programs for further engagement of members of both parishes desired.

- Larger Diocese of Atlanta conversation continues regarding Diocese of Cape Coast companionship and support, as well as partnerships of individual parishes within the two dioceses.
- St. Margaret's partnership structure to-date serves as a template for how other churches in the Diocese of Atlanta are planning to partner.

Participation on Sunday BLM protests and other Social Justice activities

Ft. Jeff and other parishioners have participated in the BLM protests in downtown Carrollton on Sunday afternoon, taking a leading role in moving forward efforts for social justice in our community.

We have also participated in other meetings with community leaders, to define a vision and lay out a plan that will lead to social justice for all in our region.

Catherine Gordon/Juan Carlos Forero

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.”

The year 2020 was a challenging one due to Covid-19. We were able to meet in person in January, February and March. During those 3 meetings we finished planning for the Valentine Luncheon and had the Valentine Luncheon on February 6.

When the country went into lockdown in March, we had no further meetings until the officers met with Fr. Jeff on Zoom. In November we met via Zoom to begin planning our SMCO 2021 Fundraiser.

New officers were installed in September:

President: Stephanie Turner

Vice-President: Catherine Gordon

Secretary: Rosanne Godsey

Treasurer: Fran Robinson

Past President: Marsha Daniel

In 2020, ECW donated funds to these ministries at St. Margaret’s:

\$6,000.00 to SMCO

\$800.00 to Fr. Jeff’s discretionary fund

\$500.00 to Andrew Gordon, seminarian

\$500.00 to SMCO for housing

\$400.00 to the Jackson Children for their tireless acolyte services

We will be very happy for an in-person meeting!

Respectfully submitted,

Marsha Daniel, Past President

HOSPITALITY

At the time that St. Margaret's regular in-person worship was suspended in March 2020, due to the Covid-19 Pandemic, regular activities of the Hospitality Commission were also suspended. Therefore, no Annual Report for Hospitality is being submitted.

Catherine Gordon

PARISH LIFE



PASTORAL CARE COMMISSION REPORT

PASTORAL RESOURCE TEAMS (This is from last year, should I include again?)

PASTORAL CONVERSATIONS

The 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 a lonely time. The first anniversary of a loved one's death is often a time of renewed grief or sadness. The anticipation of surgery or the news of an illness can also cause us grief. We are ready with a note or a phone call as a reminder that God's love is always present and that we stand together in times of joy and sadness. Cards are also sent to those celebrating birthdays and anniversaries.

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 death in the family.

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.

EUCCHARISTIC 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.