



St Margaret's Notebook

December 6, 2007

From the rector

On this frost bitten morning

I discovered the back of the house was freezing
and the door standing wide open.

Earlier during the night

I had used that same door on my way to dismantle
the hammock blowing so hard by the wind
that it pounded against the house.

In my hurried and sleepy state,

I must have not checked the old door latch.

On my drive into town, I brush off concerns

of escalating utility costs because of my error
as I press on the seat heater in my car.

Interestingly, I remembered a comment made years ago

by John White, a friend of my parents and a traveling salesman.

Mr. White had just gotten his first air-conditioned car.

"I can't believe the difference driving with the windows up
makes. Now, when I call on a customer in the heat of summer,
I do not need to change my sweat drenched shirt or even comb my hair!"

Even in my short lifetime the technology of climate control

has made great strides.

The morning news of increasing energy costs and melting glaciers

revives my concerns about the energy I personally use.

I reflect on the significant increase in those asking

St Margaret's Community Outreach for assistance
with utility bills.

"What can I do to become a better steward of God's creation?"

I wonder (vowing, of course, to firmly latch the back door.)

Georgia Interfaith Power and Light (www.gipl.org) suggests:

switch to compact fluorescent light bulbs, turn off your computer
at night, turn off lights not being used, use natural light and
programmable thermostats, insulate your home and drive less.

In thanksgiving for climate control and the gift of God's creation,

Hayes +



Advent

The readings for the second Sunday of Advent in all years are filled with hope, promise, and strength. This year (Year A) focuses in particular on the reign of righteousness on earth, the wolf and lamb dwelling in peace and the fulfillment of hope for the Gentiles.

This week's Gospel reading takes a step back in time from last week's Gospel. If you remember, Jesus was nearing the end of his teaching ministry and his suffering, humiliation and crucifixion were just around the corner. This week Jesus' ministry has not yet begun and John the Baptist is preparing the way for him. Both Matthew and Mark identify John heavily with Elijah because of the traditions about Elijah in the time of Jesus (see Matt. 11:7-15 & Matt. 17:10-13). John the Baptist was an unusual man, clothed in camel hair and a leather belt (the same outfit worn by Elijah in 2 Kings 1) who ate locusts and honey. He baptized those who repented of their sins. The connection between John and Elijah is especially significant since the Jewish people of the time believed that Elijah would come as the herald of the Day of the Lord - a day of both fear and hope. Fear, because God would cleanse the people with fire, rooting out the wicked; hope, because God himself would dwell with his newly-purified people. Matthew presents the early Christian conviction that the Day of the Lord occurred in the person of Jesus.

The Isaiah passage (11:1-10) is a portrayal of what the ideal Davidic King and his rule would look like. The

first and last verse tell us that this ideal king will stem forth from the line of Jesse (the father of David, see 1 Sam. 16:1-20) and "his dwelling shall be glorious."

A popular devotional and teaching aid during the season of Advent in the Middle Ages was the Jesse Tree, which illustrates the text for this Sunday from Isaiah. Since the average medieval Christian could not read or understand Latin, they depended upon things such as stained glass windows, wood carvings and tapestries to learn the stories of their faith. The Jesse Tree is a visual representation of the genealogy of Jesus. It is a wonderful device for three reasons: 1) it teaches the lineage of Jesus 2) it teaches the redemption narratives of God's people before Jesus 3) it teaches that God's eternal plan stretches back not only to the beginning of time but also ahead to the future, the end of time.

There are many ways to easily create a Jesse Tree for home or church use. One way that I really like is to use an evergreen tree (the sign of life) and hang ornaments that have the symbols of the line of Jesse on them. You can buy ornaments specifically made for this purpose or you can make some of your own (a great activity for kids). There is a list of scripture readings and devotionals that can accompany hanging the ornaments on the tree. The Jesse Tree is another great way to mark time within the Advent season and helps to keep us focused on the season of Advent and to prepare for Christmas. If you would like more information on the Jesse Tree please see me after church.

The Rev. Meredith Olsen

Annual Christmas Pageant



Please sign up on the kitchen bulletin board to participate in the Annual Christmas Pageant. All participants are asked to attend three Saturday morning pageant practices, held in the sanctuary at 10 am. Practice dates for 2007 are December 8th, 15th and 22nd. All participants are invited to Jumpin Joey after the final practice on Saturday, Dec 22.

The pageant will be presented on Christmas Eve at the 6pm Eucharist. Please have the Children in costume at the church at 5:00 pm on Christmas Eve.

Adult Sunday School

Will be studying Lecture 12 on 12/9/2007, "The Causes of Christian Persecution." This will conclude Part 1 of our series. We will then have two new lectures on the following Sundays, 12/16 and 12/23, from a series entitled "Jesus in the Gospels." These lectures have come recommended by some of the class members and may be a series we will study in the future. There will be NO class on 12/30, but we will start with part 2 of "The Study of Early Christianity-from Jesus to Constantine" on 1/6/2008. All are welcomed.

ECW CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

The Episcopal Church Women (ECW) will hold their annual Christmas luncheon at 11:45 am, on Tuesday, December 11 at the Mansion. As usual we ask that you bring a paper pantry gift of clothes for newborns. Please RSVP to the church office 770-832-3931



PROJECT NOEL 2007



SMCO WILL AGAIN SERVE AS THE "MATCH-MAKER" FOR FAMILIES AND INDIVIDUALS WHO WANT TO EITHER ADOPT A NEEDY FAMILY FOR CHRISTMAS OR SIMPLY HELP OUT WITH A FEW GIFTS. CONTACT OUT-REACH OFFICE AT (770) 834-5282 IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN "SPONSORING" A BIT OF CHRISTMAS CHEER FOR A NEEDY FRIEND THIS YEAR. **DEADLINE FOR MATCH-UP EXTENDED - WE NEED MORE SPONSORS.**



Stewardship Campaign is over for this year, but if you have not turned in a pledge card please do so by December 14. The finance committee is finalizing next year's budget and we need your pledges to do so.

SCHEDULING: Julie is making out schedules for Lay Readers, Acolytes, Ushers, Children's Church, and Thrift Shop from January 6 through April 27, 2008. Please let her know of any dates that you are not available to serve.



CARROLL COUNTY SOUP KITCHEN CHRISTMAS BOX PROJECT

St. Margaret's Community Outreach and St. Margaret's Episcopal Church have agreed again this year to provide 850 cans of meat for the Soup Kitchen's Christmas Box Project for needy families. Please help us meet our goal by bringing canned meat items (tuna, chicken, meat stew, corned beef, etc.) to the church kitchen or the narthex beginning **Sunday, November 25, 2007 and continuing through Sunday, December 9, 2007.** Please contact Outreach Office (770)834-5282 or Hugh Mitchell (770) 832-6694 for more information on helping with assembly and distribution of boxes.



DON'T FORGET YOUR HOMEWORK HELPER STOCKINGS

Please return filled stockings to church (or the church office) by Sunday, December 9, 2007.

EYC CALENDAR December



9th Advent Prayer Partner & Adopt a Family Gift Stars, 5-7 pm Take some time to reflect on what you hope to get out of Advent, and what you can give to others through prayer and by sharing from your abundance with a child in need of love at Christmas.

16th Annual EYC Christmas Party, 5 - 7 pm Something to look forward to all year, this party is tons of fun, and has a great purpose. Each year, EYC adopts a family through Community Outreach, and instead of exchanging gifts with each other; we purchase gifts for our family and collect them at our party. Dress warmly - this will be an outdoor event.

23rd NO EYC - SCHOOL CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS
30th NO EYC - SCHOOL CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS





DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

01-Dec Bob Aderhold, Alison Berard

02-Dec Amy Markwalter, Edward Bohannon

04-Dec Pat Brunson, Noah Brewer, Ginny Little, Devin Dehon-Luckenbill

05-Dec James Wiggins, Natalie Richards

06-Dec Josh Erwin, David Griffin

08-Dec Tommy Griffin, Cody Kemp

09-Dec Helen Morgan, Bob Owen

10-Dec Justin Maierhofer, Richard Brown, Stephen Colditz, Mary McManus, Sherry Foreman

12-Dec Taylor Bischoft

14-Dec Eric Lenaeus, Ann Ward

17-Dec Jincey Lumpkin, Kathleen Wells, Charlotte DuFour

18-Dec Diana Rash, Mary Alice Cochran

19-Dec Gregory Cary, Roy Richards, Betty Jo McCoy

21-Dec Jim Cunningham, Christy Hitchcock, Ellen Brady-McGaughey

22-Dec Rose Coker

23-Dec James Morgan, Gerald Gristick

24-Dec David Lovvorn, Sidney Powers

25-Dec Meredith Austin, Turner Markwalter

26-Dec Hollis Miller, Bob Uglum

28-Dec Anna Rash, Lynne Mengel

29-Dec Joe Lee Palladino

30-Dec Chris Brown, Harris Holmes

31-Dec Jim Richards, Amberly Brown

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

08-Dec Glenn & Melissa Folds

21-Dec Harris & Elaine Holmes

22-Dec Jim & Bonnie Cooper
Gregory & Carolyn Cary
Lorene Flanders & Paul Campbell

28-Dec James & Marlene Uglum
Eric & Laura Lenaeus

DID WE LEAVE YOUR BIRTHDAY OR ANNIVERSARY OFF OUR LIST? CALL JULIE IN THE CHURCH OFFICE, 770-832-3931 OR EMAIL: STMARGARETS@CHARTERINTERNET.COM WITH THE DATES.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Dec 8 Christmas pageant practice - 10:00 am

Dec 11 Christmas Lunch - 11:45 at the Mansion (please R.S.V.P. at 770-832-3931)

Vestry Meeting - 7:00 pm

Dec 15 Christmas pageant practice - 10:00 am

Dec 16 Lessons and Carols, 9:00 and 11:00
EYC Christmas Party

Dec 23 Christmas pageant practice - 10:00 am

Dec 24 Christmas Eve
6:00 pm Christmas Pageant
10:30 pm Carol Singing
11:00 pm Christ Mass

Dec 25—Jan 2 Church office closed

Jan 6 Annual Epiphany party at Hazel's house
6-9:00 pm

Jan 9 Adult Education Presentation / Discussion:
Bruce Bobick, *Deciphering Medieval Religious Paintings through Numerology*

Jan 11-13 SR DYC, Camp Mikell

Jan 16 Teachers/ Parents pilgrimage meeting

Jan 20 Annual Parish Meeting - 10:00 am
Election of 4 New Vestry members.

Jan 28 Clergy Conference, Camp Mikell

Feb 5 Shrove Tuesday, Mardi Gras Low Country Boil (J2A fundraiser)

Feb 6 Ash Wednesday Services:
12:00 noon & 7:00 pm

Feb 13 Intergenerational Lenten Supper Series:
Harry Potter

Feb 15-18 Youth Ski Trip to Valle Crusis

Feb 20 Intergenerational Lenten Supper Series:
Harry Potter

December 9, 2007

	9:00 am	11:00 am
Crucifer	Catherine Lindahl	Christopher Keene
Book Bearer	Kelsey Cain	Tom Fitzpatrick
Taper	Jackie Cain Joe Shook	

Altar Guild Judy Reed, Karen Adams, Debbie Pyles, Missy Sullivan

Children's Church Jill and Sam Jarrell

Lay Readers	9:00 am	11:00 am
	Jim Cunningham	Patrick Malloy
	Kerry Penney	John Muffley

Ushers	9:00 am	11:00 am
	Nichole Bush	David Basil
	Dan Cain	Bob Graf

Thrift Shop

Dec 7

10:00 am - 1:00 pm Bob and Karen Swanson
 1:00 - 4:00 pm Elaine Holmes, Ann Price

Dec 8

10:00 am - 1:00 pm Bob and Deloris Covell

PAPER PANTRY Martha Goodson, Elaine Holmes

VESTRY PERSON OF THE MONTH Ron Adams

December 16, 2007

	9:00 am	11:00 am
Crucifer	Anna Rash	Haley Hart
Book Bearer	Elizabeth Crafton	Ellen Brady McGaughey
Taper	Emmery Cary Will Crafton	

Altar Guild Georgia Keene, Nancy Disinger, Diana Rash, Pauline Rodwell

Children's Church T.B.A.

Lay Readers	9:00 am	11:00 am
	Mike Coker	Stephanie Turner
	Rose Coker	Bill Brewer

Ushers	9:00 am	11:00 am
	Micheal Crafton	Richard Colditz
	Lisa Crafton	Mary Hart

Thrift Shop

Dec 14

10:00 am - 1:00 pm Jo Hunsicker, Amanda Reynolds
 1:00 - 4:00 pm Pat Brunson, Ann Price

Dec 15

10:00 am - 1:00 pm Margaret Hickson, Teresa Perdue

PAPER PANTRY Martha Goodson, Elaine Holmes

VESTRY PERSON OF THE MONTH Ron Adams

PRAYER LIST

Our parish family: Nicole, Katherine, Lisa, Sumner, Luke and Jack, Larry, Joann, Mandy, Sally

Family and friends: Ethan, Annalee, Jackie, Lainey, Eddie, Jon, Betty, Angela, Steve, Jamie, Virginia, Hubert, Bryan, Randy, Bernice, Nicky, Georgina, Edward, Sarah, Caitlin, Stan, Larry, Brenda, Carlton, Tina, Carolyn, Hope, Connie, Joan, Philip, Simone, Andrew, Eileen, Ray, Esther, Kathleen, Brad, Anne, Theresa, Tina, Sally, Cooper, Lee, Billie, Mary Anne, Murphy, Jeff, Lois, Paul, Clem, Lisa, Cy, Selena, Dottie

Military: Walker, Steven, Drew, Lyle, Doug, Jessie, Matthew, Sarah, Robert, Marshall, Will, Jordan

Deaths: Lisa Dehon Piggot

PRAYER REQUESTS may be submitted or removed by emailing Julie at Stmargarets@charterinternet.com or by phone 770-832-3931.

ST. MARGARET'S VESTRY

Julie Cain - Sr. Warden
Randy Coggins - Jr. Warden
Ron Adams
Jeanette Bernhardt
Bruce Bobick
Cindy Hull
Catherine Minor
Hugh Mitchell
Bill Parrish
Judy Reed
Lin Reed
Susan Souligny

VESTRY COMMISSIONS

- Parish Life** - Judy Reed, Randy Coggins
- Pastoral Care** - Susan Souligny, Jeanette Bernhardt
- Worship** - Cindy Hull, Jeanette Bernhardt, Ron Adams, Judy Reed
- Grounds & Operations (Acquisitions / Strategic planning)** - Lin Reed, Randy Coggins, Julie Cain, Bill Parrish, Bruce Bobick
- Christian Formation** - Catherine Minor (Youth), Bruce Bobick (Adult)
- Finance** - Bill Parrish, Randy Coggins, Lin Reed, Susan Souligny, Cindy Hull
- Outreach** - Hugh Mitchell, Bruce Bobick



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