

# The Voice of *St. Margaret's*

The Official Newsletter of St. Margaret's Episcopal Church

Volume 4 Issue 36 May-June 2020

## Mission Statement

The Mission of St. Margaret's Episcopal Church is  
To worship, to serve, and to form the spiritual growth  
Of individuals according to the teachings of Jesus Christ



## THE RECTOR'S DESK

### *NAVAGATING THROUGH A PANDEMIC*

When disaster strikes how do we respond? What should our reaction be? When our world shakes, when we are in shock – after it happens – after shock has gripped our being – what we do next is absolutely vital. Far too often, when disaster strikes, we expend all sorts of energy and effort to get out of the mess we are in. If it is a family crisis we seek counseling. If it is a financial crisis, we seek a loan. If it is a job crisis we seek new employment. In other words, we use our own human effort to get us out of mess.

The COVID-19 pandemic has shut the entire world down – the death toll will be measured in the hundreds of thousands – but character is measured in the response to the tragedy. You see, we all are shaken at times, and sometimes in a powerful way that leaves us quaking and crumbled.

If you haven't faced great tragedy yet listen up, because you very likely will. We all feel sympathy when we see the graphic pictures from countries around the world, and right here in the United States. We all share in the despair families whose loved ones are dying from the virus. But what if it were you?

## Service Schedule

Sundays  
8:am  
Holy Eucharist Rite I  
(No Music)

9:15 am  
Adult Formation Bible Study

10:30am  
Holy Eucharist Rite II  
(With Music)

11:00am  
Sunday School

Prayers for Healing  
Following the 10:30 am Service

Wednesday 12 Noon  
Bible Study

### **Rector's Desk....**

2 Corinthians tells us that God is the God of all comfort. That he has the power and the willingness to see us through all the disasters that life may bring us.

Now I don't mean that we only need God in the difficult times. We need him all the time and should walk with him all the time, trust him all the time, rely on him all the time. What I am saying is that when a disaster comes we better have a shelter to protect us. We better have a relationship with the almighty God that will shield us and protect us and deliver us through any disaster. This COVID-19 pandemic is unyielding, especially in the Black and Brown communities. And we need to learn how to respond after shock of this pandemic has rattled our lives.

**First, do not fear- have Faith.** I am not suggesting that we should not express normal emotions of concern and uncertainty when tragedy strikes. I am saying that fear is not the spiritual response. We must trust God and not blame God. This is not God's fault, though we call it an "act of God." Some will blame Him. Some will turn against Him. Others will suggest that it is a punishment from God for a pact it made with the devil. Let me just say that if you make a pact with the devil you certainly have punishment coming, but it is far more severe than a pandemic. It is part of our nature to make ourselves feel better by assigning blame.

It gets old...watching Christians get mad at God when things go wrong. In a twisted way of thinking they imagine that they are punishing God when they turn away from Him or fall out of church fellowship in response to tragedy. But they are only punishing themselves. Whatever has shaken you—God did not do it. Sin did it. God allowed it for a higher purpose, and we need to believe that and not blame Him. We shouldn't blame God, but believe on Him. God is not responsible for our circumstances...He wants to save us from them, and He will, if only we believe. know all the reasons why. We do know that God is in charge, and He controls all. Thus, we must believe and not blame.

II Tim. 1:7 For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind. Fear will not comfort anyone. Fear will only bring more anxiety and distress. We are commanded to keep the faith, especially when the world caves in, which is precisely when many give up on God and head for the hills.

### **Rectors Desk....**

**Second, pray and do not panic.** When panic takes over prayer ceases. When disaster strikes we must resist the urge to respond in panic and in everything by prayer and supplication bring it all to the Lord. And now we should continue to pray for those suffering from COVID-19. We should pray for America with what we face today and in the future. The natural man panics...but the supernatural man prays!

Psalm 91:1 He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. It is hard to see in the shadows, and it can be scary there, until we realize Whose shadow that is! This is an opportunity to learn, and a chance to help. It's time we do like Peter and get out of the boat and be a water walker! Covering in the hull of the boat during a storm is cowardly. It's time to step out, for there's a job to do, people to save, anchors to get set, life preservers to cast, sails to mend, rudders to steer, and opportunities to step out and make a difference!

We need to rest in the “fact” that all is well even when we don't feel it. Bad things happen, but God is good! If God can be trusted with our souls He can be trusted with our fear and everything that stands above them! We can be assured of the goodness of God in all things if we have the assurance of salvation...

What will we do when disasters strikes? We must have faith, not fear. We must pray, not panic. Do not run from problems...respond to those in need. State-A – Home for now and trust God. This too shall pass.

*By: Fr. Ben Speare Hardy ll*



**Who's Who...**

**Spiritual Advisor**

*Fr. Benjamin Speare-Hardy II, Rector*  
837-7741

**Priest Associate**

*The Rev. George Kamani*

**Staff**

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*Barbara Bass*

Office Manager and Assistant to the Rector

*Robert F. Stockton III*

Director of Music/Pianist

**Volunteer Receptionists**

Thora Holder, Barbara Scott,  
Lucille Scott, Nancy Butler

**St. Margaret's Episcopal Church**

**5301 Free Pike**



**Trotwood, Ohio 45426**

**Vestry**

*Agnes George, Senior Warden*  
*Michael Thompson, Junior Warden*  
*Joyce Stone, Church Treasurer*  
*Monty Reece, Assistant Treasurer*  
*James Bolden, Assistant Treasurer*  
*Barbara Hudson-Banner, Secretary*

Mac Howard                      Barbara Bass  
Nancy Butler  
Thora Holder  
Beatrice Ramsey  
Ellen McDaniel  
Karen Schuster-Webb  
Brenda Cochran  
Mitchell Lucas  
Steven George

**Regular Contributors to the Voice**

Fr. Benjamin Speare-Hardy II,  
Brenda Cochran, Judy Wilson

**Web Master:** *Judy Battle*

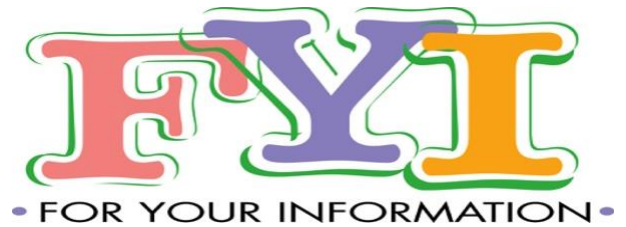
**The Voice Editor:** *Phyllis Brunson*

The Voice is Published Quarterly

Deadline: 18<sup>th</sup> of month

Please e-mail all articles to:

[phyllisbrunson@att.net](mailto:phyllisbrunson@att.net)



### May

3 Nancy Butler  
3 Jillian Grant  
4 Ruth Tillman  
5 Dolores Walker  
6 Juanita Grubbs  
9 Rev. Jeanie Manning  
22 Angelita Jones  
30 Agnes George  
31 Fr. Ben Speare-Hardy

### June

7 Frances McGee Cromartie  
9 Willa Smith  
13 Elizabeth Clark  
15 Patrice King Roberts  
17 Harry Wise  
23 Lynne' King Roberts  
23 Anne Lucas Burns  
25 Beatrice Ramsey  
30 Robert Bass

### Anniversaries

#### May

3 Khalid & Helen Moss  
13 Robert & Barbara Bass  
21 Michael & Maeda Thompson  
25 Lawrence & Willa Smith

#### June

3 William & Monty Reece  
11 Charles & Cynthia Kilby  
12 Larry & Jeanie Manning  
25 Harold & Bette Stratton

**The Brotherhood Fish Fry and ECW Bake Sale is held on the 1<sup>st</sup> Friday of the month April, May, June, 11:00am - 6:00pm see you there. Due to Covid-19 the fish fries are postponed until further notice along with Monthly meetings.**

**ECW meetings are held on** the second Sunday of every month at 9:00am, all women of the church are invited to attend, yearly dues is \$10.00 due in January 2020.

**Due to COVID-19 all ECW meetings and bake sales are postponed until further notice.**

We were very disappointed to have had to cancel our Woman's Day Weekend in April due to COVID-19. Hopefully when things get back to somewhat "normal" we will be able to plan some activity in the summer and resume our bake sales. Please stay sheltered in, stay safe, wear a mask when out, and wash your hands.

## **Maintaining Hope During These Difficult Times**

During the past weeks, one has only to pick up a newspaper or turn on the television to know that cities across the United States and abroad are experiencing some extremely drastic, sad and difficult times. Most are also experiencing unsettling feelings and others are simply afraid of what the coming days, weeks and years will bring for them.

Although our city has experienced several unsettling and very sad times, the entrance of the Pandemic has not only taken the lives of thousands of people in cities and abroad, but the feelings of unrest, fear and lost hope have increased with every passing day. The major concern and problem is that if we are unable to hold on to our faith in God along with some positive thinking, our days will not change, but we find our days to become even worse.

When you think about the word Hope – many have learned and can remember that HOPE opens the way when there seems no way. Have you ever wondered what it is about HOPE that makes it so

important? If you think about it, Jesus put hope up there along with faith and love. Even when it is fragile, hope is the expectation that what is wanted can be had. Hope is a belief that events can and will turn out for the best, and that there is a more secure future and good, faith and love will prevail.

My minister, along with many others has centered the messages on the virus that has fallen over countless cities and countries around the world.

If we look back to August 4<sup>th</sup>, 2019, the message for my church was centered on “The Shootings” that be felled our city. On August 11<sup>th</sup>, though this horrible event remained on the minds of the many Dayton citizens, the present message has changed a great deal. The fact is that although we are living in very difficult times, God is still with us right now. Father Speare-Hardy said, “Don’t think about the past or even the future, but hold on today. We must live for now. God is still on the Throne.”

It was interesting that listening to Rev. Charles Stanley of InTouch Ministers, also on August 11<sup>th</sup>, his message centered on keeping our faith in God, by Listening, Trusting, and Obeying Him. His message was “Walking in the

Favor of God.” Most would agree that we should be following this same principle today.

Rev. Stanley began by citing Noah and how God told him that He would destroy the world, but since Noah had trusted in Him, he would spare Noah and would allow Noah to build an ark.

Would you agree that our lives are just like it was during Noah’s time, but we need not be afraid of anything. The question is are we still listening, trusting and obeying God?

It is amazing how many friends and acquaintances are not only talking about the troubled times that we have had in the world; they are talking about how EVERYTHING has taken a dark fall. Not just the shooting, and the tornado, but everything. Wouldn’t you agree that it is more important than ever that building our faith, maintaining hope and living in the correct manner is essential.

Life today is a difficult proposition. In 2020, we are living in a world where there is pain, fear, suffering, hardships and

much heartache, but we still have within us a power. We can remember that when trouble arrives, we can remind ourselves that God is with us and He will never fail us. This statement should be repeated over and over again from our spiritual leaders everywhere.

Today, we can remind ourselves daily, that if we apply faith and hope to this issue or other situations, – no matter how difficult, we will rise above our troubled times. Where there is hope – there is life. Never more than now do we need to be hopeful.

If you may be wondering what you can do. If you exercise hope, perhaps you will inspire another to hope and hopefully others will follow.

If there are many who find themselves down and without enthusiasm or are in need of some encouragement, invite God to stay by you. He’s the one who created us and He has a plan for all of us.

***Submitted by: Brenda Cochran***



## **Prayer for a Pandemic**

**May we who are merely inconvenienced  
Remember those who lives are at stake  
May we who have no risk factors  
Remember those most vulnerable  
May we who have the luxury of working from home  
Remember those who must choose  
Between their health and making rent  
May we have flexibility to care for our children  
When the schools close  
Remember those who have no options  
May we who have to cancel our trips  
Remember those who have no place to go  
May we who are losing our margin money  
Remember those who have no margin at all  
May we who settle in for quarantine at home  
Remember those who have no home  
As fear grips our country  
Let us choose love  
During this time when we cannot physically  
Wrap our arms around each other,  
Let us find ways to be the  
Loving embrace of God to our Neighbor  
Amen**

*By: Cameron Belim*



"Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective." James 5:16 NIV



# PRAYER LIST



**James Francis**  
148 Copperfield  
Dayton, 45405

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.St. Margaret's Hall Rm. 221  
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**Bette & Harold Stratton**  
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**Catherine Yancey**  
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**Roy Parks**  
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**Lillian Jones**  
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**Lucille Scott**  
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Dayton, 45406

**Ruth Dunson**  
5119 Weddington Dr.  
Trotwood, 45424

**Madeline Moxley**  
531 Belmonte Park North # 905  
Dayton, 45405

## Remembering St. Margaret's EC

You may make a bequest to St. Margaret's Episcopal Church by preparing a new will or by adding a codicil to your present will. To make sure your exact intentions are carried out wills and codicils should be prepared by or with the advice of an attorney.

The most useful bequest is an unrestricted bequest for the general purpose of the Church. This permits the Church to use your gift wherever it is needed at the time.

For more information on making a bequest consult your attorney or estate planner.

### Membership in St. Margaret's Episcopal Church, Trotwood

If you are currently a member of another Episcopal Church and would like to transfer your membership to St. Margaret's please contact the Parish Administrator at 937-837-7741 so that a request for a letter of transfer can be prepared for you.

If you are not currently a member of an Episcopal Church and desire to become a member we would welcome your commitment to God and the Church. All baptized Christians are welcome to receive Communion in the Episcopal Church and to participate fully in programs and ministries of the Church.

Individuals who have been baptized within any denomination can officially be prepared for membership by attending formal confirmation classes, which are conducted by the church. The Bishop subsequent to class completion will perform confirmation of prepared candidates. Dates for both classes and confirmation will be announced when they have been determined. If you would like additional information or baptism, please call the Parish Administrator at the church office 937-837-7741

**Church Rental:** Are you planning a reception or anniversary, celebration or just looking for a place to hold a meeting or musical concert? St. Margaret's can accommodate your needs. Contact the church office 937-837-7741 for complete details.



## Say Hello.....

When the clock goes off, or the sun attacks your eyes, and forces you, grumbling, to wake up, how many times have you said, "boy, if I could just have five more minutes.....". Well, SURPRISE! You can have those five more minutes, or five more hours if you'd like!!!

But wait, not so great anymore huh? Now, we look in the mirror, (after having washed our hands five times, and rubbed down in hand sanitizer), scream, and say WHO IS THAT?

The next step is figuring out what day it is so we know what TV shows to watch. Last Week, I got up at 7:30, took my bi-daily shower, washed and styled my hair, (Yes, I actually have HAIR!), made my coffee, and sat down for church, only to realize it was Saturday! 🙄

It's been a very different normal, but each day I thank God that I'm still here to muddle through it!

Now if I can eat responsibly, drink 🍷 reasonably and binge watch my MANY favorite shows, I am content. Thank God for FaceTime, Houseparty, and Zoom! I still get to visit with, laugh with, and share time with my loved ones. I walk frequently, go to the store, sparingly, and feel great!

Life during the pandemic is trying, but it's still LIFE!

I miss you all soooo much, but I know we'll be together again, and it will be WONDERFUL!! My friend Monty says after all this, we'll all be in weight watchers and/or AA! 🏠🏠🏠🏠🏠

Ya'll be nice now! 😬

**Hello to all.....Submitted by: Judy Wilson**

# St. Margaret's Episcopal Church



**We will be Back Soon**

**The Congregation**

**Sunday Worship Service 9:30 A.M.  
Via Teleconference Call in Number  
844-621-3956 Pass Code: 470741312#**

**Noonday Prayer Line 12:00 Noon Sun-Sat**

**Via Teleconference Call in Number  
712-432-6258 Pass Code: 810151#**

***Living the Vision from Generation to Generation***



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# Notes