



Tartan

EDUCATING THE HEARTS AND MINDS OF YOUNG PEOPLE FOR LIVES OF LEARNING, LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE

REFLECTIONS

A New Outlook for the New Year

By Headmaster Marcus D. Hurlbut



During the final months of 2009, I received continual reminders of our depth and breadth as a vibrant school community. Since Thanksgiving, meaningful and moving events were virtually non-stop. From the All-School Dance Recital to the Christmas performances and our 31st Lessons and Carols Services in the Lower School, to additional CIF championships in girls tennis and football (our second and fourth consecutive, respectively), I was reminded of both the extraordinary talents of our students and the manner in which these gifts are shared with all of us.

One of the huge benefits of my job is that I have the daily privilege of seeing our students across all four divisions of the school, from three-year-olds to 18-year-olds, and watching their growth from children to mature adults. I am continually amazed at the difference a year makes, and how students always seem to rise to the challenge and more than meet our expectations. There is also a part of me that stands in awe of the passage of time, of the realization that those gown-up students with their beautiful voices, dazzling smiles and strong, athletic bodies once walked hand-in-hand into the Preschool Christmas Program and sang (or shouted) "Go Tell It on the Mountain."

As our football team wrapped up another championship season in the rain and the slop in Ontario, the clock seemed to stand still for just a moment as large, young men in what were once white uniforms became little boys once again as they belly-flopped across the field through the biggest mudhole they could find. I'm not exactly sure how many of those players moved through the rites of passage at St. Margaret's, but regardless, it was reassuring to know that no matter how important the event or how challenging and stressful the experience, even our biggest "boys" still have a lot of kid still in them!

During our break for Christmas and time with family and friends, I was reminded of Katrina Kenison's book, *Mitten Strings for God: Reflections for Mothers in a Hurry*. Her message, in part, is that "in simplicity there is freedom—freedom to do less and to enjoy more," and she offers suggestions "for seeing the sacred in the ordinary . . . for turning our homes into havens where peace and creativity can flourish, and where we feed not only our children's bodies and intellects

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Service in the St. Margaret's Community



"If you can't feed 100 people, then feed just one."

—Mother Teresa

On Saturdays throughout the year, volunteers gather at St. Margaret's Episcopal Church to package meals for community members who might otherwise go without sustenance. This simple act of service reflects the community spirit of St. Margaret's Episcopal Church and School. Here are perspectives from church staff, parishioners and a student on this opportunity for giving.

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Tartan



St. Margaret's Episcopal School
Marcus D. Hurlbut, Headmaster

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but their souls as well." What a wonderful message for a time of ever-increasing extravagance and commercialism.

My hope for all of us is that we can somehow learn to slow down the pace and make time in our lives for what Kenison describes as the "gift of an ordinary day." The author writes, "When I stop speeding through life, I find the joy in each day's doings, in a life that cannot be bought, but only discovered, created, cherished, and lived." This, of course, is no small challenge. We are clearly a fast-paced culture in which days blur together and to-do lists seemingly drive our every action. Yet, thankfully, there is "the kid" in each of us, too, and it is usually in those moments of simplicity and innocence ("the sacred in the ordinary") that we reconnect, recenter and "feed our souls."

Best wishes to you and your family for a healthy, happy and peaceful New Year.

TIMEPIECE

A Look Back at Tartan Service

The spirit of service, compassion and action thrives through the years

By Lisa Merryman, Faculty Emeritus and School Archivist



For 30 years, St. Margaret's students have embraced service, becoming more dedicated with each passing year. Serving started in 1979, with the first collection of food at Thanksgiving for the Episcopal Service Alliance.

In these early years, the local community enjoyed hearing the choir perform during the holiday season at malls, civic tree-lighting ceremonies and local hotels. When the Upper School began, a service club was started that assisted the American Cancer Society and Orange County Heart Association, staffed San Juan Capistrano's 10K run and helped many other civic organizations with events. There was no stopping the Tartan service heart. In the Middle and

Upper Schools, organized service projects soon began. The Lower School sponsored penny drives and clothing collections, and the Preschool participated in Toys for Tots and collected tools for disaster victims.

During the 1990s, Tartans performed weekly service at local nonprofits such as Head Start and Adult Senior Day Care in San Clemente. Soon, Valentine's Day flower arrangements were being delivered to local seniors in assisted living facilities, and handmade holiday greeting cards warmed the hearts of our deployed servicemen and women across the globe. All school divisions have supported families in need over the years through the Adopt-A-Family program.

Clubs such as Mu Alpha Theta specifically exist to help St. Margaret's students; other clubs serve special needs outside the community, such as Operation Smile, which helps children with facial deformities. In the Middle School, gleaning was a favorite way to serve.

Class retreats have served over the years, providing a fresh coat of paint for local nonprofit facilities, putting petals on floats for the annual Pasadena Rose Parade, serving at car washes and rummage sales. School talent shows have benefited charities, and a Preschool Lemonade Sale raised money for Hurricane Katrina relief.

Time and again, through these projects, students have discovered that serving others has rewards beyond measure. As we celebrate our 30th anniversary with our commitment to service and community, it's important to look back and recognize that the spirit of service, compassion and action has always been a part of the Tartan experience.



Middle School students pose with gifts for Adopt-A-Family, in 2005.

Bread for the *Moment*

By Linda Morales, St. Margaret's Episcopal Church Parish Administrator
Shawn and Bill Lutz, Parishioners

Every Saturday morning, and one Saturday afternoon each month, volunteers from St. Margaret's provide a sack lunch to low-income residents, workers and homeless people in the local area. This simple sack lunch provides sustenance for those moments during the day when they otherwise would have nothing.

Each week, volunteers assemble sack meals of breakfast bars, protein bars, granola bars, trail mix, pudding, peanut butter or cheese crackers, individual pop-top fruit cups, and other nonperishable items. There is no set number or type: Anything will do, and contributions are always welcome.

During the morning program, when we tend to see a greater number of homeless and workers who greatly appreciate whatever is offered, volunteers prepare peanut butter sandwiches, hard-boiled eggs and bananas. During the monthly afternoon program, when we meet a wider cross-section of those in need, including homeless and low-income families, we assemble sack meals and also prepare a hot sandwich, burrito or other warm food entrée.

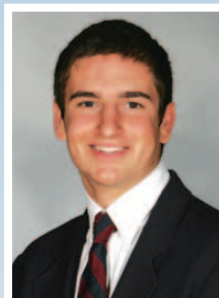
As often as possible, we supplement meals with an offering of tube socks, which are a true necessity all year long. We are often joined by Rev. Anna Carmichael and volunteers from iHopeOC, who hand out clothing, blankets and toiletries.

Oftentimes entire families participate in the program. Bill and Shawn Lutz and their children have participated since the program's inception. Mr. Lutz shares, "We have had the privilege of serving our homeless and working poor neighbors in Capistrano Beach for the last three years. We are grateful for a volunteer opportunity we can share together as a family. We feel more connected to our community each time we hand out food, clothes or blankets. To know and share with those we might otherwise never notice consistently enriches our lives and reminds us how much we receive by giving." Our daughter, Phoebe, who is nine years old, says, "I feel good that I am doing this, because I am feeding hungry people who need the food more than I do." Our son, Henry, who is 11 years old, shares, "I can tell it means a lot to the people we help, and it makes me feel special too."

While there is great need everywhere, here in this little corner we are able to meet our neighbors in need and offer them something that they otherwise would not have. Every meal and every offering is greatly appreciated by all, and in the process, we volunteers are also blessed by those we meet.

The program is flexible and able to accommodate whatever offering or service might be available. If you would like to participate or you are interested in more information, please contact Linda Morales in the Church Office, at (949) 661-0110, or at linda.morales@smes.org.

By Davis Edwards, Grade 11



A couple of years ago, the typical Thursday morning free block would consist of me hanging out with my friends while studying for a math quiz. Now, that very same free block begins with something much more meaningful. On Thursdays during G Block, you can find me in the Church offices making lunches for the homeless. These lunches contain an amount of food that we might consider a normal lunch, but for the 30 people receiving them, the snacks inside are a food supply for the whole weekend.

The Saturday morning sack lunch outreach program began with volunteers who cooked food at a site for homeless and day laborers. When the program lost its site, they needed to find a new way to feed the needy. Rather than shut down the program, they started to make sack lunches so that they could deliver them from the back of their car.

I first heard about the program about a year ago from my older brother, Josiah (Class of 2009), who had been making lunches for a couple of years. When he graduated, Josiah told me how meaningful the experience was to him, and I decided to continue in his footsteps. So now, once a week, I spend 45 minutes making lunches for people who otherwise might not eat for days.

There are plenty of ways people can get involved with this program. Assembling sack lunches is only a small part of the project. Every week, peanut butter and jelly sandwiches must be made to add to the lunch sacks; in addition, the lunches need to be distributed every Saturday morning. As more people seek to be involved, the program can become larger, perhaps even including more distribution sites.

My involvement has been rewarding, and I hope that others will follow in my footsteps as I have followed in Josiah's.



The St. Margaret's Episcopal Church sack lunch outreach program is one of the many opportunities for service and involvement available to the entire St. Margaret's community. For more opportunities to get involved, and to share your stories of service, visit Celebrating Community online at 30th.smesnews.org.

To read "Together on Our Journey," an article by The Rev. Anna Carmichael, visit "Tartan Today" online, at smesnews.org/today/.

Service and Commitment to the Common Good in the Preschool

Together it's much better, hand in hand

By Ingrid Andrews, Director of the Early Childhood Development Center and Wee Tartan Center



Preschoolers are egocentric by nature: They are global citizens in training. We don't give up on them, we work at finding ways to build community, celebrate what we have and learn to share with others. We start small, telling students "Take care of your cubby; you share this space with a classmate. Learn to be thoughtful about keeping it clean

and orderly." Next, we involve children in classroom clean-up and working together to clean the playground. To reinforce the concept, we sing a song with the chorus, "Oh, by ourselves we can clean, but together it's much better; together it's much better, hand in hand."

By finding opportunities for giving that preschoolers can relate to, we begin to move them from "me thinking" to "thinking about us." This fall, students worked together to package more than 1,500 baggies of dog biscuits to support the Ark of San Juan Capistrano, a charity that works with lost and abandoned pets. In November, students and their families collected food and other items for the Family Assistance Ministries of San Clemente, an outgrowth of the Episcopal Service Alliance. In December, children and their parents shopped for local San Juan Capistrano Head Start families, providing toys, clothing and gift certificates. We're looking forward to making decorations for the elderly for Valentines' Day, and other projects as the year unfolds.

One of the most important parts of learning about service and commitment to the common good is role modeling. Children learn more from what we do than from anything we say. The food drive for Head Start families involves the children *and* their families. Parents are modeling their concern by helping those less fortunate, and that lesson is learned by example.

We've also provided parents with ideas about working together outside school to help others: cleaning up parks and beaches, bagging canned goods at a food pantry, organizing a lemonade stand and collecting money for charity. We want even our youngest St. Margaret's students to learn (and live) the meaning of our mission through lives of learning, leadership and service.

A Preschool activity just for parents is our Knitting Together group, which brings parents together for fellowship and outreach to knit for charity. Each Monday morning we meet to knit and chat. We participated in the Knit Before Christmas program of the

Seamen's Church Institute. This organization is affiliated with the Episcopal Church. It was founded in 1834 to serve mariners through education, pastoral care and legal advocacy. Since the Spanish American War, knitters from across the country have provided handmade knitted and crocheted gifts to be symbols of love and hospitality to mariners far from home on Christmas Day. We meet every Monday in the Preschool from 8 a.m. until 10:30 a.m. Come join us and teach by example.

"I have found that among its other benefits, giving liberates the soul of the giver."—*Maya Angelou*



Sharing the Spirit of Service

Children find the excitement and meaning of giving

By Janice Avalone, Lower School Religious Education Teacher



Excitement has spread through the Lower School ever since the Spirit Scottie arrived. Who would have thought that this cute little stuffed Scottie dog dressed in the latest holiday outfit would inspire the children to give back to others? The children have always enjoyed community service projects, but now the “buzz” around campus is the question, “Who is going to win the Spirit Scottie?”

That has contributed to the excitement of the first quarter of this year, as the Lower School has been busy with a variety of service projects. During the holiday season and New Year, we remember that although times are tough for everyone, we may be more fortunate than others. The children are eager to help others as part of their school projects.

During the fifth-grade retreat, students completed a community service project called Flip Flops to Africa. The Lower School teamed up with Children of the Nations, and discovered that many children in Malawi do not own a pair of shoes. We decided to provide them with a pair of flip-flops attached to a hand-written note from our students, and we shipped 80 pairs of flip-flops to the children of Malawi. In addition, the grade 5 Kids Care club continues to support Serra’s Pantry every month by packaging food at their facility that provides for more than 600 families. November proved to be an exceptional month. First, children brought in their leftover Halloween candy and packed small bags for the military men in Afghanistan. We sent more than 165 bags to soldiers. Also, in a successful food drive to support Serra’s Pantry, the children collected 1,680 food items to help stock the shelves at this local food bank.



The Lower School Pen Pal program offers leadership opportunities as the children reach out to the community. In December, our Pen Pal program stuffed Christmas stockings with toiletries, made candy bags, and sent heartfelt Christmas messages to those less fortunate. The Kids Care Club also contributed Christmas cheer, by helping a local senior center decorate for the holidays.

The feeling of giving is motivated by feelings deeper than wondering who will win the Spirit Scottie, as our fourth-grade students expressed when they wrote down their thoughts about what it means to give, to be shared by all on our school Christmas decorations. Jake Kofdarali says, “Giving means changing people’s lives.” Leo Kamgar writes, “Giving is like you have given people hope.” Brooke Kenerson feels that “Giving makes me feel like I have changed someone’s life.” Sophie Payne shares, “Giving means that I know that I am helping someone in need and that I can put a smile on someone’s face.”

St. Margaret's Offers Opportunities to Serve

A student shares his experience with Adopt-A-Family

By Jack Danly, Grade 8



What is most important to you? Is it good grades? Is it being victorious on the field of play? Here at St. Margaret's we have many chances to be successful. Whether it's getting good grades, being a part of a winning athletic team or simply building lasting friendships, there are many campus activities through which we all have an opportunity

to grow. But St. Margaret's is more than grades and sports on an isolated 20-acre plot of land, "nestled among gently rolling hills" in San Juan Capistrano. St. Margaret's is also the chance for us all to reach out and be active in our surrounding communities, preparing us for civic responsibilities like citizenship and service. Last month, I was able to participate with the Middle School in the Adopt-A-Family project to help bring the joy of Christmas to families in need.

Adopt-A-Family is an annual holiday program designed to help Head Start families in need. These families have annual incomes of less than \$20,000. Many families can barely afford food and clothing, so imagine how often they can afford toys or even books. Once the Head Start program provided the school with a list of families to be "adopted," advisory groups were each assigned their own family. Each student was asked to earn and contribute about \$20 to buy Christmas presents for children of the families. Groups then got together and began planning how they would use their hour of shopping wisely and efficiently. This included writing down what items they wanted to buy, searching for coupons, etc. My adopted family had three children, ages one, three and four. On November 24, the Middle School students shopped for their families. After all of the shopping was done and we returned to campus, each student spent time wrapping presents that were later collected by the Head Start program for distribution. As we become aware of others in our community who are in need of help, it is our duty to serve them and to commit ourselves to the greater good. During this day of service, one of my favorite parts was that we found out much about ourselves and our friends at St. Margaret's. We also found out about the world and were able to get outside of the St. Margaret's social community to selflessly help someone with theirs.

Community service is a positive way to make our community a better place for everyone. Through service we improve the lives of people with needs, and through service we also improve our own lives. I felt so good knowing that my advisory was out buying gifts that would be opened on Christmas Day by children

who might not have much else to open! It makes me feel proud that I'm making a meaningful difference in someone's life.

Mohandas K. Gandhi, political and spiritual leader of India, also known as Mahatma Gandhi, had this to say about service: "The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others."



"Middle School students are emerging adults, and as such, they need opportunities to take active leadership roles in the development and implementation of service projects. The Middle School has created an annual event in which each student advisory group is given the opportunity to demonstrate leadership and service through adopting needy children during the holiday season."

—Jeannine Clarke, Middle School Principal

A Place for Teen Giving

A St. Margaret's family serves the community with Lion's Heart, a youth service organization

By Spencer Corwin, Grade 12



During the summer before grade 7, I wanted to start giving back to the community, so my mother and I started a community service organization for teens, called Lion's Heart. Lion's Heart is based on the idea that teens can have fun giving back with their friends. I had noticed that there were several volunteer organizations for teenage girls, but

very few organizations allowing opportunities for guys. Lion's Heart began as a male-based organization for the first two years, but eventually there was a high demand for girls to join, and now Lion's Heart includes both boys and girls, all giving back to the community.

The members are grouped according to class and gender. Each group is capped off at around 20 members to make the experience personal and fun, which is the main reason why kids join Lion's Heart. Members run their own meetings, elect their own officers, and come up with their own service projects. Each member is required to perform at least 30 hours of service a year, although many kids contribute well over that amount, because they are motivated.

One activity that my group loves to participate in every year is volunteering at the House of Hope, a women's shelter. We organize a carnival for the kids of the house and serve them a home-cooked meal. Giving the kids a day of distraction and the moms a day off satisfies everyone involved.



Today, Lion's Heart has nearly 400 members who have performed more than 28,000 hours of service to the community. Serving the community has a larger impact than most people will ever realize, and a group of teens with stylish blue Lion's Heart shirts on can have a bigger role in the community than most people would think. When teens are routinely giving back, they set an easy example to follow, for younger and older people alike.

A fellow leader once told our group, "Those who serve in life are winners," and that's something that I've always believed, to my very core. I have learned that when you give back, you are part of the community. Contribute without expecting recognition or praise, but just to see the people and area around you better than when you became involved. This kind of attitude is what makes leaders and role models and a better community.

For more information about Lion's Heart, visit www.lionsheartservice.org.



"A fellow leader once told our group, 'Those who serve in life are winners,' and that's something that I've always believed, to my very core. I have learned that when you give back, you are part of the community."

Share Your Celebrating Community Stories Online

The St. Margaret's service challenge includes the full circle of the Tartan community

By Lora Allison, All-School Community Service Coordinator



Significant research supports the notion that when young people participate in service, they are more likely to continue on a pathway of lifelong civic engagement. They are more likely to vote and to educate themselves about community issues. They are more inclined to support an organization either financially or on a volunteer basis. I am confident that service is alive and well at St. Margaret's and that our students are leading the charge with ideas that will change the world!

As we entered our 30th year in September 2009, there was much discussion about how to celebrate, and those involved agreed that we should highlight the collective efforts of our community. The spirit of "Celebrating Community" is to share the stories of each community member's involvement. We want to hear about the large and small efforts, the grassroots student ideas and the parents serving on the boards of large organizations. We want to hear about the service within organizations (National Charity League, Assisteens or Lion's Heart) or just simply make the concept of serving others contagious.

You have heard about the 30,000 hours of service challenge associated with Celebrating Community—this challenge is our way of documenting what we know is already happening. People are serving, and they are making a difference. Celebrating Community is for students, parents, faculty, staff parish members and alumni; for the full circle of the Tartan community. Service to

through life as active citizens and deeply invested in their own communities.

Hopefully the "dinner table" conversations that have been stimulated as a result of this effort are valuable. The four divisions are heavily invested in creating opportunities for students to experience meaningful service, and our commitment as a school to partner with St. Margaret's Church is strong. We do need your participation to make Celebrating Community successful! We hope that you and your family will log on to the Web site at <http://30thsmesnews.org> and click "Share Your Story." This allows you to tell the rest of the community about the service you are involved in, or to recruit volunteers to make an effort even larger. As we approach the halfway point of the school year, we are optimistic that the spirit of Celebrating Community will flourish, and soon we will be carrying the success and momentum of this year into the future.

"How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world."—Anne Frank

"We must not, in trying to think about how we can make a big difference, ignore the small daily differences we can make which, over time, add up to big differences that we often cannot foresee."

—Marian Wright Edleman

others has been deeply imbedded in the foundation of our school from the very beginning, but now it is more important than ever to support the efforts of nonprofit organizations and to instill in our children a sense of purpose: a purpose that will carry them



Library Resources Support Service

Bring your questions to the Library and leave with inspiration

By Darla Magaña, Director of the Library and Media Center



If you strive to live a life of service and commitment to the common good, visit the Library. Our collections hold stories that will inspire you and information that will guide you.

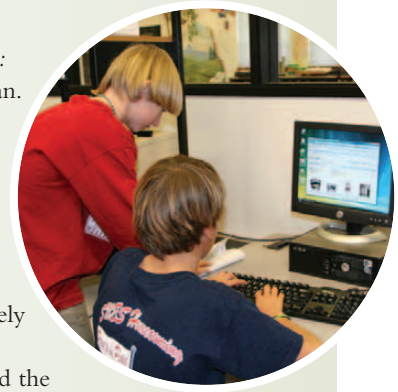
The Library catalog is accessible from the Library link under the Academics heading at www.smes.org,

and a resource list titled Service and Commitment to the Common Good contains information about books and Web sites that can help you along your path of service. Of the many titles available, here are some recommendations.

Three Cups of Tea: One Man's Mission to Fight Terrorism and Build Nations . . . One School at a Time, by Greg Mortenson and David Oliver Relin. In this best-selling title, Greg Mortenson recounts his experiences building schools in impoverished areas of Pakistan. This book has been rewritten for grades 5–7 (*Three Cups of Tea*) and kindergarten through grade 5 (*Listen to the Wind*), making this story accessible to all.

Catch the Spirit: Teen Volunteers Tell How They Made a Difference, by Susan K Perry. In this collection of stories, 20 teen recipients of the Prudential Spirit of Community Award share what they did to improve their communities and how their service affected their lives and the lives of others.

The Busy Family's Guide to Volunteering: Doing Good Together, by Jenny Friedman. Volunteering as a family is easier than you might think! This guide offers ideas and information about finding opportunities that meet the unique needs of your family.



The Library might seem like an unlikely starting place for a service project, but volunteerism comes from the head and the heart, and a good book (or Web site) feeds both.

Book Dedications

The Birthday Book Program honors students' birthdays while building our Library's collections. Parents dedicate a book to the Library, and our librarians select reading material at the appropriate grade level and include a bookplate with the student's name.

October 2009

Preschool

Hayden Gamble
Max Page
Andrew Welling
Matthew Welling

Lower School

Clayton Chalmers
Mary Collier
Jessica Claire Guerinot
Caroline Krutcik
Jenny Li
Marek Magaña
Max McGwire
Justin Minn
Ishani Patel
Tiana Pavia
Hannah Phillips
William Riddle
Derek Saunders
Ellie Scott
Katherine Sele
Joey Westendorf

Middle School

Palmer Knutson
Curtis McMackin
Brant Miller
Sofia Sewell

Upper School

Melanie Arnold
Austin Birch
Michael Dougher
Jake Griffith
Carlye Porrazzo
Shivani Tarsadia

November 2009

Preschool

Joseph Tomaselli

Lower School

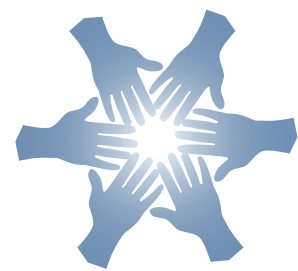
Hyonju (Karen) Ahn
Kendall Bottjer
Jessica Clute
Meagan Cole
Sarah Ko
Riley McMackin
Shane Olvera-Harle
Sean Olvera-Harle
Katherine Parrish
Chanelle Nicole Renk
Blake Stevenson
Andrew Sweeney
Leah Weiss
Will Weiss
Charlie Wiggs
Finian Williams

Middle School

Grace Chalmers
Jackson Cripe
Joshua Davis
Braden P. Johnson
Aaron Ko
Maxwell Morin
Chaz Williams
Nick Williams

Upper School

Houston Agan
Regan Anderson
Katie Berchtold
Amanda Edington
Erika Page
Jared Schoeffel
Harrison White



celebrating community

ST. MARGARET'S 30TH ANNIVERSARY

Celebrating Community is a yearlong, school-wide community service effort to commemorate our commitment to service, community and our 30th anniversary of St. Margaret's Episcopal School. We are challenging all members of our community to commit the 2009–2010 school year to community service, with a goal of 30,000 total combined hours of service. Through this effort, we endeavor to advance our longstanding commitment to service and community, provide new and foster existing service learning experiences for our students and help those in our community. Share your stories and read about the service others are doing, and log your hours at 30th.smesnews.org.

A Focus on Serving St. Margaret's

Parent volunteers lead by example by helping our children

By Janet Mitchell, PTF Communications and Publicity Chair

Deciding where to send our children to school is a process most of us vividly remember, because this weighty decision has such a lasting impact on our families. In considering our options, we evaluated what we value in an education, the school community and the overall learning environment. For many of us, our decision to enroll our children at St. Margaret's reflected a belief that while academic excellence was central to our choice, we also valued the concept of "educating the whole child." This commitment to educating the hearts and minds of young people for lives of learning, leadership and service provides our students many opportunities to learn and experience the values of service and volunteerism, making it an integral component of a St. Margaret's education.

Studies have shown the importance of involving children in volunteerism at an early age, because it creates a higher probability that they will volunteer later in life. It also teaches them social responsibility and empathy as they learn that one person really can make a difference in the world. Recently, Tait Lihme, grade 5 teacher in the St. Margaret's Lower School, asked his students to think about people at St. Margaret's who made a difference by serving. The students acknowledged and thanked these individuals by writing a letter to them. Some of the letters to the Parent Teacher Fellowship read:

From Anton, grade 5: "You make our lives at school easier and I want to thank you for that! You are the best!" From Dev, grade 5: "In hot lunch you volunteer to give us food; without you, we wouldn't have any lunch to eat." From Riley, grade 5: "Thank you for being so kind. You make sure we have good days. I appreciate that you spend your time serving lunch, entertaining, bringing stuff in, and much more."

"It is important to educate our students about the importance of appreciating and affirming those individuals who serve our community," Mr. Lihme said. "While this exercise acknowledges the actions, hopefully it goes deeper than that, by recognizing the character qualities that often lead to the act of service. In serving our children, we are teaching them to honor the work of volunteers and, hopefully, instilling the value of giving back."

Our 30th anniversary is a wonderful time to focus on service and giving back. The sole purpose of St. Margaret's Parent Teacher Fellowship is to serve. It is filled with parents who give their time to feed our children lunch, raise money for our school and help build our community through wonderful events and programs. These parents collectively spend thousands of hours every year volunteering, and the benefits to our school community are immeasurable. Many of you have wonderful talents and ideas to contribute, and we invite you to join us at our next General

Membership Meeting on Thursday, January 21. In addition to serving, PTF involvement offers opportunities to learn. Our meetings are informative, with such speakers as Academic Dean Dr. Regina McDuffie and members of the Board of Trustees. Our educational speakers for the 2010 school year are renowned authors and speakers, and will focus on issues that impact all of us. We will continue to host brown bag lunches and coffees in the year ahead to connect with other parents who want to get involved and make a difference. Please visit our Web site at www.smes.org/ptf for upcoming events.

PTF President Holly Larsen says, "We are so fortunate to live here in Orange County. As parents, we can teach our children much about gratitude and giving back by exemplifying these very qualities in our own lives. I invite you all to share in the education of your children as they observe your service in our school community." The PTF wishes to thank the parent community, the faculty and those who serve our school community selflessly every day to make our school such a unique and wonderful place!



"It is important to educate our students about the importance of appreciating and affirming those individuals who serve our community."

The Spirit of Giving Inspires St. Margaret's Families

St. Margaret's families share what Annual Fund giving means to them

By Cortney Carlisle, Director of Advancement



As the hustle and bustle of the end of 2009 and the beginning of 2010 fills our schedules, we are reminded of this season of reflection and generosity. We give our most valuable resources of time, talent and treasure to organizations and charities for numerous reasons. For some, it is to honor or remember someone who touched our lives. For others, giving

is a time-honored family tradition during the holiday season. Many who give to the Annual Fund see the benefit it provides for our community and how it touches the lives of each St. Margaret's family every day. Last year more than 60 percent of St. Margaret's families chose the Annual Fund for their gifts of treasure. We asked a few families, "Why do you give to the Annual Fund?" Here are their answers.

"Our approach to life is to give back wherever possible and not ask anything in return. We feel blessed by our experience at St. Margaret's and wholeheartedly support our community. With everything St. Margaret's does for our children, it has been an honor to give back. We will be forever grateful and have been rewarded beyond our expectation."—*Tracy and Mike Gottlieb*



"When our girls started preschool at St. Margaret's six years ago, we honestly didn't have a clue about the Annual Fund. It wasn't until I got a phone call from our Class Captain that I began to understand the importance of this yearly contribution. Now, Scott and I volunteer as Class Captains and we are happy to remind our school community of the importance of giving every year. Some years we can't give as much as we would like, but we know that everyone's participation is crucial to our overall success. We will continue to serve as Captains and would like to encourage everyone to help keep our school great and give what you can to the Annual Fund."—*Jennifer and Scott Arundale*



Church Chimes

Regular Weekly Schedule of Services

All are welcome!

Sundays

8 a.m. Holy Eucharist

9:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist

With Sunday School Catechesis of the Good Shepherd program
Preschool through grade 5,
Youth Group (grades 6–12), choir; nursery care for infants and toddlers.

11:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist

Wednesdays

7 a.m. Holy Eucharist

Wednesday, February 17

Ash Wednesday Services

Eucharist and Imposition of Ashes at 7 a.m., noon and 7 p.m., with childcare available at noon in the church office and at 7 p.m. in the Preschool.

Wednesdays, February 24, March 3, 10 and 17

Lenten Programs for the Family

Lenten supper will be served at 6:30 p.m. just prior to the start of each session. Fr. Rob's Lenten Study for adults will meet in Sillers Hall. Youth Lenten Program will meet in the church office meeting rooms. Children's Lenten Program, Pajamas, Pillows and Popcorn, will meet in the Good Shepherd Room. Childcare for infants through preschool-age will be available in the Early Childhood Education building.

For more information about the Church, visit www.stmarg.org.

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SCHOOL NURSE

It's All on the Surface

Knowing where germs are found can help to keep you healthy

By Patty Canright, R.N., and Carol Keith, R.N., School Nurses



A study by the University of Virginia tested surfaces to see where cold sufferers left their germs. Commonly touched areas such as refrigerator doors and handles tested positive about 40 percent of the time. Salt and pepper shakers, doorknobs, remote controls, telephones, light switches and dishwasher handles were also common contaminated areas.

Kitchen surfaces and items can be hotbeds of germs as well. Sponges and dishrags are culprits that can recontaminate other areas of the kitchen. For prevention, it is advised to use a mild bleach solution to decontaminate and kill bacteria. It is also recommended that kitchen sponges be washed frequently.

You might be concerned about being exposed to people who are sick at the workplace. Although your office may be neat and tidy, many people put off cleaning their desks until they are sticking

to them. Like millions of hard-working Americans, you probably eat at your desk too! In fact, there are four hundred times more bacteria on a *desktop* than on a *toilet seat*. Keyboards, computer mouses, phones and desktops are covered with germs that can make you sick.

Good hand-washing is the key to keeping germs away. Ads may tell you that antibacterial soap is superior, but actually using proper hand-washing technique with any soap is just as good. A study by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) determined that the incidence of disease did not differ significantly between households using plain soap versus antibacterial soap.

To stay well, wash your hands frequently and be aware of surfaces that may be potentially contaminated.