



Break the bonds!

Imagine the possibilities...

A campaign to eliminate our debt and move forward with spirit

This fall, St. Margaret's is launching a coordinated campaign to imagine our future and secure the resources to achieve it.

For the past several years, the cost of servicing the debt remaining from the construction of our sanctuary has consumed a huge part of our budget. Despite our best efforts to restructure the debt, reduce operating costs and bring in rental income, we struggle to break even. These financial constraints limit our ability to minister to members and spread God's love to others.

We owe \$1.38 million. This translates into bond payments of \$3,000 a week for the next 13 years. Imagine what we could do if we eliminated the debt and could devote an additional \$3,000 a week to ministry!

To prayerfully contemplate God's will, we have launched this campaign with an all-church bible study, followed by a series of small group bible studies. In October, we'll hold informal "Imagine Gatherings" in homes and at the church to engage every member of the parish in a conversation about our future. In November, we'll ask you to make separate financial commitments to meet our annual operating expenses and, over a three-year period, eliminate the debt.

Why now?

With the nation's economy in the doldrums, this may seem to be an odd time to launch a campaign to reduce debt and expand ministry. The vestry chose to do this now for three reasons:

1. Because of the debt payments, we cannot sustain our current levels of staffing or ministry.
2. We have already taken all other possible steps to increase our income and reduce our expenses. Reducing the debt is the only way—other than cutting staffing to unacceptable levels—to put ourselves on a sustainable financial footing.
3. We believe that given the choice, the St. Margaret's community would rather reach out in faith than hunker down in doubt.

To help us reach out, the vestry hired a consultant, Marc Rieke from the Enrichment Group. As the vestry has come to know Marc and learned of his experience advising other churches in similar circumstances, they have grown confident that this campaign is the right action at the right time.

But the success of the campaign depends not on the consultant, but on you. What you do to hear God's voice, contribute to the vision, volunteer in the campaign, and ultimately make a financial commitment can make this campaign transformative. Please give prayerful consideration to the invitations you will receive to participate.

We know that St. Margaret's can be even more than it is today. Through your dedication and commitment, we sustain lively ministries, but how much more could we do with proper resources and more support? We want to grow into what God intends for us. We are poised on the brink of a brighter future, but it will take all of us working together to get there.

Break the bonds! Campaign Leadership Team



<p>Campaign Chairman Supports and coordinates the work of the campaign leadership team.</p>	<p>Charlie Gadzik</p>
<p>Advance Commitments Director Identifies and reaches out to those who want to lead with their giving.</p>	<p>Jeff Webber</p>
<p>Planned Giving Director Leads an ongoing wills and planned gifts program.</p>	<p>Johanna Padie</p>
<p>Resource Directors Manages logistics such as mailing materials and arranging meeting rooms.</p>	<p>Pat Wilshusen and Sheela Westre</p>
<p>Audio-Visual Director Oversees production of a visual presentation and other graphics that express the goals of the campaign.</p>	<p>Sharon Conner</p>
<p>Prayer Directors Organize a Community Prayer for St. Margaret's event.</p>	<p>Colin Charlton and Sue Patrick</p>
<p>Brunch Directors Organize an all-church brunch so the entire congregation can enjoy a meal together.</p>	<p>Pam Nordquist and Doris Coppess</p>
<p>Hospitality Director Ensures that the entire parish is invited to the all-church brunch.</p>	<p>Mary Armendariz</p>
<p>Children and Youth Directors Coordinate activities to engage children and youth.</p>	<p>Rob & Alison Parish and Jill Maes</p>
<p>Promotion Director Produces materials to inform parishioners about the campaign.</p>	<p>Christina Burnett</p>
<p>Imagine Gatherings Director Organizes and coordinates Imagine Gatherings. These small groups gather in homes to discuss St. Margaret's direction and plan for our congregational future.</p>	<p>Connie Anderson</p>
<p>Commitment Visits Directors Lead the effort to invite a financial commitment.</p>	<p>Tom Brubaker and Irene Scheck</p>
<p>Continuation Directors Continue the work of the campaign for the three-year period during which pledges are fulfilled.</p>	<p>Bob Jacobs and Mike Knowles</p>
<p>Bible Study Director Organizes a series of small groups to explore what the Bible says about stewardship.</p>	<p>Carolyn Wyman</p>



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How can I help?

The campaign leadership team is still working on recruiting their committees and task forces. Please prayerfully consider it if you are asked to lend your individual skills. If you are not asked, and you see or hear about something that moves your spirit, please feel free to contact someone on the campaign team from the team list on the preceding page, or contact the entire group at breakingthebonds@saintmargarets.org.



Break the Bonds! Blog

To help keep everyone informed about what is happening in the Break the Bonds campaign, our Promotions Director Christina Burnett has started a blog at breakthebonds.wordpress.com

There you can read the latest updates from the campaign, check the campaign calendar, connect with the campaign team, or post your own comments.

You can subscribe to the blog with any email address. Subscribers get the latest updates delivered to their inbox as they are posted.



All-Church Bible Study

On September 18 at 10 am, our campaign consultant Marc Rieke lead an all-church bible study about God's gifts and how we use them. We hope you took this opportunity to meet Marc and see for yourself why the campaign team finds him so inspirational.

Gather To Imagine St. Margaret's Future

A series of small **Imagine Gatherings** will be hosted in people's homes and at church to review our accomplishments as a congregation and to discuss St. Margaret's future. You will not be asked to make a financial commitment at these gatherings.

As Christ's representatives on Earth, we want to enable our members to spread the warmth of God's love throughout our community. How should we do that? What should St. Margaret's outreach look like? What resources does St. Margaret's uniquely bring to the community? What could we accomplish together if the \$3,000/week we now make in bond payments were available for programs and outreach?

The community that we become tomorrow depends on what we decide to make it today. The Imaging Gathering is your opportunity to be part of the conversation that will help us determine how to move forward.

Everyone is encouraged to attend an Imagine Gathering, even if you do not anticipate being able to make a financial commitment. Each of us has a part to play in the future of St. Margaret's.

Look for an Imagine Gathering coming to a neighborhood near you.

Break the bonds! Campaign Calendar

- September 18: All-Church Bible Study @ 10 am
Our campaign consultant Marc Rieke will lead us all in a bible study about God's gifts and how we use them.
- October 9 to November 2: Imagine Gatherings
- November 5: Community Prayer for St. Margaret's
A prayerful day of contemplation, by the whole community of St. Margaret's, about our future.
- December 4: Advance Commitments Gathering
An opportunity for those who wish to make early, inspirational financial commitments to our campaign.
- December 11: All-Church Brunch and Children's Party
The entire congregation is invited to celebrate what St. Margaret's has been and will be.
- December 18: Commitment Worship
During worship services, we will all be asked to make our financial commitment to the future of Saint Margaret's.



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Saint Margaret's Episcopal Church
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