



River Views

May 2011 ~ Volume 13 ~ Number 10

Class Chapels Celebrate Grace, Hope and Angels

Every academic year, each grade level is charged with leading a chapel service. In the last few weeks of school, the eighth grade, freshmen and sophomores presented their chapel services to the school community. Below, are excerpts from each class' sermon:

Grace

By the Class of 2013

Grace is defined in many ways, translated in many different languages, but is always abundant. Jerry Bridges, the



Sophomores chose 'grace' as the theme for their chapel service.

author of "The Pursuit of Holiness" and "The Discipline of Grace," defines Grace saying, "Grace is God's free and unmerited favor shown to guilty sinners who deserve only judgment. It is the Love of God shown to the unlovely. It is God reaching downward to people who are in rebellion against him." Grace is the ultimate gift from God. Even those who don't have faith will still receive the gift of Grace. Grace is unending, and shown in all of us every day whether we recognize it or not. Many people say, "It was the Grace of God." But what do we really mean? We have a definition, and an idea of Grace but do we truly understand the power of grace? For me Grace is a second chance, it picks me up in my time of need. It is a miracle of some kind of flawlessness that we can only receive from God. Grace is what

keeps us moving forward. In his letter to the Romans, Paul describes grace as, "This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference, for all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus." This verse shows us that God does give us a second chance through grace even when we fall short of God's expectations.

The sophomore class has chosen to define Grace as, having the elegance to tolerate and accept the things we cannot change. Grace is having the Patience and gentleness to Love others; while Grace itself is flawless, we are not. We cannot be perfect, gentle, tolerant, patient, loving, and accepting all the time because we were made imperfect. We have to trust in God to give us the grace to do these things when we think we can't, and to show mercy to us when we forget or abandon them all together.

In our school prayer we pray, "as we grow in age we may grow in grace." In a sense, our prayer is encouraging us to always put our trust and faith in God that we'll always have a chance to do our best, and that we will always grow and move towards God's goodness. Grace is never ending no matter how many times we mess up. Our school prayer is ever present in our lives at St. Margaret's, we say it twice a week and we memorize it for our handbook test. We know it front and back but the real question is do we live by it and understand it completely. Reading and memorizing are only part of learning our school prayer, to understand it and to live by it, that is its true learning tool. Take the school prayer to heart and try to understand it, then do your best to live by it. There is no simpler

way to put it, grace is God's gift to us. The best way to say "Thank you, God" is to live gracious faithful lives. Amen.

The Power of Hope By the Class of 2014

Hope is to believe. To desire. To trust. Hope is found all over the world. It is found in Haiti, Japan, Alabama, and



The freshmen class spoke about 'hope.'

Gloucester. Because of natural disasters, it sometimes seems like there is no hope left in these places. Like Noah in the ark, it may seem like they are stuck and there is no way out. But hope is even in the darkest of places. Haiti was struck by an earthquake over a year ago and they are still suffering from the effects of that earthquake. A recent tragedy has occurred in Japan. 550,000 people were evacuated from their homes. They lost everything they had; their families were in turmoil, but they had hope. Most recently in the state of Alabama tornados destroyed many homes and left many people feeling distressed, but they have hope. And even closer to home, in Gloucester, schools, churches, and houses stand in ruins but the community of Gloucester still has hope. The hope of all of these people is bridging the gap between devastation and a brighter

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Captain's Corner



Dear St. Margaret's families and friends,

How quickly we've come to our final week together as the St. Margaret's School community of 2011-2012! Each day new layers of memory become intertwined with the memories we have woven together this year. Last Friday at the Junior-Senior Banquet, the yearbook editors presented the 2011 Current entitled *A Year*

in Memories to the school. With our riverfront dining room transformed into a secret garden, we heard toasts and responses honoring students, faculty and board members, and sponsors who have had a special hand in guiding us through this 90th year of our history.

For my annual letter to the seniors, which is included in their yearbook, I drew on a favorite memory from my high school French class – the discovery that it was Marcel Proust who first wrote about involuntary memory, that flood of remembrances of things past, that came to him when he took a bite of a madeleine tea biscuit and found the familiar taste had transported him back to his childhood. Here are excerpts from the letter I read to them on Friday night:

In each year's Current, words and pictures capture how you looked and the experiences you've shared, but you won't need to carry a stack of yearbooks with you to remember who you were and how you felt! Our senses gather our memories and store them in our hearts and minds. And that's just what you've been doing in your St. Margaret's years.

You never know when a sight or touch or taste or smell or sound will awaken a memory and take you back to the place where it happened. And when you arrive there, it will be the people you'll remember, too. Think of the memories you've stored and the people who were with you at the time, for just as the memory will become real again, so too will they.

In this, our 90th anniversary year, you stand where generations of St. Margaret's graduates have stood. Though you may never have met, you share memories with each of them. Just like our Golden Thistle alumnae, returning for their 50th anniversary one week after your graduation, each time you return, your senses will awaken long forgotten memories.

Be ready for these surprises! Your memories are your reality of the life you've lived. And that is the promise of your St. Margaret's years – an education for life, memories for a lifetime. Enjoy!

And now, here we are again, almost ready to sing "On our Way Rejoicing!"

With fond appreciation,

Margaret R. Broad

Students Celebrate Grace, Hope and Angels

(Continued from page 1)

future. Now they can work toward creating a tomorrow. Symbols of hope, such as the butterfly, are all around us. It starts out as merely a caterpillar that has not reached its full potential. For two weeks, the butterfly is trapped in its cocoon with no way out. But when it emerges, it is superior to its previous form. In Gloucester, the county is in its own cocoon of recovery and someday it will emerge superior to what it was before. Doves, like butterflies, symbolize hope. On the ark, the dove was a promise of new life. Now it promises a light at the end of the tunnel. The dove is a guide to help us find our way just like hope. Butterflies and doves are just everyday symbols of hope. God has created these symbols to bring us hope. And He created us so we can be symbols of hope as well. In the small things that we do every day, we can give each person hope. Such as the two dollars that some of

you have donated today in support of Gloucester. We trust that in this chapel we have given you hope. So you can take that hope and spread it across the world to the places that most need it or even to each other.



The eighth grade class holds pictures of their "angels."

Angels By the Class of 2015

Whenever a person thinks of an angel they think of a white robe, a set of wings and a halo. Even though we may not realize it, angels surround us every day that we

breathe. Whether it's a peer, an advisor or a family member, angels play an abundant role in our lives. Angels are essentially messengers of God and do no wrong. The angels that you find playing a role in your life have never brought you down or done anything that would not benefit you in the long run. Psalm 91:12 says, "In their hands they will keep you up, so that your foot may not be crushed against a stone."

For example, when Daniel was trapped in the lion's den, an angel appeared, guided him to safety and shut the lion's mouth so that the lion would do no harm to Daniel. Although angels do not descend from the heavens on an everyday basis, we often find certain people in our lives that rescue us from our own personal lions, whether it's grades, relationships, peers, temptation, or even ourselves. It is our hope that each one of you has, or finds your own personal angels.

Spring Family Weekend: In Pictures



The Class of 2011 stands on the front steps of St. Margaret's Hall, moments before being presented to the St. Margaret's Community by their escorts.



Mariam Bakhtiar is presented by her father, Hooman.



Elizabeth Tyson dances with her father, Bill



Flora Zhou and Jennifer Tang bug their little lantern, Min Joo Kim



Nurse Pat Thrift admires junior Yolanda Nan's newly received class ring.



Kiersten Schorgl get pointers from her father during the tennis team's exhibition.



Lila Fletcher and Annie Rich support the Parent Council at the Rubber Duck Derby.



Kendra Ganser lines up her shot during the Parent/Daughter Golf Tournament.



Mia Kingg shows some enthusiasm for the May Ball celebration.

River Views Forecast

May

27-28..... Closed weekend/
Exam review

30- June 3Exam period

June

3.....Baccalaureate/
Academic Awards Banquet

4..... Commencement;
Travel begins after 2 p.m.

6-8..... Faculty Professional Days

10-12..... Alumnae Weekend

18.....RivahFest on campus

Check the online calendar for
latest school and sports events:
www.sms.org/calendar

In the 2003 Head of School Margaret Broad wrote a letter to us seniors, asking, "Do you have to be named Margaret to lead this school?" That school year, the student body president and vice-president were both Margarets: Maggie Lu and Maggie Kite.

During a special Chapel service, we were told, "Go wherever St. Margaret's School may need a spokeswoman, and always remember that you represent a Queen." There is no shortage of famous Margarets in the world: former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, *Gone with the Wind* author Margaret Mitchell, anthropologist Margaret Mead, women's health educator and activist Margaret Sanger. There is a full list of Queen, Princess and Saint Margarets from around the world, in addition to our beloved namesake, Saint Margaret, Queen of Scots. That's very good company to keep.

Margaret is derived from the Greek word *margarites*, meaning "pearl." A pearl forms when a foreign particle is caught inside of a mollusk. The mollusk encapsulates the object in calcium carbonate, forming a pearl. Natural pearls are rare, and consequently very valuable. You don't need to take Miss Spears' AP literature

class to see the underlying symbolism.

As a student, I came to St. Margaret's looking for something more than what other schools could offer. I did not know at the time that I would eventually find my inner Margaret. At St. Margaret's, the faculty and staff not only taught me



reading, writing and calculus, but they helped me discover personal strengths I did not know I had, strengths that would normally go unnoticed or unnurtured in a co-ed atmosphere. I found I could be a successful student, leader and communicator; that my ideas were something to be heard and there was no limit to what I could accomplish. Even

today, I am still using the lessons St. Margaret's has taught me, and reaching my goals above and beyond the classroom.

Educating Young Women for Life is something St. Margaret's knows and has perfected, as shown by the success of its alumnae for the last 90 years. My former classmates agree that in our higher education pursuits, we could handle ourselves, our classes and in turn, build our own future on a solid foundation. We have excelled in the areas of law, education, health and veterinary sciences, fine arts, mass communication, entrepreneurship and more. We are from every social class, ethnicity and orientation, and have made our mark here and abroad. And as we reach our next reunion, I am so pleased to be in the company of such remarkable and capable women.

Whether we know it or not, there is a little Margaret in everyone, even my best friend and St. Margaret's roommate Merritt Allaun. ("Merit" is a form of Margaret in Sweden.) We all come to SMS for different reasons, but we all leave as part of a sisterhood, 90 years in the making.

Patti Webb '03 is employed by Stylus Publishing in Atlanta, Georgia, and president-elect of the Alumnae Association.

All Are Invited to End of School Celebrations

During the final weeks of school, we spend a great deal of time honoring our senior class, but these celebrations are not strictly limited to seniors or parent's of seniors.

Baccalaureate and Academic Awards

On Friday evening, all parents are invited to participate in our Baccalaureate Ceremony and Academic Awards Banquet. If you wish to attend the Academic Awards Banquet, please RSVP to Cookie Evans, as soon as possible. Mrs.



Evans can be reached via telephone at (804) 443-3357 during normal business hours or via e-mail at cevans@sms.org. Don't miss out on this opportunity to celebrate this year's academic achievements with your daughter.

Commencement

The next day, the entire community, all parents, students and faculty, are invited to gather on the river lawn at our 88th Annual Commencement Ceremony.

At 8 a.m. Saturday morning, a Holy Eucharist will be held in the chapel in honor of the senior class. By 9:30 a.m., our seniors will line up on the steps of St. Margaret's Hall for their graduation photo. At 10 a.m. the

commencement ceremony will begin on the river lawn. Refreshments will follow on the front lawn. In the event of rain, the ceremony will be moved to Ball Memorial Gymnasium. We hope to see you there!



St. Margaret's School

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Educating Young Women for Life.

St. Margaret's School actively seeks and admits qualified students of any race, color, religious affiliation, national or ethnic origin.