

MAGGIE'S CROSS



A Letter from our Rector

BY FATHER TODD R. DILL+

An Invitation to the Feast

One of the wonderful reminders that the current pandemic has afforded me is how privileged I am to be allowed to serve as your priest at the Lord's altar. In our liturgy, and in that sacred space, our Lord becomes truly present to us, and offers Himself to us in order that we might be transformed and receive His grace. **It is the most important action we do every week**, and our inability to gather for so long and to receive His most Blessed Body and Blood was to our spiritual detriment. I wanted to write an article today that reminded us all of our need to partake of this meal, but as I contemplated this, I thought that Father Walter Cizek might offer more powerful words than I could ever muster on my own.

Fr. Cizek was imprisoned in a Russian work camp for almost

two decades under horrific conditions, simply because he was a follower of Jesus Christ. To even proclaim Jesus out loud risked death, much less the celebration of the Mass. Despite these realities, Fr. Cizek wrote in his book *He Leadeth Me* about the centrality of the Eucharist and its daily importance in the prisoner's lives. It is a lengthy excerpt, but I commend it to you for your consideration:

Please see below and following page for Fr. Cizek's excerpt:

When I reached the prison camps of Siberia, I learned to my great joy that it was possible to say Mass daily once again. In every camp, the priests and prisoners would go to great lengths, run risks willingly, just to have the consolation of this sacrament. For those who could not get to Mass, we daily consecrated



A Letter from our Rector continued

hosts and arranged for the distribution of Communion to those who wished to receive. Our risk of discovery, of course, was greater in the barracks, because of the lack of privacy and the presence of informers. Most often, therefore, we said our daily Mass somewhere at the work site during the noon break. Despite this added hardship, everyone observed a strict Eucharistic fast from the night before, passing up a chance for breakfast and working all morning on an empty stomach. Yet no one complained. In small groups the prisoners would shuffle into the assigned place, and there the priest would say Mass in his working clothes, unwashed, disheveled, bundled up against the cold. We said Mass in drafty storage shacks, or huddled in mud and slush in the corner of a building site foundation of an underground. The intensity of devotion of both priests and prisoners made up for everything; there were no altars, candles, bells, flowers, music, snow-white linens, stained glass or the warmth that even the simplest parish church could offer. Yet in these primitive conditions, the Mass brought you closer to God than anyone might conceivably imagine. The realization of what was happening on the

board, box, or stone used in the place of an altar penetrated deep into the soul. Distractions caused by the fear of discovery, which accompanied each saying of the Mass under such conditions, having performed something tremendously valuable took nothing away from the effect that the tiny bit of bread and few drops of consecrated wine produced upon the soul.

Many a time, as I folded up the handkerchief on which the body of our Lord had lain, and dried the glass or tin cup used as a chalice, the feeling of having performed something tremendously valuable for the people of this Godless country was overpowering. Just the thought of having celebrated Mass here, in this spot, made my journey to the Soviet Union and the sufferings I endured seem totally worthwhile and necessary. No other inspiration could have deepened my faith more, could have given me spiritual courage in greater abundance, than the privilege of saying Mass for these poorest and most deprived members of Christ the Good Shepherd's flock. I was occasionally overcome with emotion for a moment as I thought of how he had found a way to follow and to feed these lost and straying sheep in this most desolate land. So I never let a day pass without saying Mass; it was my primary concern each new day. I would go to any length, suffer any inconvenience, run

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any risk to make the bread of life available to these men."

As we now continue to re-gather each week, I invite you and your family to this most sacred meal. It really is so very important and will provide nourishment for your soul!

-Fr. Todd+
Rector



dill@saintmargarets.net



Thoughts from Rev. Sarah

Rev. Sarah Hollar+

Office Hours: Wednesdays, 9 am - 4 pm
704-243-3523, ext. 222

GET THEE TO CHURCH!

In the financial world, the balance sheet is wiped clean on December 31st and new beginnings start on January 1st. In the church, the new year begins on the first Sunday in Advent usually the last Sunday in November or the first Sunday in December. For families with school-aged children or those who notice seasonal changes in ads, the last weeks of August signal the ending of summer, the coming of fall, the time to reengage established routines. This August finds many of us nostalgic for that month of 2019. We want to buy reams of paper and three ring binders, pen packs, Paw Patrol lunch boxes, and back to school appropriate length shorts. We want to know classrooms are clean and safe and masks are needed in operating rooms only. We want the worldwide worry to be lifted off our shoulders and floated out of our minds.

That's a reasonable, rational, human response. We've been through a collective trauma. Behavioral scientists, physicians, and educators are telling us the effects of this pandemic on our emotional, physical and learning systems are more extensive and nuanced than we realize. Recovery will be extended. **For the faithful, here is a help. Get thee to church!**

Saturday evening at 5:00, Sunday morning at 8:45 or more leisurely at 11:00, put down other obligations. Turn away from other distractions. Put on some shirt that says, I go to celebrate the goodness of the Lord. I go to give thanks for the many blessings of my life. I go to pray with my brothers and sisters in Christ, to ask for relief from my weariness, from my COVID brain fog,

from the slings and arrows of modern-day living. I go to hear the word of God read and revealed. I go to have others carry me along on their confident faith when mine is lagging from a tough week. I go to see that I am not alone in my hope for abundant life, for peaceable life, for the promise of fertile spiritual growth in my soul here and now. I go to see the faces of those who would hold my hand, fix a meal, walk my dog, hold my tears if I say, "I need your help."

Fix in your mind the notion that your body, your essence in the pew on Sunday, walking to the altar rail, saying the prayers, smiling, nodding, greeting the members and visitors of St. Margaret's is balm for you and it is encouragement, it is gift for other souls. The physicality of sharing the same space, the swell of collective AMENS, the prayerful hushed pauses of many creating a unified holy silence has power and effect.

The season is here to reengage the faithful practice, the centuries old routine of in-person church. **Get thee to church. Come receive.**

Come be a sign of faith and Christian love to others. If you are ill or infirmed, do not despair. Know that the body gathered is holding you in their prayers and hearts, that you are being lifted up to God's good care and mercy. But if well, the table is set, the welcome is made, the blessing awaits.

See you in church,

hollar@saintmargarets.net



From the Deacon's Bench

Archangels and Angels

Deacon Ludwig Wallner
thewallners@hotmail.com

At the beginning of the "Great Thanksgiving" portion of our worship service, the celebrant prays "**Therefore we praise you joining our voices with angels and archangels, and with the glory of your Name;**" Have we ever thought about this prayer? Angels and Archangels?

Most of us have some concept in our minds about what angels are, but what about archangels? What are archangels? How many archangels are there? Do archangels have names and duties?

According to the Oxford American Dictionary: An Angel is a spiritual being believed to act as an attendant or messenger of God. An Archangel is an angel in the highest of ranks of heavenly beings. According to the Book of Enoch there are seven archangels:

Michael: The warrior, characterized by strength and sense of duty, presides over human virtue and administers justice and protection.

Raphael: Administers healing in body, mind and spirit to humans and animals, presides over the spirit of men.

Gabriel: Assists those with communication skills, guidance and instruction, and presides over paradise and the Cherubim.

Raguel: Responsible of unity and harmony in heaven and on Earth. Oversees other angels. Inflicts punishment on the world and men.

Seaitiel: Carries a thurible and is responsible for carrying forth the prayers and offerings during the mass to God.

Jehudiel: Presides over and anoints the sick or dying.

Barachiel: Presides over couples whose marriage is in trouble and couples who are having difficulty with conceiving.

It should be noted that the earliest parts of the Book of Enoch were written around 300 BC. The book is an ancient Jewish work but religious scholars considered it non-canonical and non-inspired, even though Enoch was the great grandfather of Noah. Of the seven archangels mentioned, two have a Biblical reference. These are Archangel Michael and Archangel Gabriel who are recognized by the Anglican and Episcopal Churches. The Catholic and Eastern Orthodox churches also recognize Archangel Raphael because of a reference on the Book of Tobit.

On our Liturgical Calendar, September 29 is a feast day honoring St. Michael and all angels.

NOTE: Of the seven names given to the archangels only the first three appear to be consistent in most writings and are referenced in the Bible. The last four appear to have several different names and responsibilities in various writings.

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Youth Spotlight

BY ELIZABETH PFEIFER

ASSISTANT TO THE RECTOR
FOR YOUTH MINISTRY

EYC will have our Fall 2021 Kick Off on August 22nd from 5-6:30pm (no dinner served). All 6th-12th graders are invited to our first meeting of the school year. Our

6th graders are invited to a welcome gathering at 4:30pm in the Parish Hall (older siblings welcome as well!). We will welcome our group and go over what to expect at EYC for our newest members. Youth will then stay for our EYC kick off following the meeting. Dinner is not served at our EYC Kick Off and parents do not need to stay for any part of our gathering. As of writing, masks are required for all while indoors at youth group; masks are not required when outside.

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- **Save the Date: Sat & Sun, Oct 16th & 17th for a MIDDLE SCHOOL ONLY** overnight. We're headed to Camp Canaan in Rock Hill, SC for ziplining, games, a bonfire, and more at a camp just off of the Catawba River followed by a sleepover at the church. More details to come.
- **Save the Date: October 22-24 for our HIGH SCHOOL ONLY** retreat. The mountains are calling and we must go... we'll spend the weekend in Banner Elk, NC and drive just over the VA border where we will conquer the Virginia Creeper trail (mountain biking, but with lots of downhill parts). More details to come.

For the above weekend retreats, we are hopeful and planning for the return of these events in fall 2021 but realize plans may need to be altered due to NC Diocesan guidelines related to covid.

pfeifer@saintmargarets.net



Middle Schoolers at Carowinds, July 2020



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

BY CATHERINE CHINTALA

ASSISTANT TO THE RECTOR FOR CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

"It's Go Time"

I recently saw this on a website, and the following article talked about school and activities starting back again this fall....and as a parent, I'm starting to feel like it is almost go time! We are in the midst of back-to-school shopping, getting fall sports schedules, and reading emails from school. The anticipation and excitement of a new school year is upon us! While you're planning and preparing to send your kids back to school, make sure St. Margaret's is part of your plans. The fall is a great time to establish new routines and get back into old ones! Please take a few minutes to register your child(ren) for Sunday School here. Registration isn't necessary to attend, but it helps us greatly in planning for supplies and classroom needs. **[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER.](#)**

I am so excited to be planning fall formation and activities with the clergy and staff. We have been hard at work planning the safe return of in-person formation activities, and I cannot wait to see our families back at church in person! I wanted to share a few upcoming dates and activities with you:

- **Our nursery is open!** Each Sunday we will have nursery care available for children up to 3 years of age for both our 8:45am and 11:00am services. Nannies will be masked and vaccinated.
- Our annual **Blessing of the Backpacks** will be held on Sunday 8/22 at both services....and it's not just for kids! Students of all ages, teachers, and employees are all welcome to bring their backpacks, work bags, briefcases, etc. for a blessing during the church service.
- **Sunday School classes will start back up on Sunday 9/5**
- **Holy Communion Classes** will be held on 9/19, 9/26, and 10/3 for students 7 years of age and up, with a Holy Communion Celebration on 10/10. **[Please click here to register.](#)**
- **Club 4/5 is back!** All 4th and 5th graders are welcome to attend this fun fellowship group each month. Our first gathering will be on 9/12 from 12:30-2:00pm

I hope you have a wonderful rest of the summer, and I can't wait to see you soon! If you have any questions or just want to chat, don't hesitate to contact me!



The anticipation and excitement of a new school year is upon us! While you're planning and preparing to send your kids back to school, make sure St. Margaret's is part of your plans.

Children's choir registration is open & we invite all children ages 4 years through 8th grade to participate in making a joyful noise!

We will practice on Wednesdays from 4:30-5:30, starting September 8th.

The current guidelines from the diocese allow for group singing. Participants will be masked and 6' apart.

Please use the **link below** for more information and to sign up: <https://stm.breezechms.com/form/childrenschoirsignup20192078>

Please don't hesitate to reach out to Mara DeLuca with any questions! She can be reached at: **music@saintmargarets.net**



OUTREACH



& PARISH CONNECTION

BY TRACI SCOTT

*ASSISTANT TO THE RECTOR FOR OUTREACH
& PARISH CONNECTION*

Shelter Meal Prep & Serve:

Have you heard about our prep & serve days?



The next Shelter meal is on September 28. For these meals, you can either sign up to cook the meal in the kitchen at St. Margaret's or serve the meal at the Union County Community Shelter in Monroe that evening. A sign up will be publicized a few weeks before the date.

Blood Drive

OneBlood will be in the St. Margaret's parking lot for our next Blood Drive on 8/15. **Please click this link to register** if you are able to give.

Community Worker Snack Attacks

Snack attack deliveries of Chick-fil-a nuggets and homemade cookies were made in late July as part of our continuing "Community Worker Snack Attacks." Thank you to Jenn Ward & family for the recent delivery to the Wesley Chapel Volunteer Fire Dept. These surprise snack deliveries let our valuable community workers know that St. Margaret's appreciates them and that we're praying for them.

So far, we have dropped in on Atrium Emergency Dept. in Waxhaw, Waxhaw Police Dept., Wesley Chapel Fire Dept. (Hemby Rd) and the Lancaster Police Dept.

If you're interested in delivering a snack in September, please contact Traci Scott at connection@saintmargarets.net.

connection@saintmargarets.net



Connect at StM 101

Have you recently visited or joined St. Margaret's? Are you interested in learning more about the Episcopal faith, membership, church history, and ways to connect at St. Margaret's? Then, "StM 101" has the answers you're looking for! We'll even take you on a tour of the church. Please join us for one of our 3-week sessions this Fall.

- **Fall Session 1: Sept 12, 19, 26**
- **Fall Session 2: Oct 10, 17, 24**

**classes will meet in the Youth Room*



Welcome to these parishioners who recently joined St. Margaret's:

Matt & Rachel (Waterfill) Bridges
Cooper Bridges

School Supply Drive to support Union County Schools:

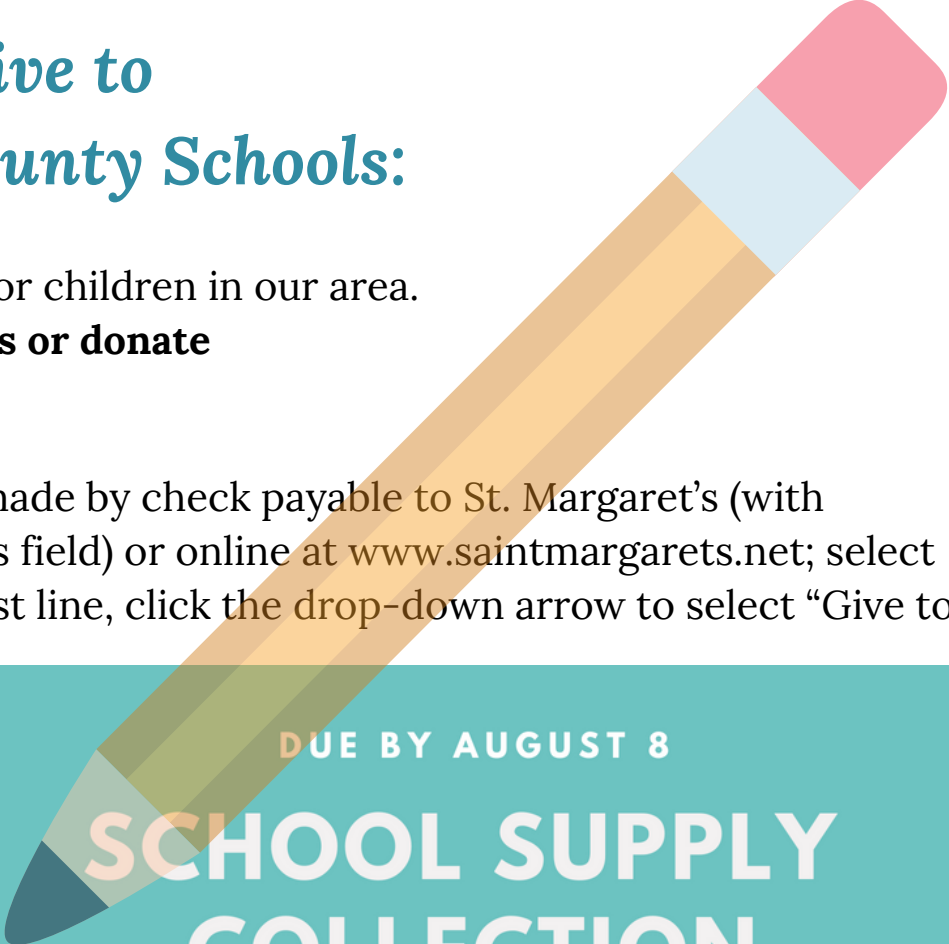
Please help us collect items for children in our area.

You can either bring in items or donate funds to support this effort.

Financial donations may be made by check payable to St. Margaret's (with "school supplies" in the Notes field) or online at www.saintmargarets.net; select "Giving" at the top; on the first line, click the drop-down arrow to select "Give to Outreach-Schools."

Supplies may be dropped off in the collection bins in the narthex or by the rear church doors.


All donations are due to back to St. Margaret's by Sunday, 8/8.



DUE BY AUGUST 8

SCHOOL SUPPLY COLLECTION

To benefit local Union County schools



FINANCIAL DONATIONS MAY ALSO BE MADE TO ST. MARGARET'S DESIGNATED FOR "SCHOOL SUPPLIES"

Items needed:

-loose leaf paper	-crayons	-markers
-colored pencils	-#2 pencils	-scissors
-highlighters	-2 pocket folders	-erasers
-blue or black ink pens	-pencil sharpeners	
-binders (1 & 1.5 inch)	-glue sticks	
-composition books (not spiral)	-laundry detergent	
-bath towels & washcloths (new only)		
-toilet paper (6-roll packages)		



QUARANTINE Q & A:

A GET TO KNOW WITH THE PARKER FAMILY

Aaron grew up in Maine and Jessica grew up in Florida. We met 20 years ago in New York City, out on the town, just two days before we were both set to start new jobs. Nathan (14) was born in New York, and Elaine (12) was born in Texas. Through Aaron's work, we have had the opportunity to move around a bit and have lived in New York, Frisco, TX, Oviedo, FL, and now Waxhaw, NC.

How long have you been at St. Margaret's and how did you find us? *We started attending St. Margaret's shortly after we moved to Waxhaw in the summer of 2017. We were looking for an Episcopal Church and very conveniently, there was St. Margaret's across the street from our new neighborhood (Hunter Oaks). We never looked back.*

What's one thing you have learned about yourselves during the pandemic in the past year?

We learned we really enjoy spending time together, and we have our limit when it comes to Zoom meetings!

What does a typical Saturday night look like for you?

We usually like to eat dinner and watch a movie or tv show together.

Do you have any fun summer plans or celebrations? *We enjoyed a vacation in Kiawah Island, SC - our first trip to the Carolina coast since we moved here. It was beautiful!*

What's your favorite comfort food?

We love pizza and Chinese food. If we're cooking, gumbo, homemade sushi or shrimp scampi are also favorites.

What are you watching right now on TV or what book are you reading? What was your favorite show or book during the past year?

Right now, we're watching the Loki series on Disney plus. We also enjoyed the Mandalorian. We love anything Star Wars or Marvel. Aaron and I like finding our favorite old 80's movies to share with the kids - like The Goonies or Ghostbusters.

"We were looking for an Episcopal Church and very conveniently, there was St. Margaret's across the street from our new neighborhood (Hunter Oaks). We never looked back."





QUARANTINE Q & A:

A GET TO KNOW WITH JANET MILLS

My husband Reggie, Harley our 9-year old golden retriever, and I live in Fort Mill SC. We relocated to the area from California by way of New Hampshire in the fall of 2014. Reggie is retired and spends his days doing woodworking projects (some of which can be seen at St. Margaret's). I retired from corporate life to pursue a career in fitness. In 2011, I went back to school to get a degree in exercise science. Winter of 2012 I completed my degree requirements and was nationally certified as a Personal Trainer and Strength Coach by the NSCA (National Strength Conditioning Association). January 2013 when I retired, I opened my own business, starting my 2nd career, Personal Trainer and to this day, I still operate my business. It gives me great joy and satisfaction to know that I can help people with lifestyle changes that improve their health. When I'm not doing training, I enjoy playing the flute and taking long walks.

How long have you been at St. Margaret's and how did you find us?

I've been at St. Margaret's since late 2014. Google search for Episcopal Churches in my area. And a mutual friend, Teddi McIntosh, raved about Fr. Todd.

What's one thing you have learned about yourself during the pandemic in the past year?

I came to know that our church and our church family are a part of my DNA, a necessary part of my life. I was lost without it! I also learned that I love beading; I filled my time making Anglican Rosaries.

What does a typical Saturday night look like for you?

Hanging out with Reggie and Harley watching a movie.

Do you have any fun summer plans or celebrations?

We just had a "mini family" reunion. Five generations of family converged on our home in Fort Mill, July 2-5; 14 house guests. Loads and loads of fun. I won the Karaoke contest. If we travel, we will likely go to Idaho to visit family.

What's your favorite comfort food?

Cajun Turkey Meatloaf and cheese grits.

What are you watching right now on TV or what book are you reading? What was your favorite show or book during the past year?

My favorite show this past year has been The Mentalist; I "binge" watch on Amazon Prime, while walking on the treadmill. I'm reading a book that will never be on the best seller list nor would it be recommended as light reading. I am reading the NSCA's Essentials of Training Special Populations. One might ask why I am reading this book. I am pursuing another national training certification.





VIEW FROM THE VESTRY

Hello faithful friends! We hope everyone has enjoyed a restful summer and more of you have been able to visit with family or travel than last year.

Summer can often be a quieter time in the life of a church, as some families enjoy time away during school vacation. However, it's been exciting to see more people returning to St. Margaret's as worship has returned to normal. We anticipate even more families returning the end of August, with the resumption of school.

The vestry has been at work on continued assessment of building and grounds needs, and we are starting to anticipate our stewardship season. We are in the process of obtaining additional quotes for improving our drainage around our foundation, needed repairs to our masonry façade, and future planning for the flat roof over the education and office building. In terms of infrastructure, St. Margaret's website is due for an upgrade to improve both security and functionality. The vestry will continue to focus on these issues.

As we resume larger in person worship services and welcome more visitors to our church, St. Margaret's needs the support of ministry volunteers. **We have a need for children and teens in grades four and above to serve in our Student Acolyte Ministry in three positions: Torch Bearer, Priest Cross, and Crucifer at our Sunday services.** Acolytes fill the vital role participating in our services by leading processions.

If your child or teen would like to serve, please contact Cathy Harrison at mch.060112@gmail.com.

We look forward to seeing you during in-person worship at St. Margaret's soon.

Jessica Parker,
Senior Warden



August Calendar

In our continued response to the COVID-19 pandemic, we are following the direction of the Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina. As of June 1st, there is no limit on the number of people who may attend any given worship service.

Guidelines for worshipping at StM in the season of covid:

- Everyone who chooses to sing during the sung portions of the liturgy are required to be masked during singing, regardless of vaccination status.
- Communion will be offered in one kind.
- The offering plate will remain in the center isle by the font, where the remembrance of the gift of eternal life given to you by our Lord at your baptism can be properly acknowledged with your generous financial support of the church!

Service times are as follows:

- **Saturday at 5pm**
- **Sunday at 8:45am and 11:00am**

At this time, all services are Holy Eucharist Rite II. Our 8:45 service will continue to be livestreamed.

*Nursery care is provided for both Sunday services.

EYC Youth Group (6-12 grade) starts back on 8/22

- **Sunday evenings 5-6:30 pm**

 [CLICK HERE for our YouTube channel](#)

**We are
ready to
welcome
you back!**

**Join us on Aug
22 for our
Annual
Blessing of the
Backpacks.**



Please note: Our church office is open M- Th from 9-2 and on Fridays from 9-12 noon. Drop in visits are discouraged. Please call ahead and make an appointment.

Rector

The Reverend Fr. Todd R. Dill+

dill@saintmargarets.net

Priest Associate

The Reverend Sarah Hollar+

hollar@saintmargarets.net

Deacon

The Rev. Ludwig Wallner

thewallners@hotmail.com

Director of Music & Organist

Mara DeLuca

music@saintmargarets.net

Executive Assistant to the Rector

Joanie Cameron

parishadmin@saintmargarets.net

Assistant to the Rector for Youth Ministries

Elizabeth Pfeifer

pfeifer@saintmargarets.net

Assistant to the Rector for Preschool Ministries

Dana Plate'

preschool@saintmargarets.net

Assistant to the Rector for Finance & Accounting

Denise Kilinski

finance@saintmargarets.net

Assistant to the Rector for Children's Ministry

Catherine Chintala

childrensministry@saintmargarets.net

Assistant to the Rector for Outreach

& Parish Connection

Traci Scott

connection@saintmargarets.net

2021 Vestry

Terry Anderson

Mike Murphy

Densel White

Jessica Parker

Chad Hinton

Brian Scott

Kathyann Dugan

Hugh Laughlin

Simon Haarhoff

David Feldser, *Treasurer*