

MAGGIE'S CROSS



A Letter from our Rector

BY FATHER TODD R. DILL+

We are a Resurrected People!

What would you say if I told you that the early Christians didn't spend a lot of their time talking about eternal life? Would that surprise you? Now to be clear, the early disciples absolutely knew that Jesus had been raised from the dead and firmly believed that through faith in the Risen Lord they too would have eternal life. They just did not spend much of their time talking about it. No one needed convincing; it was simply what they knew to be true by the teachings of the apostles and the beliefs of the early Christian communities.

What they did spend time talking about was how the resurrection of Jesus would affect their lives in the here and now, given the fact that Jesus was the enemy of death, had destroyed its power over them, and thus they were now living in what N. T Wright calls, "life after life after death." To them, resurrection wasn't just something that would happen to them after they died (although it would physically), but rather, they were already living in a time that now

was re-created and renewed because the fear of death had been taken away. With this new life of resurrection, everything about their lives had changed. The way that they loved each other changed, the way they treated their enemies changed, even the way they saw themselves in relation to the Roman government changed, because they were now members of the Kingdom of Jesus, and He was Lord over every part of their lives. This new Kingdom was a Kingdom of love, mercy, grace, charity, forgiveness, and servanthood. One of the principal markings of the early Christian Church was its spirit of servanthood, and this spirit drew others to join this new fledgling movement. It was a community that very much did not look like the culture around them, and the new, already resurrected people of God lived a "...worship-based, spiritually renewed, multi-ethnic, polychrome, mutually supportive, outward-facing, culturally creative, chastity-celebrating, socially responsible fictive kinship group, gender-blind in leadership, generous to the poor and courageous in speaking up for the voiceless" (NT Wright).

You and I beloved, are members of this same Kingdom. We are the people of Jesus, and by His grace and love, we have already been resurrected! Resurrection is not something that we are waiting for; it has already happened! Thus, we are called to go into the world and fearlessly proclaim that Jesus has been raised from the dead, and that all who believe in Him can claim this new life of grace. That is our collective mission, and we need to get serious about the task before us. I believe

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that when the contemporary Christian churches begin to take seriously again the mission Jesus has given us, not only will our lives be transformed, but so too will the entire creation. Let us endeavor to do that for our Easter celebration. Let us join in His revolution. Jesus has been raised from the dead! We are His resurrected people!

Let us now be bold enough to live like it!

Your priest.

-Fr. Todd+

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Thoughts from Rev. Sarah

Rev. Sarah Hollar

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This April is an interesting month for the Church Newsletter because it covers both the deepest days of Lent and the brightest days of Easter. It is a challenge to hold the two divergent liturgical seasons in balance giving each one its due. *Here is a reflection for Ash Wednesday* that moved me because it acknowledges the brokenness and limitations, we all carry. It points to why we need a cosmic once for all time intervention to redeem our frailties and finitude. At the same time, the theme reminds us that cosmic saving is not only possible, it has in fact been accomplished through the Son's sacrifice. The reflection ends pointing us to God's ongoing loving and creative work within us.

Excerpted from Jan Richardson's Circle of Grace:
A Book of Blessings for the Seasons:

May we carry the smudge we bear with humbleness through our Lenten journey fortified by the assurance of what God can do within the dust so that we arrive at Easter with release and rejoicing.

Blessings for both seasons,
-Rev. Sarah

Blessing the Dust

All those days
you felt like dust,
like dirt,
as if all you had to do
was turn your face
toward the wind
and be scattered
to the four corners
or swept away
by the smallest breath
as insubstantial—
did you not know
what the Holy One
can do with dust?
This is the day
we freely say
we are scorched.
So let us be marked
not for sorrow.
And let us be marked
not for shame.
Let us be marked
not for false humility
or for thinking
we are less
than we are
but for claiming
what God can do
within the dust,
within the dirt,
within the stuff
of which the world
is made
and the stars that blaze
in our bones
and the galaxies that spiral
inside the smudge
we bear.



*From the Deacon's Bench --
Darkness to Light*

Deacon Ludwig Wallner
thewallners@hotmail.com

**I'm sure many of us have heard
"Easter is early this year" or "this is
late for Easter" or some such phrase.
Why is that?**

On Sunday, April 4, 2021, we will be celebrating Easter. Easter is the day that celebrates our Lord and Savior, Jesus' resurrection from the dead. Easter is the oldest and greatest feasts in the church calendar.

Easter Sunday marks the end of Lent and Holy Week which recalls for each of us the last week of Jesus' earthly ministry and death. Easter Sunday also marks the beginning of the church's Easter season which lasts for 50 days and ends with Pentecost. Over the years, I'm sure many of us have heard "Easter is early this year" or "this is late for Easter" or some such phrase. Why is that? Christmas is always on December 25, different days but always the same date. St. Valentine's is always February 14. So why doesn't Easter fall on the same date each year? In 2018, Easter fell on April 1, this year of 2021 Easter falls on April 4, in 2063, Easter will be on April 15, in the year 2070 Easter will be Sunday, March 30 and in 2084 Easter Sunday will occur on March 26.

For the answer to the Easter date question, we must travel back in time to the year 325, where the Church Council decided that Easter would always fall on a Sunday. Other church feast days follow the calendar so the feast date remains constant but the actual day changes.

Easter follows the lunar solar calendar. To explain how this works, our Book of Common Prayer on page 880 explains the rules for finding the date of Easter Sunday. Easter Sunday is always the Sunday after the full moon that occurs on or after the spring equinox on March 21, a date which is fixed in accordance with ancient ecclesiastical computation, and which does not always correspond to the astronomical equinox. This full moon may happen on any date between March 21 and April 18. So Easter cannot be earlier than March 22 nor be later than April 25. So Easter is neither late nor is it early, it is when it's supposed to be. In order to determine Easter you need another two points of reference to complete the calculations. These two points are called the "Golden Number" and the "Sunday Letter" both of which are explained on page 880 of the B.C.P.

Now to avoid all these confusing terms and calculation, if you turn to pages 882 and 883 of the B.C.P. you will find a chart outlining the dates of Easter through the year 2089. Remember the dates of Easter will change but the day of Easter will always be on a Sunday.

Youth Spotlight

pfeifer@saintmargarets.net



BY ELIZABETH PFEIFER
*ASSISTANT TO THE RECTOR
FOR YOUTH MINISTRY*

Youth Group was gifted with beautiful spring weather for our March meetings! We were glad to be back on campus and enjoyed catching up with friends after the winter hiatus. Using the lectionary readings, we discussed both Old and New Testament passages from the last few weeks of Lent. We discussed Jesus clearing the temple in John 2:13-22 and what distractions we bring to worship or other time spent with God. We looked at the story of the Bronze Snake in Numbers 21:4-9 and discussed the difference in being frustrated at God compared to sharing your frustrations with God. We finished out the month with conversations about Holy Week and ways to mark the days at home, particularly since we are limited in our ability to worship together in-person.

We of course also found time for games like bocce ball, a fun take on tag using pool noodles, field games and more.

We want to thank parishioner Jean Wilson who made treat bags to welcome our students back for meetings in March. She filled them with snacks, words of encouragement, and prayers from a church family member who knows this year has had its ups and down. Thank you, Jean!

Please join us by the firepit (behind the playground) **on April 18th and April 25th.** *EYC will not meet on April 4th or 11th due to Easter and spring break.*

- Middle School (6th-8th grade) will gather from 4:00-5:00pm
- High School (9th-12th grade) will gather from 5:15-6:15pm



Friends are always welcome.
Masks are required
and students are asked to bring their own tailgate chair or blanket.

If you have questions about safety procedures, please contact Elizabeth. All in-person gatherings are contingent on permission from the Diocese of North Carolina and continuing declining COVID rates and are subject to change.

-Elizabeth

CHILDRENS MINISTRY

"Although our experiences have varied greatly, we have all been changed."

BY CATHERINE CHINTALA
ASSISTANT TO THE RECTOR
FOR CHILDRENS MINISTRY



Last month marked a year since the pandemic. How is that possible?

Family life changed rapidly for all of us. Our homes became our school, our workplace, our vacation spot...our everything!

Things are changing again for many of our St. Margaret's families, as many students are transitioning back into the classroom this month. We are slowly getting back to doing more in-person activities. I am thrilled that we are starting to see our students and families back at church again through in-person worship and fellowship activities, and I pray that this trend can continue.

I have seen so many prayers, articles, and essays that try and capture what we've lived through this past year. Although our experiences have varied greatly, we have all been changed.

I found a beautiful prayer online that I wanted to share with you. It's written by Elizabeth and Matthew Myer Boulton, it is on the next page for you to read, reflect & enjoy.

-Catherine





Pandemic Prayer

Good shepherd, thank you for walking with us through this valley of the shadow of death: through the suffering, the anxiety, the loneliness, the boredom, the longing for closeness and the longing for personal space, the confusion and fear, the impatience and hope, the good days and the bad.

Forgive us for our suspicions of each other, the ways this ordeal has made us more divided, as a country and a world. Help us bridge our differences and come together — even as we are physically distant.

Thank you for all the ways, large and small, that this ordeal has strengthened us as a community: the acts of kindness, the new ways of doing things, the support we've offered and received.

Forgive us for the inequities this pandemic has exposed. Kindle in our hearts a new commitment to justice as we build and rebuild our community together. Keep us ever mindful of those most in need.

We pray especially for those of us who have lost loved ones, lost jobs, lost hope. Let us be good company, even from afar; good neighbors; and good friends.

We pray especially for those on the front lines of the pandemic, for all who are in harm's way.

Gentle God, we ask that you continue to keep watch with those who work, or watch, or weep this day. Walk with those whose bodies are holding memories of sickness, of trauma, of pain, of confusion, of chaos, of isolation. Give your angels charge over those who still cannot sleep because of anxiety or grief.

Tend the sick, give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous; all for your love's sake.

God of life and hope, lift our spirits as we dare to look ahead, dare to hope and dream about the new world to come. Strengthen our efforts, deepen our wisdom, so we might hasten that day. And until that day, keep our eyes and hearts open to the signs of hope and life all around us.

For new ways to connect with each other, we give you thanks and praise!

For teachers and nurses and doctors and agricultural workers and grocery clerks and small business owners and frontline workers of all kinds, we give you thanks and praise!

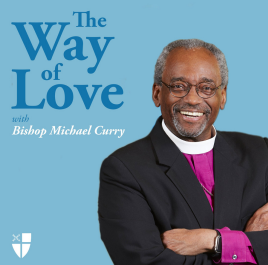
For the beautiful hope of being together again in person one day, lifting our voices in song, passing the peace, sharing cups of coffee, being able to hug one another again — for that day that is surely coming, we give you thanks and praise!

For the ways in which our eyes have been opened by this ordeal, for the ways in which our hearts have been broken and put back together differently, softer and more attuned to the needs of the most vulnerable, we give you thanks and praise!

For all of these things and more, gentle God, we give you thanks and praise in the name of Jesus, our crucified and risen Jesus,

Amen.

written by: Elizabeth and Matthew Myer Boulton



The Way of Love: GO!

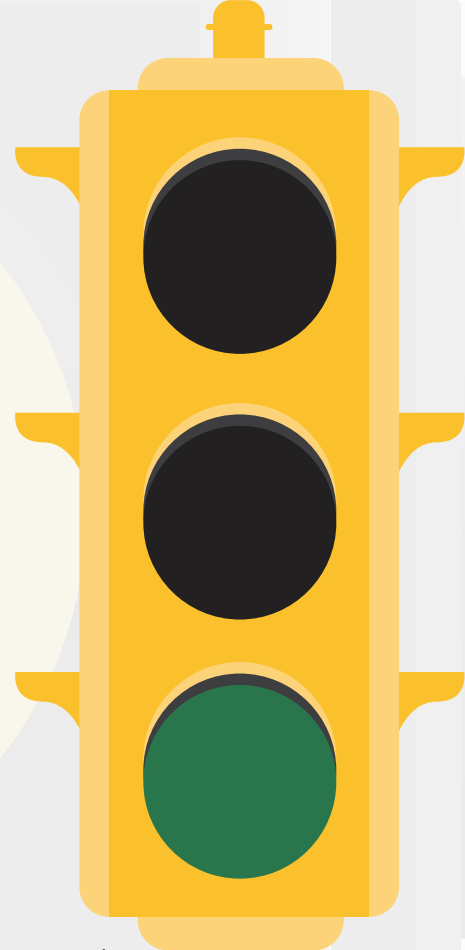
This year, as a parish family, we are committed to walking The Way of Love. The Way of Love is an initiative from Presiding Bishop Michael Curry that seeks to help Episcopalians live a more Christ-centered life. The Way of Love consists of seven verbs: Turn, Learn, Pray, Worship, Bless, **Go**, and Rest. This year we are being asked to ponder for ourselves what it means to follow Jesus.

Our next verb is “Go.”

To “go” is to cross boundaries, listen deeply and live like Jesus. Our lessons will discuss how Jesus send us beyond our circles and comfort, to witness to the love, justice, and truth of God with our lips and with our lives.

Please visit: **<https://www.saintmargarets.net/christian-formation>** to access the lessons.

The lessons for “Go” will be for April 11th-25th.



OUTREACH & PARISH CONNECTION

BY TRACI SCOTT

*ASSISTANT TO THE RECTOR
FOR OUTREACH & PARISH
CONNECTION*

Can you help?

We are looking for donations for a men's clothing collection for Kershaw Correctional. Our Kairos Prison Ministry team is collecting casual men's clothing and shoes. They keep a supply of clothes so that the inmates can take what they need when they are released. Many inmates do not receive any clothing from their families. Casual clothing in good condition is needed such as jeans, casual pants, shorts, polo-style shirts, t-shirts, sneakers, etc. Smaller waist sizes are in particular demand. No belts please. NEW men's white athletic socks would also be appreciated, sizes 9-12 and 13-15. **A donation box will be located by the rear church doors, close to the playground.**

Questions, please contact Traci at connection@saintmargarets.net



THANK YOU ST. MARGARETS! Because of your continued generosity and support, we were recently able to send some much-needed funding to the following non-profits who do great work in our community:

- \$3,000 Galilee Ministries
- \$2,000 Turning Point
- \$2,000 Union County Crisis Assistance
- \$2,000 Community Shelter of Union County
- \$1,000 Operation Reach Out

StM
connect

connection@saintmargarets.net

-Traci





QUARANTINE Q & A:

A GET TO KNOW WITH BRAD LUCAS & FAMILY

I grew up in Vermont but have lived in Charlotte since 1985 while attending UNC-Charlotte. Kim grew up in Monroe. We met while both working for Piedmont Natural Gas. Our daughter, Lydia, is a junior at Weddington High School, was baptized at St. M and is a member of EYC. I have led the finance committee at St. M since 2014.

We attended St. M before Lydia was born but decided to take a break for a period. After Father Todd joined we decided to try it again and have been attending ever since.

How do you plan to celebrate Easter?

Our tradition has been to spend Easter with my parents in Raleigh. Last year was the first one we missed because of COVID. Now that they have been vaccinated we are hoping they can spend Easter with us and also attend one of Lydia's high school soccer games.

What's your favorite comfort food?

On Sunday night's we make "Lucas Pizza", continuing the tradition in my house growing up. Lucas Pizza consists of mozzarella cheese, onions, green peppers and lots and lots of bacon.

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

We have been streaming past seasons of Survivor. We have also enjoyed Outer Banks, All American and High School Musical: The Musical: The Series.

What's one thing you can't wait to do when Covid is over (besides come back to church!)?

Go skiing! Since Lydia was 3 we have skied in Colorado or Utah for a week each spring.

"Our tradition has been to spend Easter with my parents in Raleigh. Last year was the first one we missed because of COVID. Now that they have been vaccinated we are hoping they can spend Easter with us and also attend one of Lydia's high school soccer games."





A VIEW FROM THE VESTRY

JUNIOR WARDEN



By: Hugh Laughlin

Happy Easter and greetings to all at St. Margaret's. This is the April edition of our monthly newsletter and I've been asked to provide you with some thoughts and updates from my perspective as your Junior Warden.

We are called to serve in many ways, and the Lord does know when to call upon us for his service. I've been asked to participate with our vestry and have been given an awesome responsibility. As the junior Warden I am responsible for the campus building and grounds. It's a lot more than you would expect, and thankfully we have many to help with maintaining our wonderful church.

During this past year our outgoing Junior Warden Amy Gorman accomplished an incredible amount of work because we were not in full use of our church facilities. Three very notable accomplishments which Amy oversaw last year included replacing of the roof over our worship space, wrapping up our door campaign, and installing the infrastructure needed for our wonderful online live-stream worship.

Looking forward to our return in full, as many more get their COVID-19 vaccinations, there are other building and grounds maintenance items which needs to be attended to. In some ways our church is beginning to show its age and there will be some significant items to attend to in order to maintain the facilities and ensure they are available for our preschool and worship. This work will be ongoing and I look forward to completing many of these tasks and helping to maintain our wonderful building.

We are blessed with your support that we are able to continue the needed maintenance for our facilities. As we prioritize the needed work and obtain more details, we will share those with you.

Please do not hesitate to ask any questions, and we will be happy to ensure you have the information to keep you informed of our many maintenance tasks.

God bless,
Hugh C. Laughlin

StM volunteers met & prayed together before delivering Easter meal bags in Waxhaw.



Please note: Our church office will now be open M- Th from 9-2 and on Fridays from 9-12 noon with limited staffing. Drop in visits are not allowed.

Rector

The Reverend Fr. Todd R. Dill+

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Priest Associate

The Reverend Sarah Hollar+

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Deacon

The Rev. Ludwig Wallner

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Director of Music & Organist

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Assistant to the Rector for Outreach

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2021 Vestry

Terry Anderson

Mike Murphy

Densel White

Jessica Parker

Chad Hinton

Brian Scott

Kathyann Dugan

Hugh Laughlin

Simon Haaroff

Warren McDonald, Treasurer

April Calendar



In our continued response to the COVID-19 pandemic, we are following the direction of the Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina.

- **Saturday Worship: Rite II, 5:00 pm**
 - 25 seat capacity. *Sign up required*
- **Sunday Worship: Rite I, 8:45 am LIVESTREAMED on our YouTube Channel**
 - 25 seat capacity. *Sign up required*
- **Sunday Worship: Rite II, 11:00 am**
 - 25 seat capacity. *Sign up required.*



[CLICK HERE for our YouTube channel](#)

Holy Week services at StM:

Maundy Thursday at 7pm

Prayer Vigil Thurs night- Fri morning

Good Friday at noon

Easter Services:

Saturday at 5:00pm

Sunday at 7:00am, 8:45am, and 11:00am

**CAPACITY IS LIMITED FOR ALL SERVICES
& SIGN UPS ARE REQUIRED**

Sign up:

<https://rsvp.church/r/XKlXH2YT>