

MAGGIE'S CROSS



A Letter from our Rector

BY FATHER TODD R. DILL+

A Defense of our Hope

This past week, a video was posted on YouTube entitled, *Dancing Priest does Hamilton*. In this three plus minute parody of the musical, an Episcopal priest, donned in full vestments, sings and dances while telling us each that *"You'll be back; back to church, back to passing the peace, back to the Eucharist."* It's not the sort of thing that I would usually have watched, but given the time that I now find that I have in front of my computer, I not only watched it, but I found it quite charming. It was funny, poignant, and ultimately quite full of hope. And more than anything else, it is this hopeful tone that explains why as of today, it has received almost 800,000 views.

This musical setting contrasts with the original song from *Hamilton* in quite interesting and profound ways. In the first act, King George makes his first appearance to sing his song of "love" to the young colonists, *"You'll be back like before I will fight the fight and win the war. For your love, for your praise And I'll love you 'til my dying days. When*

you're gone, I'll go mad. So don't throw away this thing we had 'Cause when push comes to shove I will kill your friends and family to remind you of my love."

It's a song of power, of control, and ultimately a song filled with fear. Fear trying to be invoked on the colonists, but paradoxically, fear from King George at his continued loss of power and of control of this new world. These two songs, with the same musical settings but very different messages, shows what can often be the stark difference between our secular approaches in the world and our lives in Jesus.

Jesus came to us in order to show us a new way; a way that was not defined by power and fear, but a life dripping with love, and abounding in the hope that comes through a deep relationship with Him, so that all who love Jesus might have life and have it abundantly.

Scripture points us to this hope to which we are called time and time again. *"Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and reverence."* (1 Peter 3: 14-16)

Always be ready to make a defense for your hope, for we are a people of hope. Even in the midst of difficult times, and the vast uncertainties of our world, we are certain of Christ and of His presence with His Church.

"Always be ready to make a defense for your hope, for we are a people of hope. Even in the midst of difficult times, and the vast uncertainties of our world, we are certain of Christ and of His presence with His Church."

We do not fear in the same way because we know Jesus, and we do not lose hope because of the assurances given to us by our Lord.

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. (Romans 15:13)

Your priest,

-Fr. Todd+

dill@saintmargarets.net





Fr. Lito will give
"Backpack blessings
"drive in style" in our
church lot on Saturday,
8/8 at 6:45 pm.

AN UNAVOIDABLE MOMENT IN TIME

BY FATHER LITO SANTOS+

My dear Saint Margaret's,

At this moment until the day we load up the moving vans we are busy with packing, sorting, and preparing for our transition to a new phase in our life. I always thought that I could outrun and avoid the ravishes of father time but here I am in the precipice of an unavoidable certain moment in time – my moment of retirement.

As I sift through my life's accumulated stuff, I realize how fleeting the past have been. The only significant truth in all this is how I connected with my God and all those given to me to care, love and respect in all the aspects of my life. In it all, I can clearly see how I simply failed to see value in moments and opportunities given by God to treasure the fleeting encounters with kin, family and acquaintances.

My short years of ministry in your midst have been filled with grand moments of great joy and blessings. I will always treasure the prayers and the wishes from you. I have been rewarded with great companions in my spiritual journey and enjoyed basking in the warmth of your loving care and concern. You have encouraged me to be faithful and true to our God and Church. I could never wish for anything else. I will never forget you and will always remember you in my daily prayers and communion with our God. I am truly grateful for the opportunity to minister and serve you here at Saint Margaret's. You have truly been amazing in your welcome and support.

Please continue offering prayers for me and my family – that the Lord grant us health, strength and wisdom in the years and days ahead. You are forever etched in our thoughts and memories.

Ever in Our Lord, Blessings and Love.

-Fr. Lito, Annie, Zarrah, Josh and Megan

In honor of Fr. Lito's retirement, we are creating a fund to support the **National Coalition for Homeless Veterans**, in honor of his service to the US Army and his 47 years in the Priesthood. You can give by clicking [this link](#).

*"My short years of
ministry in your
midst have been
filled with grand
moments of great
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will always treasure
the prayers and the
wishes from you."*

-Fr. Lito



Questions of Faith



BY FATHER ERIC GRUBB+

grubb@saintmargarets.net

Psalm 62

"I have decided that what I need now is to follow the psalmist's instructions and with my soul, wait alone in silence for God. I need to find time each day to simply sit in silent prayer. I hope you will join me this month in doing the same."

Not long ago, we had one of my favorite psalms appointed for Morning Prayer. Psalm 62 is a beautiful prayer of hope and trust in God during a difficult time. The first verse reads, "For God alone my soul in silence waits; from him comes my salvation." There is so much noise now due to the difficulty caused by this ever lingering pandemic. There is no need for me to list all the things going on in our lives, community, and world right now because we are inundated with information, busyness, and worry. The more people I talk with, I realize that I am not alone right now in feeling a little more tired, a little less creative, and not as connected to others as I would like to be. These are challenging times. That is why I was thankful that we prayed Psalm 62 together.

I was reminded of God's saving presence even (especially) in difficult times. I have decided that what I need now is to follow the psalmist's instructions and with my soul, wait alone in silence for God. I need to find time each day to simply sit in silent prayer. I hope you will join me this month in doing the same. Find a time each day, even just ten minutes, to sit in silent prayer. Turn off the T.V., put away the phones, computers, and to-do list, and sit in the presence of God. Listen. Wait. I hope this intentional time will help ground us more and more in the trust and hope of God even in this difficult time. If you want to talk about how you might spend a quiet moment with God or reflect on your experience, please reach out. I would love to hear from you. "For God alone my soul in silence waits; from him comes my salvation."

- Father Eric+



INVITATION:

Seeking God in the midst of current challenges

We invite parents with students of any age (grandparents included!) to join us for a conversation and study on seeking God in the midst of current challenges and how we can continue to seek comfort, guidance, and peace from our Lord.

2020 has brought us situations and decisions that have never been navigated before and we owe ourselves an immense amount of grace and understanding. **Please join Father Eric and Elizabeth on Monday, August 10th at 8:00am** for a discussion on turning to our Lord in the midst of challenges.

This is a casual Zoom call, a morning cup of coffee and comfy tops welcome! We will end promptly at 9:00am.

Please email Elizabeth Pfeifer at pfeifer@saintmargarets.net for the Zoom link.



BY ELIZABETH PFEIFER

ASSISTANT TO THE RECTOR FOR YOUTH MINISTRY

pfeifer@saintmargarets.net

"Cast all your anxiety on him..."

I am a planner and for the last nine years I have spent my summer planning for the upcoming school year. I schedule parent meetings and overnight retreats, I update medical forms, I recruit volunteers to work with our students, I put the dates for fellowship and outreach events on my calendar.

A Prayer for Living Day by Day by Traci Smith

(www.traci-smith.com)

When our world is changing day by day,
sometimes we worry about the future.

Sometimes our plans change.

Sometimes we don't know what will
happen later.

Sometimes we are disappointed.

God, please be near to us when we are
disappointed, or worried,
or in a time of change.

Help us to live day by day, and to be
thankful for what each day brings.

• Help us not to worry about tomorrow.

• This is the day that you have made,
God, let us be present and joyful today.

I think of program ideas and begin lesson plans. I plan our EYC and Sunday School year. I am a planner because in youth ministry you plan for the things you can control because there are many things you cannot control.

Well, clearly, I cannot control much of anything this year. My planning sessions are limited to about 4 weeks out. There are no retreats scheduled and no in-person fellowship events planned. God is challenging, teaching, and equipping me with the skills I need to be present. God is helping me to not panic over all the ways this could look. God is comforting me when I am disappointed that the annual events I look forward to will not be held "as usual."

• At the time of this writing (July 27th), I am waiting with God. I am waiting for further instructions from our Diocese about what in-person gatherings can look like in the fall, I am waiting to talk with parents about how their students will react to needed safety parameters, I am waiting to see how God needs me to be present to our students and families in this never-seen-before school year. I know our God is with me. I know our God is with you. And for right now, that is the plan.

-Elizabeth

PS: to read a bit more about "the plan" for Christian Formation this fall, please see page 5.

HUMBLE YOURSELVES, THEREFORE, UNDER GOD'S MIGHTY HAND, THAT HE MAY LIFT YOU UP IN DUE TIME. CAST ALL YOUR ANXIETY ON HIM BECAUSE HE CARES FOR YOU.





CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

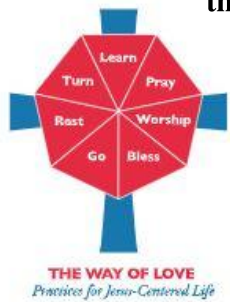
BY CATHERINE CHINTALA

ASSISTANT TO THE RECTOR FOR CHILDRENS MINISTRY

childrensministry@saintmargarets.net

It's hard to believe that we are already in back-to-school mode, and that some of our church families have already started the new school year! This is going to be a challenging year...no matter what decision you made for your kids, it was a hard one. In-person, virtual, hybrid, public, private, homeschool...this will be a year unlike any other. Have faith that you made the right decision and that God's got your back no matter what the school year holds. I am praying for each of you to have a healthy and happy school year! As a church staff, we have been busy planning for the upcoming school year as well.

Sunday School will look different this year, but we are so excited to embrace the changes! **We have a brand-new curriculum, based on Bishop Michael Curry's The Way of Love.** As a church family, we will all study this **Jesus-centered approach to living life and loving God and those around us.** Children, youth, and adults will all study



the principles of the Way of Love in ways that are relatable and appropriate for each age group. We will start the year off with online/at-home faith formation, and we will adjust our approach as the COVID situation changes. Stay tuned for more details surrounding lessons, Bible studies, and opportunities for online fellowship. For more information on the

Way of Love, check out: <https://episcopalchurch.org/way-of-love>

Last month I shared with families a daily faith practice called FAITH5. This 5-step approach to Scripture study and prayer offers a way to spend meaningful time with your family. This daily practice is simple and approachable, and can be done with family members of all ages. I use it in my home as part of our bedtime routine, but it would work equally well at a meal or any time your family is able to be together (and it doesn't have to be for long!) The steps of sharing highs/low of the day, reading Scripture, talking, praying, and blessing one another are powerful ways you can strengthen your faith as a family.



Please contact me if you would like more details: childrensministry@saintmargarets.net If you have any questions or have feedback you would like to share, I'd love to hear from you!

Blessings,
Catherine

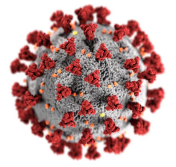


"Eternal God, bless all schools, colleges, and universities [and especially our homes], that they may be lively centers for sound learning, new discovery, and the pursuit of wisdom; and grant that those who teach and those who learn may find you to be the source of all truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER
PG 824



Parishioners in Pandemic: Q & A



BY TRACI SCOTT

ASSISTANT TO THE RECTOR FOR NEWCOMERS & PARISH LIFE

connection@saintmargarets.net

To help keep us all a little more connected and entertained while we can't see each other at church right now, we are starting this section called "**Pandemic Parishioners.**" Meet our first group below for some insight on the next few pages on how they are spending thier time in this covid quarantine:

THE HINTON'S

Chad & Page are Zooming pros and the family likes to play Uno and eat spinach raviol!

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PAGE 7 | CHAD, PAGE & REAGAN HINTON

TRICIA SMITH

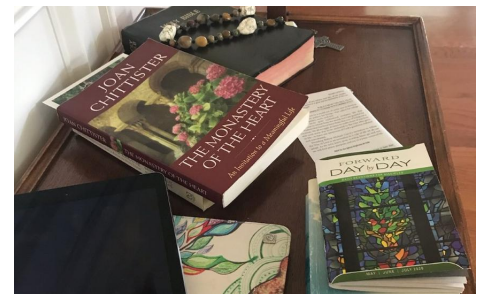
Painting, reading, craft making & playing soduku help keep Tricia busy.

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THE SCIALABBA'S

The Scialabba's love all things berry , do lots of dishwasher running and have been landscaping their yard!

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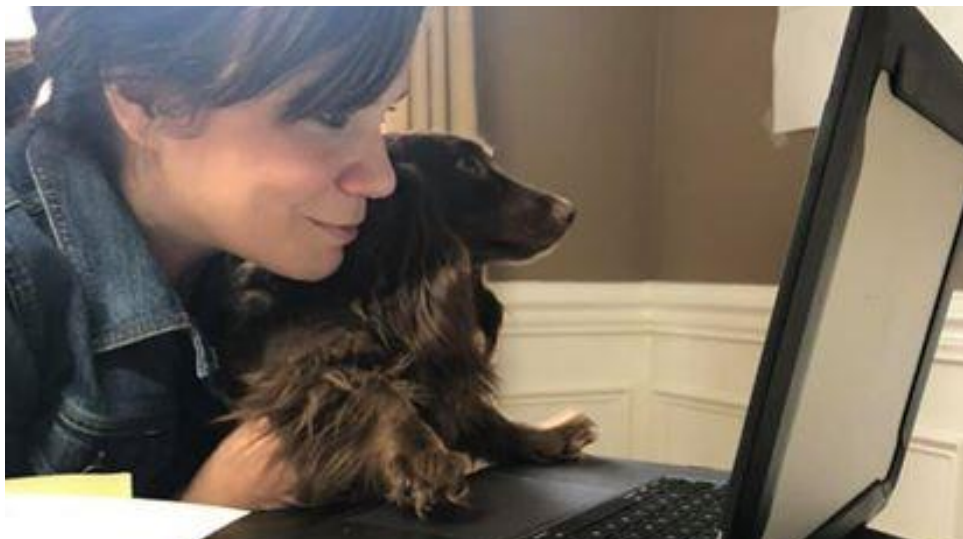


PAGE 8 | TRICIA'S DESK



PAGE 9 | THE SCIALABBA'S

StM connect



QUARANTINE Q & A:

ANSWERS BY CHAD & PAGE HINTON

Q: Favorite Netflix/Amazon/Hulu show during quarantine? Did you watch "Tiger King?"

A: *Last Kingdom (Chad), Tiger King (Chad and Page), Gilmore Girls (Page and Reagan)*

Q: How many times do you run the dishwasher each week?

A: *2 to 3 times*

Q: Favorite family activity during quarantine?

A: *Puzzles*

Q: Favorite board game or card game?

A: *Yahtzee, Uno*

Q: Favorite culinary creation?

A: *Spinach Ravioli from Hello Fresh*

Q: Did you have a trip that was cancelled due to Covid?

A: *Yes. NYC trip for Spring Break, rescheduled it for the end of July, but had to cancel it.*

Q: How many Zoom calls have you participated in, and what type of "Zoomer" are you?

A: *Chad (the one on the iPad); Page (the drinker); Reagan (the virtual background-er)*

Q: Have you made any big changes? e.g. new pet, renovated kitchen, etc.

A: *We added on a deck and patio to our house.*

Q: Have you cleaned out your closets or garage?

A: *We got a shed and moved stuff from the garage into the shed. We have also cleaned out closets and taken a lot of stuff to Goodwill*

Q: Which social media platform do you spend most of your time on?

A: *Facebook*

Q: Have you given yourself or someone else an at-home haircut?

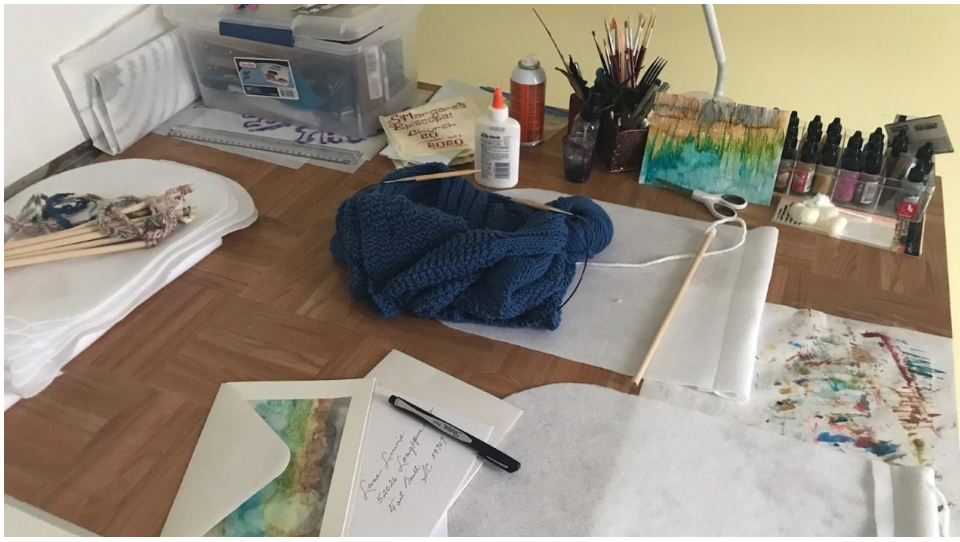
A: *Page gave Chad a haircut twice. Page also gave the dog an at-home haircut.*

HOW DO YOU WATCH OUR SUNDAY SERVICE?

Q: How do you watch our Sunday service? e.g. wearing pjs, with coffee in hand, on the porch, etc.

A: *in the living room on the smart tv, Page drinking coffee, Chad drinking Coke Zero, Reagan eating a snack, all wearing PJs.*





QUARANTINE Q & A:

ANSWERS BY TRICIA SMITH

Q: Favorite Netflix/Amazon/Hulu show during quarantine? Did you watch "Tiger King?"

A: *I did not watch Tiger King (tried it but no) Love Netflix, Amazon Prime and this month Hamilton on Disney +, lots on YouTube. Anything history.*

Q: How many times do you run the dishwasher each week?

A: *twice*

Q: Favorite activity during quarantine?

A: *To read.*

Q: Favorite culinary creation?

A: *thawed*

Q: Did you have a trip that was cancelled due to Covid?

A: *Yes. To Seattle.*

Q: How many Zoom calls have you participated in?

A: *12 Bible Studies, 16 Centering Prayers, 1 DOK Stations of the Cross*

Q: Have you made any big changes? e.g. new pet, renovated kitchen, etc.

A: *No big changes, but learning to focus better.*

Q: Have you cleaned out your closets or garage?

A: *I have cleaned out everything, and probably will be taking a second run as time goes on.*

Q: Which social media platform do you spend most of your time on?

A: *Email, reading, sudoku, visiting with family & friends via messenger.*

Q: Have you given yourself an at-home haircut?

A: Yes.

HOW DO YOU WATCH OUR SUNDAY SERVICE?

Q: How do you watch our Sunday service? e.g. wearing pjs, with coffee in hand, on the porch, etc.

A: *in my craft room on my PC. In my sweats/old shirt/pj's with my coffee and fruit; usually barefoot*



QUARANTINE Q & A:

ANSWERS BY MOLLY SCIALABBA

Q: Favorite Netflix/Amazon/Hulu show during quarantine? Did you watch "Tiger King?"

A: *Jim and I watched Narcos and Unorthodox. As a family we binged The Goldbergs and The Middle.*

Q: How many times do you run the dishwasher each week?

A: *7 - Every single day.*

Q: Favorite family activity during quarantine? Favorite board game or card game?

A: *Our favorite family activity has been berry picking! We went strawberry picking, blueberry picking and blackberry picking. Then we made some awesome desserts. Our favorite game has been Monopoly on Jim's xbox.*

Q: Favorite culinary creation?

A: *Blackberry Cheesecake Bars.*

Q: Did you have a trip that was cancelled due to Covid?

A: *Yes!!! Quite a few.*

Q: How many Zoom calls have you participated in, and what type of "Zoomer" are you?

A: *I have been on way too many ZOOM calls. And I am definitely the 'drinker'.*

Q: Have you made any big changes? e.g. new pet, renovated kitchen, etc.

A: *We did a lot of landscaping!*

Q: Have you cleaned out your closets or garage?

A: *Jim cleaned out the garage.*

Q: Which social media platform do you spend most of your time on?

A: *Instagram.*

Q: Have you given yourself or someone else an at-home haircut?

A: *Sadly, yes. Believe it or not, JIM cut my hair and I cut Sophias. Luckily I have really curly hair so it's easy to hide imperfections!*

HOW DO YOU WATCH OUR SUNDAY SERVICE?

Q: How do you watch our Sunday service? e.g. wearing pjs, with coffee in hand, on the porch, etc.

A: *PJs and coffee in hand! One of the few good things to come out of this is I can FINALLY drink my coffee in church! Lol*



Did you know?

OUR CONTINUED REALITY

Helpful hints for Online Communications...

In our new reality, we are all having to rely on technology more and more, which is a great way to stay connected, but also can be a bit tricky sometimes. Based on questions and feedback we have received from parishioners, **below are a few hints** that may help you navigate our online communications.

YouTube:



instead of clicking on the link that we email on Sunday mornings, you can go directly to our YouTube channel to see the library of past videos from the church.

Click: <https://www.youtube.com/c/StMargaretsEpiscopalChurch> or search "St. Margaret's Episcopal Church" on YouTube.

We suggest you click "Subscribe" so that you'll be notified when we post a new video.

Newsletters:



Newsletters: all of our past monthly newsletters are stored on the St. Margaret's website. You can view this library of large format PDF files any time by clicking here and scrolling down: <https://www.saintmargarets.net/newsletters>

Facebook:



****you don't need a Facebook account to view our Facebook page**** Anyone can watch Morning Prayer (9am) and Compline (9pm) each weekday here: <https://www.facebook.com/stmwaxhaw>.

IMPORTANT TO NOTE: If you do not have a Facebook account, it may put a bar at the bottom asking you to login or create an account or it may show that on a full screen, but you can click "Not Now" to move past that and watch a live feed or video.

Email:



It appears that many St. Margaret's emails may not be going into the "Primary" Inbox on Gmail, but instead are put into the "Promotions" Inbox. If you aren't seeing emails from the church, please click the "Promotions" tab to see if they are there.

Yahoo, Hotmail and AOL may have something similar. You can check "Junk" or "Trash" folders as well. Normally, if you move an email from one of those folders to your Inbox, it will remember next time and put it in your Inbox.

Should you have any questions on St. Margaret's and our platforms of communications, feel free to email parishadmin@saintmargarets.net or call the church office for assistance.

Did you know?

Food needed in our community

Hosts are needed for Tuesday Food Collections at St. Margaret's.

Hosts need to be at the church on their scheduled day from 2-4pm to receive drop-offs. Then, drive those donations to Operation Reach Out in Monroe sometime that week. Great for a family!

*Available dates in August are 8/4, 8/18, 8/25.

Please email traciscott@me.com to volunteer.

Help is needed for a Common Heart Mobile Food Pantry in Monroe.

Volunteers are needed on Tuesday, August 11th from 8:30am-12pm. Volunteers will pack food boxes and load cars as recipients drive-thru the line. They usually serve several hundred cars at these events. This is better for older teens and up. (Location is the lot across from 1001 Winchester Ave, Monroe, NC)

Email traciscott@me.com to volunteer or if you have any questions.

Please help us spread the word in your neighborhoods

As we continue to collect non-perishable food for *Operation Reach Out* in Monroe, we are also taking donations of **tarps, 3-man tents, socks, L & XL boxers, insect repellent and cheap disposable ponchos** are also welcome for their "Tent City" ministry that helps the homeless in our county.

If you can't come in person, you can order from our **Amazon Wish List** & have the items shipped to the church and we'll deliver them.

https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/1FZ5RI2TQHT5M?ref_=wl_share

MORE VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES EXIST



NON-PERISHABLE FOODS:
CANNED VEGGIES
CANNED SOUPS
CANNED FRUITS
CANNED MEATS
CEREAL GRITS OATMEAL
SPAGHETTI & SAUCE
MACARONI & CHEESE
PASTA DRY BEANS
PEANUT BUTTER & JELLY

OR:
MAIL A CHECK
PAYABLE TO OPERATION REACH OUT
PO BOX 403 MONROE, NC 28111
OR:
DROP OFF A CHECK AT 1308 MILLER ST, MONROE 9:00-2:00PM DAILY

COMMUNITY FOOD DRIVE



DROP OFF LOCATIONS:

MONDAY

ALL SAINTS ANGLICAN
5328 HEMBY ROAD, WEDDINGTON

TUESDAY

ST. MARGARET'S EPISCOPAL
8515 REA RD MARVIN

THURSDAY

WAXHAW UMC 200 MCDONALD ST
630-730PM

SATURDAY

AMAZING GRACE LUTHERAN
416 W. NORTH MAIN STREET WAXHAW
9-11AM

EVERYDAY/ALL DAY

AT WAXHAW UMC PORCH UNDER THE BELL TOWER






August Calendar

In our continued response to the COVID-19 pandemic, we are following the direction of the Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina. For now we will continue to practice physical distancing and offer online worship services.

Please note: Although our church office is open M-F from 9-12 noon with limited staffing, we can not receive any drop in visits.

At this time, our clergy, staff & vestry remain committed to planning for a stage 2 reopening as directed by our Bishop. More details will follow as we get more information on safety timelines and protocols.


Virtual opportunities to connect continue:

 We continue to WORSHIP ONLINE each Sunday in the months ahead. All virtual worship service videos are produced each week and uploaded to our YouTube channel. **CLICK [HERE](#) to subscribe to our YouTube channel.**



We are committed to bring you daily prayer, christian formation offerings and discussions through Facebook live, zoom and other social media platforms.


Mark your calendar for Our Bishop & Our Rector 8.5.20



A CONVERSATION WITH OUR BISHOP & OUR RECTOR

FACEBOOK LIVE
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 5TH
7:00 PM

Join Father Todd Dill+ and +Bishop Sam Rodman as they join together in conversation & questions on:
Life in the church during this quarantine.





Rector

The Reverend Fr. Todd R. Dill+
dill@saintmargarets.net

Senior Assistant to the Rector for Pastoral Care

The Reverend Fr. Lito Santos+
santos@saintmargarets.net

Assistant to the Rector

The Reverend Fr. Eric Grubb+
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Director of Music & Organist

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Executive Assistant to the Rector

Joanie Cameron
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Assistant to the Rector for Youth Ministries

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Assistant to the Rector for Preschool Ministries

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Assistant to the Rector for Finance & Accounting

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Assistant to the Rector for Newcomers & Parish Life

Traci Scott
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2020 Vestry

Chris Cox, *Senior Warden*
Amy Gorman, *Junior Warden*

Julie Jenkins
Terry Anderson
Mike Murphy
Densel White
Jessica Parker
Chad Hinton
Brian Scott
Warren McDonald, *Treasurer*