

MAGGIE'S CROSS



A Letter from our Rector

BY FATHER TODD R. DILL+

*And now these three
remain; Faith, Hope,
and Love*

I know that this sequester has affected me. I trust that these changes will only last for a short time, but it has influenced me, and I do not like what it has done to me. I'm more irritable, less focused, and I'm not sleeping as well as I usually do. I'm tired of ministry via email, text message, and a computer screen. Don't get me wrong; I am thankful that I have these tools by which I can stay connected to everyone, but I still do not like it. I especially dislike preaching in an empty nave to an iPhone on a stand, with no one else anywhere in sight. I am ready to get back to the way things were, where Saint Margaret's was full on Sunday mornings and I could eat out or go anywhere that I wanted to, or more importantly, see each one of you. You may not feel exactly as I do, but having talked to many of you over the past 4 months (via Zoom!), my sense is that I am not alone. I know that many of you are frustrated, some of you are lonely, and many are just plain scared. I have even had deep conversations with those of you whose faith has been shaken,

and those who have bitter disappointment in the voices you hear from our national church leaders and our elected government officials. Compounding all of this is our inability to gather for worship. Corporate worship is the central act of a faithful Christian community, and we are kidding ourselves if we do not think that our lack of gathering for worship or the inability to receive the Blessed Sacrament has not left our souls a bit thirsty and our hearts slightly aching. If this all sounds like doom and gloom, let me suggest to you that there is another way. We do not have to give in to the despair or worry that is so easy for us to slip into. Saint Paul, as he wrote to a deeply troubled church in Corinth, encouraged his people to remember who they are, and to whom it was that they belong. After naming their challenges, he reminds them that they are followers of Jesus; the Anointed One, who came that we might have life and have it abundantly. We, like the people in Corinth, are people of faith; a faith that opens the door to a wonderful relationship with Jesus. We are people of hope; that no matter what our personal circumstances or situations, we seek a greater kingdom that calls us to new life. And we are people of love; that just as God our Father chooses to adore us and cherish each of us, so we too reflect the goodness of our Father by loving one another just as He loves us. You see, even during these strange times, nothing is preventing us from choosing to continue our walk with Jesus. Perhaps it offers us an even more amazing way to be the people of Jesus during these trying and difficult times. If we give in to our

***"None of what we are
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despair or our frustrations, no one would blame us. If we seem more irritable or short tempered, most would understand. But what if, instead of that, and despite our temporary physical distancing, we choose to cling even more closely to the central call of our faith, and reflect the goodness of God. Plenty of others are giving into their anxieties. Let us be different, and embrace a life of Jesus even when everything is going crazy around us! Ultimately, we are a people that live not in the moment, but in the person of Jesus Christ. None of what we are experiencing is permanent. What does endure is Jesus. Let us strive for the greater good and each proclaim that wonderful truth during these strange and unsettling times. Let us reflect our life in Jesus through the Christian values that still reside in each one of us. Our faith, our hope, and our love for one another. *For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known. And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love. (1 Cor 13:12-13)*

Your priest, with faith,
hope, and love,

-Fr. Todd+

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Freedom



BY FATHER LITO SANTOS+
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July is highlighted by the celebration of our nation's remarkable achievement that need not be taken for granted. As a nation we need to

remember the freedoms that we are in the brink of losing. The recent days pepper our waking hours with the awful images of disrespectful language and arrogant posturing of a sector in our society that clamor for the eradication of the visual representation of our past. In an arrogant display of respect for the sensitivity of our people. We cannot forget that freedom is not free. We should all remember the cost of our freedoms. Especially the freedom for the thoughts we hate the most. Genuine freedom is when we focus on the fullest pursuit of our own happiness without restricting or condemning the way others pursue their own happiness.

Let us mark our Independence Day with prayerful actions and genuine gestures of forgiveness and healing. - Fr. Lito+

Questions of Faith



BY FATHER ERIC GRUBB+
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Waiting On The Lord

Everything it seems is taking longer now due to the Coronavirus restrictions. At the grocery store standing six feet apart and sanitizing stations between each customer doubles the waiting time. Fewer tables open at restaurants makes for longer wait times. The other day, I had to go to the DMV, which was already a slow-moving process but made almost unbearable with social distancing. Before having to adjust to this "new normal," we had become accustomed to having things instantly. Mobile orders allow us to walk in Starbucks with the drink ready on the counter. Amazon is becoming more skilled at getting our orders to us as soon as we click "ship." We have come not to have to wait much at all. Yet, deep in the Biblical narrative is the idea of waiting on the Lord. Like in this well-known verse in Isaiah, *"but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint."* Our relationship with God is one that is often characterized by waiting.

Whether we are waiting to hear God's voice in silent prayer or waiting to feel Him move us in discerning important life choices, and we are always waiting for our great hope in Christ's return. **Waiting on God is an expression of faith and hope that God is with us and acts for us in his own time.**

While we are in this strange season being forced to wait a little more during our day, may we use that time in line to reflect for what we are waiting on the Lord to do.

- Father Eric+



BY ELIZABETH PFEIFER

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Are you grieving like me?

Early in the pandemic, when the world was shifting underneath our feet and our emotions differed hour by hour (that wasn't just me, was it?) an article began to make the rounds on social media in an effort to help us identify our emotions: "*That Discomfort You're Feeling Is Grief*" by Scott Berinato. If you have not read it yet, I highly recommend it and it is hyperlinked here. [CLICK HERE FOR LINK](#)

The five stages of grief, originally proposed by Elisabeth Kulber-Ross in 1969, are: **denial** and **isolation**, **anger**, **bargaining**, **depression**, and **acceptance**. The five stages of grief do not occur in any specific order and can occur with different levels of intensity and duration.

The article by Berinato was enlightening to me because our world has been grieving and will continue to grieve for the foreseeable future. We grieve the loss of life to Covid-19, we grieve the loss of our normal day-to-day, we grieve the loss of rituals and traditions that might never come back.

I have spent the pandemic identifying my emotions, stating what is making me happy or sad or anxious. According to the five stages of grief, I have had rough days (depression) while I have had fun days filled with socially distanced picnics and drive-thrus and I think "I can do this" (acceptance). Last week, the week of June 22nd, was a week of anger for me and it caught me off guard. I hate being angry (go with me here...). I know it is a legitimate emotion but, for me, I hate the feeling of being angry. I am naturally an incredibly positive and optimistic person and anger takes up a lot of energy and brain power and puts a physical toll on me that I do not enjoy. When I find myself angry over a situation, I take immediate steps to confront and then move on from that anger. But last week, I could not shake the feeling of anger. We should have been finishing up a week of Vacation Bible School, I should have been prepping for our mission trip to leave on June 28th, I should have just wrapped up a heart-warming graduation season for an incredible group of seniors. The church was originally hoping that July 1st would be the date we would be allowed to resume in-person worship services and small group meetings. None of that happened and many states are experiencing a precipitous increase in Covid-19 cases. I am grieving the continued loss of these summer traditions I love. Back in March, I was depressed.

This time around, I was angry. So, I took that anger to God. The Bible provides us with a way to react to our feelings of being sad or angry in the form of a lament. A lament is a sad or angry poem that expresses frustration about something; laments can be found in the Book of Psalms and Lamentations. For examples of laments, read Psalm 13, 22, and 44. The authors of these laments show us that we can mourn passionately while also looking to recovery. We can let God know we are upset or angry in a productive manner and we can stand firm in our belief that, through all our emotions, God loves us. As our world continues to experience the collective grief of covid-19, we need to find proper channels to deal with our feelings of anger. Next time you find yourself filled with anger or sadness, write or draw your own lament. It does not need to be formal language and it does not need to rhyme; it just needs to be from you.

-Elizabeth

Denial

Anger

Bargaining

Depression

Acceptance

"We grieve the loss of life to Covid-19, we grieve the loss of our normal day-to-day, we grieve the loss of rituals and traditions that might never come back."



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



BY CATHERINE CHINTALA

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Ask the Bishop

Bishop Sam Rodman is answering questions from children in NC on the Diocesan Facebook page this summer. **"Ask the Bishop"** is all about answering the questions on the minds of kids - whether it's about God, the Bible, the wider world, or anything else.

Each week Bishop Sam will record a video on Facebook answering those questions. The series is intended for kids aged 12 and under, so let's help get those questions to the bishop!

- Email the question from your child to communications@episdionc.org
- Have your child write the question (or draw a picture) and take a photo of the drawing.
- Record a short video of the child asking their question.

**However you send the question, please be sure to include the child's first name and age. No last names or church identifiers will be used in the videos. Questions received by noon each Wednesday may be used for that week's video.*

Please note: All submissions on behalf of the children must be done with parental/guardian permission. When parental/guardian permission is granted, it is with the understanding that the child's question, artwork or image will be used for the video series, which may be shared on any and all diocesan communications channels, including social media.

If you have kids, send us their questions! If you know kids, share the news of this series created just for them and encourage them to share what's on their minds! Every child has a curious mind, so let's encourage them to "Ask the Bishop!"



Emily Chintala from St. Margaret's submitted a question to Bishop Sam and got an answer.

Emily: "Why did God create us?"

Bishop Sam:

"God must have wanted company so he created us to have a relationship with Him and to care for his creation. He created the whole world and us out of love."



When we asked Emily how she felt when she watched Bishop Sam's video response to her question, she said:

"I felt excited that someone was answering my question and it was fun. I didn't know what he was going to say, and it made a lot of sense."

The work of the church goes on

BY TRACI SCOTT

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FOR NEWCOMERS & PARISH LIFE

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While we are all still somewhat isolated and unable to come together in person, the work of the church goes on for all of us. That may be in your own home with your family, over the phone with a loved one or out in the community with those in need.

I have had the privilege of seeing the kind acts of so many generous parishioners continuing over the past few months. Whether it was Ian Caterina and his daughter tending to the St. Margaret's Giving Garden multiple times each week or the Ballard's, Plihck's, Pharr's, Sweeney's, Halodik's, Murphy's and others hosting our weekly Tuesday food collection or the Feldser's, Beth Pierce, Sullivan's, Luran Godwin, Sells' and many others volunteering at the Common Heart food pantries or Jeremy Ervin and all of our donors ensuring that the blood drives continue on or the 8 parishioners who simply sent donations into the church earmarked to help a community food pantry....it is all uplifting and encouraging during these troubling times. St. Margaret's is a light in our community and for each other.

Please reach out to a St. Margaret's friend this week and let's all stay connected.

"St. Margaret's is a light in our community and for each other."

*Tuesday food collections continue through the summer!
Drop off donations from 2-4pm in front of the church.*



Common Heart has been receiving weekly donations from StM, including 129 squash, 112 cucumbers, 67 zucchini, 38 peppers, 5lbs of beans. from our Giving Garden. Tomatoes and eggplant will be next..



Pictured below are Kathy & John Ballard waiting for food donations on a rainy Tuesday. We thank all our volunteers!



Did you know?

Flat Maggie...WHERE ARE YOU?



PRINT OUT YOUR FLAT MAGGIE by clicking this link:
<https://files.constantcontact.com/94b1917b001/af0d0ff8-22cd-450e-9a17-4e1acaf2a007.pdf>

Keep those Flat Maggie pictures coming...

it is so fun to see where Flat Maggie has been! Please email Catherine (childrensministry@saintmargarets.net) if you need a digital copy. You can print out Flat Maggie, and take her on all of your summer adventures, even if it's no further than your own backyard! (Thank you Paula Holbein for sending in the photo above from your granddaughter's graduation.)

Please send pictures to Elizabeth at pfeifer@saintmargarets.net and they will be shared on the St. Margaret's Facebook page.



THE GIVING GARDEN IS FLOURISHING

Squash, zucchini, peppers and more...

Thank you to Ian Caterina for all the work he's done in our Giving Garden. We had our biggest haul yet in late June with: 28 squash, 20 zucchini, 31 cucumbers, and 17 peppers. Beans and tomatoes are next.

Interested in helping Ian? We are looking for volunteers to pick in July. Contact parishadmin@saintmargarets.net if you can help.



HAVE YOU SEEN OUR NEW ROOF?



After many months of patiently waiting for insurance claims to go through and the selection process to pick the perfect shingles and installers...we are pleased to report that this long awaited project is almost complete. After a couple tweaks and the installation of a new and improved gutter system StM will be covered in a more durable and thicker roof as we head into 2021.



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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*

July 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 will now be 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.



CLICK HERE TO SIGN UP:
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080A4BA4AC292-sunday>

St. Margaret's Episcopal Church

Sunday at the Tree

Need a reason to get back up to the church campus and reconnect with your St. Margaret's friends & clergy?

Starting July 5th from 10:00 am - 11:00 am we will be organizing "BYOCs" - bring your own coffee and chairs and meet under the back tree around the picnic table in a small group.

Only 8 spots per Sunday as chairs will be spread six feet apart to observe physically distant guidelines. So...reserve your spot today and plan to "get back to church" soon.



Virtual worship continues



We will 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.

Lord God Almighty, in whose Name the founders of this country won liberty for themselves and for us, and lit the torch of freedom for nations then unborn: Grant that we and all the people of this land may have grace to maintain our liberties in righteousness and peace; through Jesus Christ



our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.