

MAGGIE'S CROSS



A Letter from our Rector

BY FATHER TODD R. DILL+

A Season of Prayer

The act of praying should be a daily discipline for all followers of Jesus. Our Lord faithfully set aside time to find a quiet spot and to connect with His Father so that He might discern God's will, align Himself with that Divine Will, and gain strength from the presence of the Almighty. I've always thought that if it's good enough for Jesus, then perhaps I should follow His example and make sure that I am spending time in regular conversation with God too, just as our Lord did! The Church also implores this of all its people, and thus the Prayer Book offers us a guide to do just that. The Daily Office of Morning Prayer, Noonday Prayer, Evening Prayer, and Compline are set forth for us in order to offer us each a path of prayer that helps center our lives around God and His Divine purposes.

There are those times, however, when an intentionality in our prayer life is required of us, both individually and corporately. I believe that we find ourselves in such a time as this. Our society is

bitterly divided over so many important issues; race, power, authority, politics, and on and on and on. The list is really too long to write. Even the Church itself, called to be unified in our love of Jesus, all too often can more easily slip into conflict and not model the Way of Love and the love of our neighbor that we are called to. In Paul's letter to the church in Rome, he encourages the faithful to "*be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.*" Even in the midst of trials, and perhaps especially when all seems too difficult to handle, in joyful obedience we are called to offer our prayers on behalf of others and for the needs of the world.

And so, as a way for me to personally adopt a deeper discipline of prayer, I have decided to dedicate the month of July as an intensive time of intercession for each of you. In the past, I have often prayed for ten family members of the parish by name each week, and thus praying for the entire parish over the course of several weeks or even months. In July, I will endeavor to pray for each one of you each week, thanking God for your presence, asking for His

Divine protection for you, and asking that you know the power and beauty of His loving presence each and every moment of your life. **As your priest, I feel it important for you to know that I will be praying for you**, and I ask that if you have any petition or need that you would like for me to specifically pray for you, all you need do is email me (confidentially.)

Additionally, as I pray for you, I would also ask that you pray for me. If I have learned any great lesson as I have grown closer to Christ, it is that I need the prayers of the people with whom I have been called to served. Also, let me encourage you to pray for the Church, for our nation and its leaders, for the welfare and needs of others, and for those who are sick or who have recently died. And when you do, please do so in a spirit of joy. What a wonderful gift it is that Jesus beckons our prayers, and it is His great delight to hear our petitions and tend to our greatest needs.

Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer!

Your praying preist,

-Fr. Todd+

dill@saintmargarets.net





Thoughts from Rev. Sarah

Rev. Sarah Hollar+

hollar@saintmargarets.net

Office Hours: Wednesdays, 9 am - 4 pm

704-243-3523, ext. 222

How's Your Prayer Life?

How's your Prayer Life?

After the greeting, after the deep settling breaths, after the moments in silence, after the prayer evoking the Holy Spirit, this is the question asked in Spiritual Direction sessions. The answers vary across individuals and across what's happening in their lives. Even sainted wizen matriarchs have dry spells. Over-scheduled teens, law associates, and preschoolers' moms run out of time, energy and will to sit with God. Sometimes the established patterns, the comfortable practices lose their appeal. The ways that have worked before seem boring!

When that happens, it's tempting and easier for sure to push the whispering call to prayer to the small dark recesses of our minds and carry on with tasks at hand. It doesn't feel good to ignore our Lord. It's like that nagging thought, I need to call that friend, that in-law I've neglected too long. We know time in meditation, in conversation with Father, Son, Spirit is good for us. We know it has potential to revive our souls and give us direction in working out our life's dilemmas. We know in prayer we can encounter healing, relief, assurance, and insight. But sometimes our prayer seems ineffective, and we wonder what we're doing wrong. Sometimes it's not so much as we don't get the answer we seek, but we don't seem to hear anything at all.

In those times, it's easier to put off dull prayer than to contemplate what would invigorate our time with God. It's easier but not helpful. What is often useful is imagining! The Good Lord gave us amazing minds to know ourselves and problem solve, to think critically and creatively. When prayer becomes hard or tiresome, maybe it's because God is waiting to meet you in a new place to refresh you and encourage you in ways you now need.

What do you love to do? What always seems to give you peace? What have you wanted to try but have put off too long? Is the garden calling? The flyfishing stream? Do you need a quiet corner where nothing else gets done to sit a few minutes twice a week to say, "I'm here, may I hear your word for me?" Twice a week could become more. It's certainly better than no days.

How's your prayer life is not an admonition, it's an invitation. It's permission to explore times and ways of meeting God that engage your soul and call you back for more.

Fortified praying,

**The Good Lord gave us amazing minds to know
ourselves and problem solve, to think critically and creatively.
When prayer becomes hard or tiresome, maybe it's because
God is waiting to meet you in a new place to refresh you and
encourage you in ways you now need.**



From the Deacon's Bench QUADRAGINTA

Deacon Ludwig Wallner
thewallners@hotmail.com

During the past year, we have learned several new phrases such as “mask wearing,” “social distancing” and of course “Quarantine”.

Now the word quarantine is a rather interesting word. The root word from the Latin is QUADRAGINTA which means **40**. The Romans used the word to describe the time period a widow could remain in her deceased husband's home (40 days). Then it was used to describe the time period a ship had to remain in port before allowing passengers to leave if there was an illness on board (**40** days).

During the several periods of quarantine that we all experienced during the past year, scientists believe that the rivers were cleaning up and that the air was becoming cleaner as a result of less travel and pollution. Numbers suggest that there was less theft and murder. There also appeared to be a very positive trend of more people turning to Christ.

Several theologians believe that the number **40** represents “change.” It is the time of preparation for a person or group of people to make a fundamental change. To further this belief whenever the number **40** appears in the Bible, change is about to or has taken place. If this is true what does scripture say about **40**?

In the story of Noah and the flood, the flood lasted for **40** days. The Exodus from Egypt to the Promised Land lasted for **40** years. Moses stayed on Mount Sinai for **40** days to receive the Ten Commandments. The Old Testament allows a woman to rest for **40** days after giving birth. After Jesus was baptized by John in the Jordan, He was driven into the wilderness where he fasted for 40 days. Each year we use the **40** days of Lent as a preparation of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ's Crucifixion and Resurrection.

Although many of us are glad that the year 2020 is over and that life is beginning to return to normal (whatever that may be), we hope that our pleasant memories of the past year will outweigh the bad.

**Remembering the year 2020, keep in mind that:
20 + 20 = 40!**

2020 is perfect vision, and as we remember the year 2020 let us pray that perfect vision will help us to keep focused on the important things in our life, with the most important being – Jesus.

404040404040404040404040

**“...life is beginning to
return to normal
(whatever that may be),
we hope that our
pleasant memories of
the past year will
outweigh the bad.”**



Youth Spotlight

BY ELIZABETH PFEIFER

ASSISTANT TO THE RECTOR FOR YOUTH MINISTRY

pfeifer@saintmargarets.net

A non-ranked assortment of things I AM GRATEFUL FOR as of late June 2021:

- Singing at worship services
- Iced lattes
- Finding a new-to-me “bingeable” show on Hulu
- In-person staff meetings
- The health of my loved ones
- Booking a plane ticket for an October trip
- The return of wedding dance floors
- The staff of St. Margaret’s
- Summer reading
- Celebrating the birth of babies (in-person!)
- Swimming laps at the YMCA
- Planning fall overnights for youth group
- God’s presence in my life. Every day, but particularly the last 15 months.

A Prayer for Expressing Gratitude:

Gracious God, in the busy-ness of my day, I sometimes forget to stop to thank you for all that is good in my life.

My blessings are many and my heart is filled with gratefulness for the gift of living, for the ability to love and be loved, for the opportunity to see the everyday wonders of creation, for sleep and water, for a mind that thinks and a body that feels.

I thank you, too, for those things in my life that are less than I would hope them to be. Things that seem challenging, unfair, or difficult. When my heart feels stretched and empty, and pools of tears form in my weary eyes, still I rejoice that you are as near to me as my next breath and that in the midst of turbulence, I am growing and learning.

In the silence of my soul, I thank you most of all for your unconditional and eternal love. Amen.

From: http://explorefaith.org/prayer/prayer/prayers_for_living/a_prayer_for_expressing_gratitude.php

Christians are called to a life of gratitude.

In the day to day (in the iced coffees to gym trips to work meetings), how do we readily recognize all that God has blessed us with daily?

What are you grateful for today?

Psalm 95 tells us to “*sing for joy to the Lord*” and to “come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song” (verses 1-2).

Ephesians 5:19-20 tells us to “[speak] to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. *Sing and make music from your heart* to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.”



Confirmation Day with Bishop Sam Rodman, 6/3/21



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

BY CATHERINE CHINTALA

*ASSISTANT TO THE RECTOR
FOR CHILDREN'S MINISTRY*

Summer is finally here! I hope you and your family are well and looking forward to all that summer has to offer....whether that's a break from the school-year routine, afternoons by the pool, gardening in your backyard, or taking that long-awaited trip! Although things still look different, we are slowly starting to see more "normal" things again. My family is having fun at swim meets, playing with friends, seeing extended family members in person, and even planning a vacation. These are all things we weren't able to do for so long, and we can finally enjoy them once again. We are so thankful for that!

A special occasion that our StM family just celebrated was Holy Communion. Last month 7 students and their families attended a series of classes on Holy Communion, and celebrated during the 8:45am service on June 20th. It was so nice to be able to resume formation with these students, and I felt honored to be part of this special day!

Congratulations to:

Anna Collins

Claire Feldser

Jack Naftzger

Ethan Naftzger

Kensley Shaffer

Andrew Stephens

Rylee Stephens



Thank you to everyone who has submitted Flat Maggie pictures – keep them coming! (see next page for a glimpse of some of our submissions.) Whether you're traveling across the country or within your own neighborhood, bring Maggie along to document where our StM family goes this summer! Laminated Flat Maggies will be available at church in the Narthex; make sure to pick one up when you're at service! Take a family picture with Maggie on your travels, and email it to Elizabeth (pfeifer@saintmargarets.net) so we can share it with the rest of our StM family!

Blessings,
Catherine

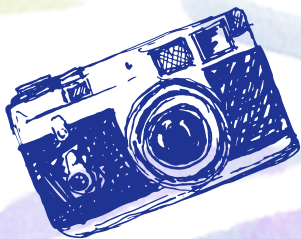


Rylee Stephens and Fr. Todd celebrate her Holy Communion Day

**O God, our heavenly Father,
whose glory fills the whole
creation, and whose presence
we find wherever we go:
preserve those who travel;
surround them with your
loving care; protect them
from every danger; and bring
them in safety to their
journey's end; through Jesus
Christ our Lord. Amen.**



A SNAPSHOT OF FLAT MAGGIE'S SUMMER ADVENTURES



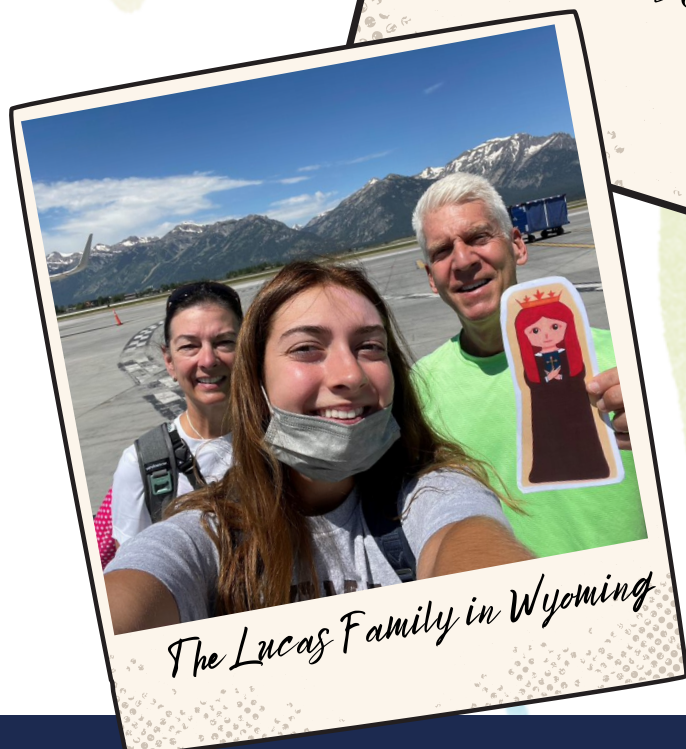
*Ashleigh Clark brought me along
to the Grand Tetons*



River walking with Jackie Paar



Paula Holbein & granddaughters

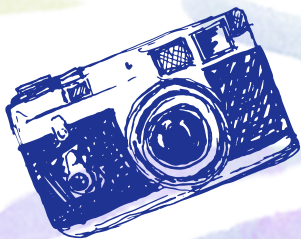


The Lucas Family in Wyoming



*Ken & Gen Koch & family
in Florida*

A SNAPSHOT OF FLAT MAGGIE'S SUMMER ADVENTURES



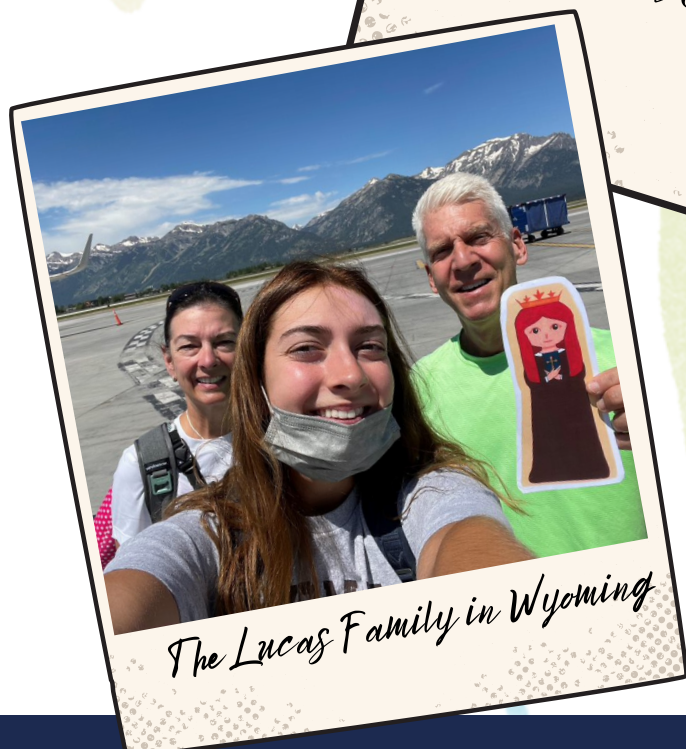
*Ashleigh Clark brought me along
to the Grand Tetons*



River walking with Jackie Paar



Paula Holbein & granddaughters



The Lucas Family in Wyoming



*Ken & Gen Koch & family
in Florida*

OUTREACH



& PARISH CONNECTION

TRACI SCOTT

ASSISTANT TO THE RECTOR FOR OUTREACH & PARISH CONNECTION

connection@saintmargarets.net



Serving at Common Heart

Volunteers from St. Margaret's had fun serving together at Common Heart recently! We stocked shelves in their food warehouse, prepared food boxes that would be delivered to local residents in need and sorted through rescued groceries from local stores.

If you'd like to serve with your family or friends this summer, check out their volunteer scheduler here:

<https://commonheart.org/volunteer/>

Community Worker Snack Attacks

Volunteers are needed to help with this ministry. StM has been spreading God's love in our local area by taking treats to those who serve our community (fire department, police, hospital staff, etc) and we need more parishioners to help. The best part is that you can do it on your own schedule! Outreach will pay for the food. You just call to get a headcount, pick up and deliver the food, along with a note from us. Great thing to do with your kids this summer! Contact Traci for details.



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

Steven & Katherine Chudyk

Connect Over Coffee

JOIN US IN THE PARISH HALL

All are invited to "coffee hour"
Sunday 10:00-10:45am

MEET, GREET & RE-CONNECT



Join us for Coffee Hour on July 18 in the Parish Hall 10:00-10:45am.

We're planning for monthly coffee hours to help our parish re-connect with friends and meet some new faces that have joined us over the past year.

Please plan to stop by!



Rick Delmar volunteers at Common Heart in Monroe



QUARANTINE Q & A:

A GET TO KNOW WITH THE WARD FAMILY

Josh and Jennifer (Jenn) are high school sweethearts that grew up in a small town in NC about an hour and half from here. We both graduated from NC State in Raleigh. Jennifer has been in the Charlotte area since 1998 and Josh since 2000. We were married at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Winston Salem, the church where Jennifer was baptized and confirmed. We will be celebrating our 20 year anniversary this month. We have 3 daughters. Hayden is a rising Junior at Cuthbertson High School. Hadley (8th) and Harper (7th) go to Cuthbertson Middle School. We also have 2 cats (Tux and Cash) and an 11 month old English Cream Golden Retriever named Hank! Josh works for Walker and Dunlap and has an office in downtown Waxhaw. Jennifer works from home as a travel planner for LBAC Travel.

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

Jennifer grew up in the Episcopal Church and Josh grew up Methodist. When we were engaged, Josh went through confirmation classes at Holy Comforter in Charlotte, the church we both joined. In 2007 we moved to Waxhaw and wanted to find an Episcopal church that was closer to us. At first we started going to St. John's in Charlotte but realized that was still too far to drive with young kids. We finally made the move to St. Margaret's in 2010. We were so happy to find this parish to raise our kids!

What's one thing you have learned about yourselves over the past year? *That as long as we have each other, we have all that we need. We appreciated the slower pace of life, more time at home, less driving around and more family time. We only have 6 years left until the girls are all off to college so we are happy for our time together.*

What does a typical Saturday night look like for you?

I don't think there is a typical weekend night when you have teenagers in the house! Our schedule is based around what they have going on and varies each weekend. We do enjoy going to the Saturday night church service and out to dinner afterwards when we are able.

Do you have any fun summer plans or celebrations? *Jenn's parents live at Seabrook Island, SC so we spend as much beach time as possible there. Hayden has her first job as a lifeguard at Firethorne Country Club and her work schedule is keeping us home more than normal.*

What's your favorite comfort food?

In the winter, lasagna soup. In the summer our favorite is to not have a meal, but a charcuterie board and glass of wine!

What are you watching right now on TV or what was your favorite show during the past year? *Most recently we watched Ted Lasso together, following a sermon where Father Todd referenced it. We are looking forward to season 2 coming out this month!*

**"as long as
we have
each other,
we have all
that we
need."**





QUARANTINE Q & A:

A GET TO KNOW WITH JANICE EVANS FAMILY

I was born in NJ, went to college at U of Michigan, and lived most of my adult life in San Diego. I moved to Charlotte in December of 2004.

I worked in many different aspects of nursing. Now I am most proud of being a grandmother and a hospitality volunteer at Galilee Ministries of East Charlotte interacting with international refugees.

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

I've been attending St Margaret's at least 15 years. I had moved to a neighborhood just off of Rea Rd. and was captivated by the beauty of the building, especially the red door.

What's one thing you have learned about yourselves over the past year?

Living during the restrictions of the past year, I realized that I had previously overloaded my calendar. I enjoyed having time to sit and read for long periods of time.

What does a typical Saturday night look like for you?

I am blessed to live with my daughter and her family. Saturday evenings, pre-COVID I would go to Chapel Mass, come home for a casual dinner and challenge my grandkids to play dominoes. Sadly, they usually win.

Do you have any fun summer plans or celebrations?

This summer I'll spend a week on vacation with my sister, Joy and her family in VA. The rest of the time, I'm happily found playing in our backyard pool.

What's your favorite comfort food?

When I'm feeling stressed I like to cook creatively. This makes for some unique entrees. If I had to choose only one food group, it would be pasta.

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

I have some very favorite TV channels; PBS, Nat Geo Wild HGTV are my top three. I especially loved watching "All Creatures Great and Small" on PBS with my grandson.

"I had moved in a neighborhood just off of Rea Rd and was captivated by the beauty of the building, especially the red door."





HOW DOES YOUR GARDEN GROW?

Our Giving Garden is thriving! We are so thankful for the leadership of parishioner, Ian Caterina and our volunteers who take our weekly harvest to Common Heart in Monroe.

The Giving Garden is located on our property in the large field, to the right of the church building, alongside Rea Rd. Next time you're here, take a walk down and see the bounty that has been cultivated!

Interested in helping in the St. Margaret's Giving Garden?
Contact Traci Scott @ connection@saintmargarets.net



The Lord will guide you always;
he will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land and will strengthen your frame.

You will be like a well-watered garden,
like a spring whose waters never fail.

Isaiah 58:11





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*



July 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 will be 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 on YouTube.  [CLICK HERE for our YouTube channel](#)



A Prayer For Our Country

Almighty God, who hast given us this good land for our heritage: We humbly beseech thee that we may always prove ourselves a people mindful of thy favor and glad to do thy will.

Bless our land with honorable industry, sound learning, and pure manners. Save us from violence, discord, and confusion; from pride and arrogance, and from every evil way.

Defend our liberties, and fashion into one united people the multitudes brought hither out of many kindreds and tongues.

Endue with the spirit of wisdom those to whom in thy Name we entrust the authority of government, that there may be justice and peace at home, and that, through obedience to thy law, we may show forth thy praise among the nations of the earth.

In the time of prosperity, fill our hearts with thankfulness, and in the day of trouble, suffer not our trust in thee to fail; all which we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

