

# MAGGIE'S CROSS



## *A Letter from our Rector*

BY FATHER TODD R. DILL+

### *Seeking to Understand*

Coronavirus. George Floyd. Protests, riots, and continued racial divisions in our communities. Heck, I even just learned about the invasion of Murder Hornets! I don't know about you, but 2020 is not the year I expected, but unfortunately, it is the year that we have. As I am writing this to you on June 2nd, we in this country have had some of the most tumultuous months in our recent history, and my sense is that there is still more to come. This virus will not likely leave us soon, and most certainly the racial tensions in our country, which have been a such deep and profound part of our American history, will not begin to subside until we all do the hard work of reconciliation. In the midst of all of this, leaders of our country, clergy from our churches, and voices throughout the world rush to social media to have their voices heard. I have routinely been asked during these times why I do not release statements. Why don't I use social media as a platform to have my voice heard like other clergy? It's a great question, and I thought given our current context, this might be a good time for me to share with you my thoughts on why I do not engage on these formats.

First and foremost, social media is an inappropriate venue to engage in difficult and complex conversations.

Technology can be and is a wonderful thing, but too often it is a place for further division, misinformation, and a forum where bullying can become commonplace and even acceptable.

Secondly, if one begins to weigh in on current events on social media, then one has to comment on every current event. Take for instance, the last 24 hours. Our president stood in front of St. John's Episcopal Church in Washington DC last night, an act which received universal condemnation from the Episcopal clergy on Facebook. I've never seen such a furor in such a short amount of time. When I watched President Trump live, I frankly thought it was an unnecessarily divisive act and the country would have been better served if that moment wasn't used for a photo opportunity. Since that moment, at least seven police officers have been injured, one of them critically, and is fighting for his life. Millions of dollars in private property has been damaged. Interestingly enough, I have yet to see one single posting of outrage from any single one of those clergy. Also, no condemnation for the violent act of the church being set on fire. Do I think that they are outraged? Of course they are, but their lack of response to all outrageous acts of violence and inappropriate behavior creates a lack of certainty to what prompts them to speak out.

Third, and most importantly, I hope that you all know me. If you have heard my sermons, come to any class that I teach, had any conversation with me, I hope that you would know that I am horrified by the death of George Floyd. I hope that you know I

**"I HAVE ROUTINELY BEEN ASKED DURING THESE TIMES WHY I DO NOT RELEASE STATEMENTS. WHY DON'T I USE SOCIAL MEDIA AS A PLATFORM TO HAVE MY VOICE HEARD LIKE OTHER CLERGY? IT'S A GREAT QUESTION, AND I THOUGHT GIVEN OUR CURRENT CONTEXT, THIS MIGHT BE A GOOD TIME FOR ME TO SHARE WITH YOU MY THOUGHTS ON WHY..."**

am outraged at the violence to people and property that has occurred since his death. I lament that we cannot seem to love each other as our Lord commands us, and that too often we look at each other and divide ourselves by our human divisions; black and white, male and female, Democrat and Republican, straight and gay, rich and poor, old and young, and so on and so on and a so on. I am heartbroken that we can't even seem to have civil conversations with those whom we disagree with. We cannot see each other with the divine eyes of Jesus, who looks at each and everyone of us and sees one thing only; that we are all made in the likeness and image of God and that we are cherished and deeply loved by God our Father!

*(continued on next page)*

# *A Letter From The Rector (con't)*

BY FATHER TODD R. DILL+

To often, most especially on social media, we talk at each other rather than to each other. We have forgotten what it means to engage in holy conversation. Perhaps St. Francis and his prayer might call us each back to a different way of being, and offer us something to think about during these trying times:



And if you would like to know more about what I think, ask me. Please don't email me, but talk with me, and I mean really talk with me. Sit down (when we are allowed) and have a conversation with me.

Let me hear you and perhaps you might hear me, in order that we might understand one another more deeply, and might learn something greater together.

Let's engage in holy talk, holy listening, holy conversation.

From your priest who seeks more understanding!

*- Fr. Todd+*



## Let's talk!

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**Lord, make us instruments of your peace.**

**Where there is hatred, let us sow love;**

**where there is injury, pardon;**

**where there is discord, union;**

**where there is doubt, faith;**

**where there is despair, hope;**

**where there is darkness, light;**

**where there is sadness, joy.**

**Grant that we may not so much seek to be**

**consoled as to console;**

**to be understood as to understand;**

**to be loved as to love.**

**For it is in giving that we receive; it is**

**in pardoning that we are pardoned;**

**and it is in dying that we**

**are born to eternal life. Amen.**



# A call to action



BY FATHER LITO SANTOS+

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*"The contemplatives, through the ages, have consistently provided a pure and simple response to critical human upheavals: **silence and prayer.**"*

A call to action is sounded every waking second. It overwhelms and like a mountain load, suffocates and burdens. The fuel and force that propels society and even our clergy/church at this moment is reactionary anger and hate. We can ask: where is the love? The fierce traffic on social media and the news often devolve into a simple finger pointing exercise against one another. The rhetoric and visuals of the recent events graphically reflect violence as the simple action/response of an angry crowd.

The contemplatives, through the ages, have consistently provided a pure and simple response to critical human upheavals: silence and prayer. They rely on the power of God. So, in humble prayer and supplication, they move heaven and beg for protection, grace and blessing when faced with great evil and calamity. They never were disappointed. Our current times frighten us and we worry because we think we have to personally do something and resolve our current situation while in fact we simply need to have the purest faith and trust in the power and presence of God. ***If God is for us who can be against us*** (Romans 8:31)? So, by faith we are called to prayer and simple faith in the love and care of our God, Creator, and source of all life.

All blessings and grace be upon you and your love ones.

*- Fr. Lito+*

## Questions of Faith



BY FATHER ERIC GRUBB+

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### ***Praying with the headlines***

In these contentious days of national protest and debate hearts are heavy, hurt, and full of anger. With all these feelings stirring in us we may wonder how our faith or prayers fit in with the headlines. Throughout these days we may feel drawn to follow the ancient and deeply biblical example of prayers of lament.

Flip through the Psalms and you will find many Psalms of lament. These are prayers that are full of raw emotion and striking honesty before God. Sometimes when we hear these lamenting Psalms read aloud in worship it may feel awkward precisely because of this honesty. In these prayers we read about feelings of being abandoned by God (My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from helping me, from the words of my groaning? O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer; and by night, but find no rest Psalm 22:1-2), dismay caused by grief (For we sink down to the dust; our bodies cling to the ground. Rise up, come to our help. Redeem us for the sake of your steadfast love. Psalm 44:25-26), and even negative feelings towards our enemies (Let those be turned back and humiliated who devise evil against me let them be like chaff before the wind, with the angel of the LORD driving them on Psalm 35:4-5).

The gift of the lament Psalms like Psalms 22, 35, and 44 is that they show us that we can be honest to God with our negative emotions. Our prayer is not meant to be sterile and pristine but an honest cry of our heart given as an offering to God. I always take heart in knowing when I feel this way that God can handle it and does not want me to hold these feelings alone. There is no shortage of negative emotion, grief, frustration, and injustice these days so we, and the people of God may need to turn to the rich tradition of lament to be a source of comfort and direction.

*- Father Eric+*

*For instructions on how to make your own Psalm of lament follow this link:*

<https://annarborvineyard.org/participate/spiritual-formation/writing-a-psalm-of-lament/>

# Youth Spotlight



BY ELIZABETH PFEIFER

ASSISTANT TO THE RECTOR FOR YOUTH MINISTRY

## Pandemic Lessons



At the suggestion of Father Eric, I have kept a journal since the pandemic began and our country began to stay at home in mid-March. Taking a moment every few days to recap my life has helped me gather and process my many thoughts and feelings over the last 12 weeks. On Sat, March 21st (day 6 of being at home), I ended my entry with the following two paragraphs:

*There's a graphic floating around on social media that, when this is over, we need to remember that our front line workers were not just nurses, doctors, and surgeons but truck and delivery drivers, warehouse employees, grocery store team members, and janitorial and other cleaning services. Teachers are preparing to teach the rest of the semester online, with no training and very few resources. They will make that switch in a matter of days. Distilleries have gone from making liquor to making hand sanitizer that they are distributing free of charge to hospitals and other front-line workers. Clothing factories are switching from t-shirts to PPE for healthcare workers.*

*Things feel unsteady and, given that we're in a pandemic, I think it's okay to feel that way. But, with the exception of a small percentage of people who are hoarding toilet paper and boxes of cereal, our communities are supporting each other. People are checking in with each other, offering to run errands for the vulnerable, donate a few of the canned goods they could find to others, to make masks for hospital workers. People are physically social distancing, but I actually don't think we've seen this much heartfelt social connection in a while.*

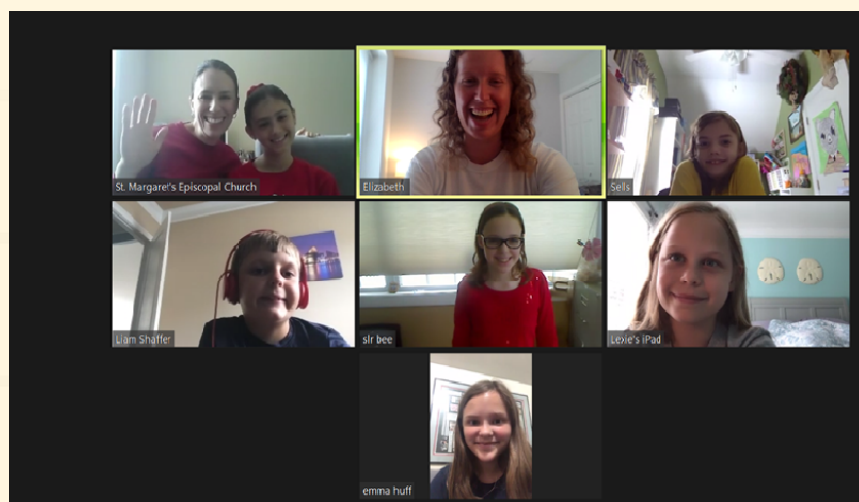
As I write this, it is Monday, June 1st and by my journal count I am on week 12 and day 76 of work from home/safer at home/life in a pandemic. We are all longing for a sense of normalcy (even in masks and 6 feet away): some are going to restaurants or traveling to the beach, people are opening up their quarantine circles to family and close friends, and some have resumed running errands, or are back at the office, etc. We are tired of Zoom meetings, of not hugging our loved ones, of looking at the same walls of our house day in and down out.

As we move forward, my goal is to not forget what I wrote on March 21st, six days into a worldwide pandemic: "People are physically social distancing but, I actually don't think we've seen this much heartfelt social connection in a while." We may not be frantically searching for rolls of toilet paper anymore but I need to remember to check in with my neighbors, to call parishioners just to say hi, to FaceTime with friends from college, to support my favorite local charities, to offer thanks to those who work tirelessly for little pay and little acknowledgement of the service they provide, and to support our teachers and school systems that provide so much for children in our community. We know COVID-19 will not be fully eradicated anytime soon and we are all navigating what our world will look like now. I do not want to be away from my loved ones any longer and I yearn to be back in the St. Margaret's building and with our church family but maybe there are a few things from the pandemic I can hold onto after all.

-Elizabeth

***"And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds."***

Hebrews 10:24





# CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



BY CATHERINE CHINTALA

ASSISTANT TO THE RECTOR FOR CHILDRENS MINISTRY

## DINNER TIME QUESTIONS



### *Have your family mealtimes become a bit quieter lately?*

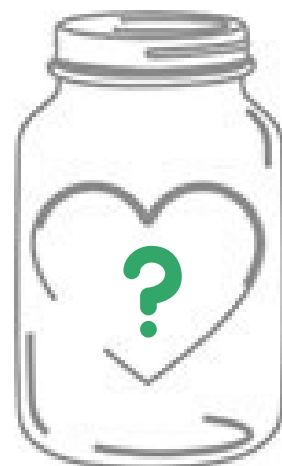
They have at my house. One of the biggest blessings of these past few months is having meals regularly together. Every lunch and dinner (and some breakfasts) are spent together – for the first time in our family's history.

Prior to the pandemic, outside obligations such as work, school, and sports meant mealtimes happened in shifts. I'm pretty confident that this was the reality for most families. Being able to have regular meals together has been wonderful for our family, and it's something I will truly miss as life gets back to "normal". But I've noticed that some of our meals are quieter than they used to be...not due to disagreements or fighting, but due to the fact that we are spending all of our time with just each other.

I found a post on one of my favorite websites ([www.growchristians.org](http://www.growchristians.org)) that offered a fun solution: **The Miraculous Dinnertime Question Jar.**

*The craft is simple enough: download and print the PDF document of questions, cut them into strips, and add them to a jar or any container you have on hand.*

The questions are fun, and some are geared toward kids and some toward adults. It's a really fun way to get the conversation flowing at the table...or a great way to break tension if siblings have had a little too much together time!



When you check out the Grow Christians website, just type "dinnertime" in the search bar and it will take you directly to the post. Although this post was from a year ago, I think it's so timely for what we are experiencing now!

I hope you have fun with this activity! I miss the kids and families at St. Margaret's and I can't wait to see everyone in person again. If there's any way I can support your family, please let me know. I'm praying for you!

*What is something that is hard for you?*

*If you could switch places with one of your friends for a day, who would it be?*

*What If you could go back in time and undo something what would it be?*



# A reminder to reach out

WELCOME



**BY TRACI SCOTT**

ASSISTANT TO THE RECTOR FOR NEWCOMERS & PARISH LIFE

Part of my role at St. Margaret's is to connect parishioners with activities within the church, as well as with other parishioners. This is certainly more challenging during our current situation, yet still important. However, during this time of "quarantine," we also have to reach out to others within our own family, whether currently in our house or not.

I read this verse on the wall of our kitchen every day:

*"Always be humble and gentle; be patient with each other making allowances for each other's faults because of your love" (Ephesians 4:2)*

With two teenage boys at home and a husband that I'm spending A LOT of time with now, this is a very helpful verse for me (I'm sure for them as well)! But each day, we have to find patience, grace, kindness and the kind of love that Jesus demonstrated for us.

Keep in mind that we're all adjusting, learning our new "normal" and that's easier for some than others. It may be easy for you to be content with a slower-pace to your life, but your spouse may struggle with depression or anxiety because of it. Recognize that; name it; talk about it; pray about it and manage through it together with God's help.

One of my favorite people to read and listen to is Bob Goff and he put it like this, *"Find someone to travel the path with you. You'll know you've found the right person if they don't try to fix you - they'll just want to be with you the way Jesus was with us."*

**PLEASE HELP US  
update our records!**

If you have some free time on your hands and you have not added your photo to our StM database please email me a profile picture that I can add into our StM online directory.

If you are relatively new to St. Margaret's and haven't done so already, please fill out a member profile form through this link: <https://stm.breezechms.com/form/NewMembershipProfile>

If you're not getting weekly emails from us, we may not have a good email address for you so, please let me know.

**Email Traci at:**  
[connection@saintmargarets.net](mailto:connection@saintmargarets.net)



**A reminder for a great way to connect with our community:**

Support our weekly food collections, every Tuesday 2-4pm in the front round about of the church. Every donation makes a difference!



# Did you know?

## A TIME OF CHALLENGE AND CHANGE

Our Diocese has worked to create A Plan for Churches during a Pandemic. A pdf copy can be found in the link below from the Diocesan website.

[https://www.episdionc.org/uploads/images/a-time-of-challenge-and-change-may-20-2020-edition\\_698.pdf](https://www.episdionc.org/uploads/images/a-time-of-challenge-and-change-may-20-2020-edition_698.pdf)



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

**COMMUNITY FOOD DRIVE**

**DROP OFF LOCATIONS:**  
**MONDAY**  
ALL SAINTS ANGLICAN  
5328 HEMBY ROAD, WEDDINGTON  
1:00-6:30PM  
**TUESDAY**  
ST. MARGARET'S EPISCOPAL  
8515 REA RD MARVIN  
2-4PM  
**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

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

## SUPPORT CONTINUES

*Thank you for your continued support*

A huge thank you to the StM volunteers that helped at Common Heart's mobile food pantries in Indian Trail and in Wesley Chapel last month. Those two events provided groceries to over 600 cars which amounted to roughly 700 families.

St. Margaret's will continue to support the rising needs in our community with food collections EVERY TUESDAY from 2:00 -4:00 in front of the church.

Please drop off a bag of non-perishables to help our neighbors in need.



NEW  
NEW  
NEW  
NEW

## PASSING THE PEACE

*The Pastor & The Priest*

Join Father Todd Dill along with our Crane Road neighbor, Dr. Haven Anderson, Pastor from AME Zion Church as they join together in conversation on quarantine, coronavirus and racial unrest.



**FACEBOOK LIVE, Tuesday, June 9th at 7:00 pm**



## June Calendar



*In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina has directed that all parishes cancel worship services and parish activities through at least July 1st.*



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

## Virtual worship continues



We will continue to WORSHIP ONLINE each Sunday in June.



All virtual worship service videos are produced each week and uploaded to our our YouTube channel.

*We thank our volunteers who are readers and our musicians who enhance our videos with hymns.*

### Special note:

In lieu of the Bishop's canceled 6/7 visit to St. Margaret's, Bishop Anne Hodges-Copple will preach the sermon this Sunday, June 7th.

***Please join us in welcoming Bishop Anne by watching... and listening.***



Rector

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

Senior Assistant to the Rector for Pastoral Care

**The Reverend Fr. Lito Santos+**  
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**The Reverend Fr. Eric Grubb+**  
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Assistant to the Rector for Newcomers & Parish Life

**Traci Scott**  
connection@saintmargarets.net

## 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*