

# MAGGIE'S CROSS



## *A Letter from our Rector*

BY FATHER TODD R. DILL+

### *One Body, Same Spirit!*

In his powerful letter to the Church in Corinth, Saint Paul addresses a community that found itself deeply divided. The fractures within this burgeoning movement of Christ manifested themselves in a myriad of ways: some members believed they possessed greater spiritual gifts, some thought that their relationship with Peter positioned them for a place of greater honor, and still some believed they were closer to Christ Himself. All of this served to separate members, one from another, and created a community not unified under the banner of Jesus, but conflicted and paralyzed in their mission to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ.

This last year and a half for us has not been defined by conflict, but we have been separated. Literally! And this physical distance has affected our ability as a community of faith to fully engage in the vital mission work of our call to share the Good News of Jesus.

As we begin to reopen our parish farther and farther, I want to encourage each of you to re-engage with the parish. In order to worship together fully, we need everyone to embrace their Spirit-giftedness and use those gifts for the common good. Consider Paul's encouraging words from his letter (1 Corinthians 12:7-11):

*Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues. All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines.*

St. Margaret's needs its members to not only return to worship, but also to engage in the important volunteer roles that make our common ministry possible. Readers, acolytes, crucifers, and a myriad of other roles are needed to return back to full worship.

There are countless opportunities in our outreach ministries, youth program, and children's education program that will only be realized with the wide support of our parish family. Every person in this parish has particular gifts given by the same Spirit and the community is diminished, and our mission will be unfulfilled, when those gifts are not fully utilized.

As we enter into the summer months, I would like to ask each of you to do your prayers, discern your gifts given to you, and find a way to utilize those important spiritual gifts at Saint Margaret's. Our ministry to each other and to our community is vital, and it is my firm belief that Jesus has called us together in this place for His purposes. One way that we can fulfill our mission is for each person to do their part in building the Kingdom of God on earth, as it is in Heaven.

We are all of one Body, and all of the same Spirit. Let this body of faithful souls serve together for the common good!

Your priest,

*-Fr. Todd+*

dill@saintmargarets.net





## *Thoughts from Rev. Sarah*

**Rev. Sarah Hollar+**

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### **God's Lens**

“What it means to be human,” she said, “is finding another dark sky and looking up at the cosmos, at all of those stars, it is just so awesome. And to think about the fact that humans have somehow managed to figure out what makes all of those beautiful stars and what’s going on, and somehow, somehow, our brain has pieced together a 13.8-billion-year history of our universe, and how intimately we’re connected to those distant times and places — the calcium in our bones, and the iron in the hemoglobin in our blood, they were all cooked up in a massive star that blew itself up billions of years ago. I mean, we are literally — what Carl Sagan said ‘we are made of stardust.’ And that’s quite literal. We’re a primordial mixture of hydrogen and helium that evolves for so long that eventually it begins to ask where it came from. No other species on the planet today can use its senses and its tools to understand that long, cosmic evolution. And it’s astonishing that life would eventually produce something that could study the cosmos and wonder about where we came from. And so, to me, being human is about appreciating the fact that we are so closely connected to this much bigger idea of an evolving universe. I mean, I often say, ‘It takes a cosmos to make a human.’”

I heard these words driving in a traffic jam listening to an interview between Krista Tippett from On Being and Jill Tartar, co-founder for SETI Research, recipient of two Exceptional Public Service medals from NASA, the Women in Aerospace Lifetime Achievement Award and member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. Tartar went on to talk about her research looking for intelligent life elsewhere in the universe. She explained why she often refers to humans as earthlings. What I heard was, if you pull far enough away and consider how other life forms would see us, they would say you are all the same. We don’t see the differences that separate you. We can’t see the dissimilarities you are willing to shed blood over.

The thought occurred, Tartar spends her life looking through a telescope and at images captured from very wide angles. I wondered if my irritation at the slow-moving cars and the in and out cutoffs of other drivers was the result of the lens I was using in the world. Was I peering through a tiny magnifying circle that over emphasized the inessentials and diminished the commonalities? This led me to the next thought, what view does God see? I stayed with that notion for a bit and eventually came to the question, what lens would bring that image into clearer focus? Made in the likeness of God, derived from primal elements, a vessel with bits of star dust coursing through me, where is my natural gaze and what corrective lenses are needed? Here’s to wonder, cosmic musings, and gratitude for God’s stunning creation!





## **From the Deacon's Bench** *Flag Day*

Deacon Ludwig Wallner  
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On June 14 of this year we will again celebrate "Flag Day." This day commemorates the adoption of the stars and stripes as the official flag of the United States. The flag was a thirteen-stripe flag with alternating colors of Red and White and a Blue square with thirteen stars arranged in a circle.

The stripes and stars were to represent the original thirteen colonies. It is thought by several sources that the colors red, white and blue were adopted from the colors of the British Union Jack. Some sources give the colors the following meanings:  
Red for valor and hardness;  
White for purity and innocence;  
Blue for justice and perseverance and the stars represent the heavens to which mankind ultimately strives.

Many of us have had the honor and privilege to be present when a military honor guard arrives at a service and folds the American Flag. Most of us are taken aback by the precision and reverence that goes into this service. Have you ever thought about the meaning of the folding? Do the thirteen folds represent the original colonies of this country or something else?  
Each of the thirteen folds in the service has a very spiritual and patriotic meaning.

The first fold is to remind each of us of the life God has given us. It is the symbol of life. The second fold of the flag represents the belief in eternal life. The third fold is a tribute to all of the veterans who have served this country. Fold number four represents our trust in God. The fifth fold in the service represents a tribute to our country. Fold number six represents devotion to our nation. The next fold which is seven is a tribute to our Armed forces at home and abroad. Fold number eight honors all service personnel who have died in the service of their country. The ninth fold is a tribute to womanhood. To the mothers who have sent their children to the service of their country. Likewise fold number ten is a tribute to fathers. For members of the Jewish faith, fold number eleven glorifies God and represents the lower portion of the Star of David. Fold number twelve again reminds us that as Christians we trust in God, Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

When the folding is complete the flag represents a cocked hat worn by George Washington during the struggle for independence and the men who followed him. It also pays tribute to the sailors who followed John Paul Jones to make the seas safe for American ships.

On June 14 of each year when we celebrate "Flag Day" may we look at our flag and remember.

*Special thanks to Ann M. Wolf and to the Tennessee Volunteer Honor Guards for their information in the preparation of this issue of the Deacon's Bench.*

**Red for valor and  
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## Youth Spotlight

[pfeifer@saintmargarets.net](mailto:pfeifer@saintmargarets.net)

**BY ELIZABETH PFEIFER**

*ASSISTANT TO THE RECTOR FOR YOUTH MINISTRY*

Our weekly youth activities for the school year have come to an end... EYC's final gathering for the school year was on May 23rd with an ice cream treat at Waxhaw Creamery. Over the summer there will be periodic activities for the youth of St. Margaret's: volunteer opportunities, grabbing food together, Carowinds, and more. Keep an eye on the weekly parish e-mail announcements or EYC email distribution, our text updates, and Facebook as information will be communicated through those outlets. *Unless otherwise stated, rising 6th graders are welcome to join for all summer events.*

**Thank you to all our students, parents, and volunteers who continued to show up for our activities, play games, discuss hard things, and support each other.** We are looking forward to summer activities but are also counting down the days until we kick it back off (fingers crossed for inside!) in August.

### **Are you signed up for EYC text messages?**

We have a mass texting system we use to communicate with parents and students. **Text stmyouth1 to 43506** and reply "yes" if prompted with an opt-in text message. This is the best way to stay up to date with EYC times, weather updates, last minute gatherings & more.





# ***Congratulation Seniors***

Graduating Seniors are annually given handmade scarves from our Knots of Love ministry to mark their graduations from high school and to celebrate their future plans. Pictured L-R here are:



- *Sean Carey*
- *Alex Sells*
- *Abby Bates*
- *Connor Charity*
- *Trevor Sumlin*
- *Olivia Cianciolo*
- *Maggie Williams*

# 2021



The following parishioners completed confirmation class during the 2019- 2020 school year. They will be recognized for the Rite of Confirmation on Sunday, June 13th when Bishop Sam Rodman visits St. Margaret's.

***Blessings to all!***

**Annie Cameron**  
**Aiden Gorman**  
**Olivia Jenkins**  
**Meghan Murphy**  
**Nikolas Ochsner**  
**Annette Pflaging**  
**Sean Pflaging**  
**Sarah Poor**  
**Noah Sells**  
**Lauren Sweeney**  
**Rebecca Toy**



# CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



**BY CATHERINE CHINTALA**  
ASSISTANT TO THE RECTOR  
FOR CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

## ***Congratulations...we made it!***

As the school year is coming to a close, many families are breathing a sigh of relief. We got through this crazy school year! As a parent, navigating the ever-changing schedules and policies, and staying flexible throughout this year was a huge challenge and learning experience. Although things aren't completely back to "normal" we are starting to slowly get back to the things we love to do. Sports, playdates, and birthday parties are all showing up on our calendar again. And although they look different, we are at least getting some of that in-person interaction that we have been craving the past year!

One of the things I've missed is seeing all of our families in person at church! With updated guidelines from the Diocese, we are able to safely meet in person. Summer is a perfect time to come back to church if you haven't done so already. It's been over a year since many of our kids have been in church, and the more relaxed pace of summer is the perfect time to reintroduce Saturday or Sunday service to your family.

If your family is able to travel again, why not bring Flat Maggie along for the ride? 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 [childrensministry@saintmargarets.net](mailto:childrensministry@saintmargarets.net) so we can share it with the rest of our StM family!

Our beautiful spring weather has allowed our students to come back to church for some informal fellowship opportunities. We wrapped up a fun Club 4-5 year, and we also hosted outdoor gatherings for a group of Kindergarten/1st grade students and 2nd/3rd grade students. I wondered how these would go since the kids haven't seen each other in over a year, but it took just a few minutes for everyone to start playing together! Our youngest students learned about the Holy Spirit through a fun science experiment, and our 2nd/3rd grade students learned about St. Mark and the Gospels, and at Club 4-5 we talked about Bible journaling, illuminated manuscript, and made our own marble paper copy of that day's Epistle reading.



*O God of all beginnings and endings,  
We praise and thank you for the gift of this school year.  
It has been a time filled with grace and blessings,  
With challenges and opportunities, joys and sorrows.*

*While we trust that your purposes have always been at work  
each day,  
Sometimes it has seemed difficult to understand and  
appreciate  
Just what you have been up to in our school.*

*Give us the rest and refreshment we need this summer.  
Let our efforts of this past year bear fruit.  
Bring all of our plans to a joyful conclusion,  
And bless us, according to your will.*

*With the fulfillment of our summer hopes and dreams.  
Watch over us in the weeks of rest ahead,  
And guide each day as you have done this past year.  
Help us return to school with a new spirit and a new energy.*

*May we continue to grow  
In age, wisdom, knowledge and  
grace All the days of our lives.*

*Amen.*

*Prayer adapted from St. Paul's Episcopal School*

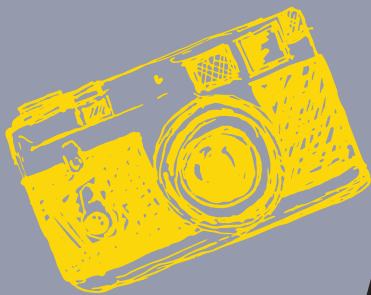
**I hope you have a wonderful start  
to your summer!**

**Blessings,  
Catherine**





# A SNAPSHOT OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



Club 4-5



Club 2-3



Club 2-3



# OUTREACH



## & PARISH CONNECTION

**TRACI SCOTT**

*ASSISTANT TO THE RECTOR FOR OUTREACH & PARISH CONNECTION*

[connection@saintmargarets.net](mailto:connection@saintmargarets.net)

### **GIVING GARDEN DRIVERS NEEDED:**

From June through September, we need volunteers that will deliver produce from our Giving Garden to Common Heart in Indian Trail each week. Are you able to help us deliver OR pick & deliver to Common Heart? [Sign up here](#) for as many dates as you are able.

### **OUTREACH COOKING is back!**

Thank you to Karen Schaphorst and her dedicated volunteers for cooking & serving for the Union County Community Shelter on May 25th. Pictured below L-R are: Maureen Barclay, Paula Holbein & Janice Evans.



**COMMON  
HEART**  
a small revolution of kindness

If you missed our  
“Ways to Help”

*virtual presentation & conversation that we had in May, you can find it here with this [YouTube link](#):*

Kerry Guley from Common Heart shared what they are seeing in our community related to those struggling with poverty. We also reviewed what St. Margaret’s has been able to do since our last “Ways to Help” chat in January and it’s pretty amazing!

You can click the following links to see the presentation that included a [list of accomplishments](#) and further [ways to get involved](#) in our community.



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

*Hugh & Eleanor Wilson*

*Peter Macon*





## QUARANTINE Q & A:

### A GET TO KNOW WITH THE MURPHY FAMILY

*Sally and I met at Auburn University in German class. We just celebrated our 28th anniversary. I am a lifelong Episcopalian and Sally was raised in the Catholic faith and joined the Episcopal Church during our time in Raleigh at St. Michaels. We have 16 year old twins that have just completed their junior year at Marvin Ridge.*

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

*We have been coming to St. Margaret's since 2010 after being asked to visit by Joanie.*

**What's one thing you have learned about yourself (your family) over the past year?**

*It has been such an atypical year, but we have learned how fortunate we all have been to have each other. So many have suffered and lost loved-ones throughout this pandemic. We are very thankful for each other and our parish.*

**What does a typical Saturday night look like for you?**

*Saturday night is my night to cook. So I do my best to make it special. We like to experiment with different food and try to be creative on Saturday. Sally has recently started a new job, but prior to that she was typically organizing all meals. This is followed by binging Netflix, especially since the pandemic began and other choices have been limited.*

**Do you have any fun summer plans or celebrations?**

*The family will finally be able to see our parents. We are planning a visit to Florida and Georgia to visit with our parents and grandparents. We are discussing other locations as well and would like to visit other parts of the U.S. before the kids start their senior year.*

**What's your favorite comfort food?** *No doubt. Tortellini sprinkled in Parmesan.*

**What are you watching right now on TV or what was your favorite show during the past year?** *Sally and I enjoy watching British crime-dramas. We recommend Hinterland and Broadchurch.*

***"It has been such an atypical year, but we have learned how fortunate we all have been to have each other."***





VIEW FROM THE VESTRY



## JUNIOR WARDEN

**Hugh Laughlin**

Greetings to all at St Margaret's. For many we are wrapping up the school year and looking forward to summer. We are also looking forward to a summer with fewer restrictions and less fear of the COVID-19 virus.

If you have not had the opportunity to return to in-person worship at St Margaret's, I hope that you are able to do so soon and see some of the changes going on in the building. We have replaced the carpet in the narthex for the church, removing some potential hazards with the old carpeting.

As we head into the summer months we will be looking at some other needed maintenance for our facilities. Some of the areas that we are looking at includes drainage, stone mortar, and major systems maintenance such as our HVAC.

In 2014 Saint Margaret's commissioned a capital reserve study of our facilities. The report was very detailed and looked at all areas of our facilities, from the parking lot to the roof. With this report being more than six years old, we feel it prudent that we update the projections that were detailed in the report. The report has been a very useful guide to ensure that we are tending to maintenance of all things that make up our beautiful campus.

Our church is blessed with your support giving us the ability to maintain our facilities. As permitted by the Bishop, we look forward to seeing more and more of you in person at our worship services.

## Uncovering scripture & recovering with a new look & style

Hopefully you have been back to church and have seen the new carpet in the narthex and connector hallway. After 15 years of wear and tear and lots of ripples that were tripping hazards, we have moved to carpet squares for easier replacement going forward.

In the removal process of the old, worn out wall to wall carpet, an array of selected scriptures written on the concrete foundation from past parishioners were revealed.

A reminder to remember what we are walking on each time we enter our red doors and walk the halls here at St. Margaret's...and to help keep it looking good with NO food and drink in this area.

Love Jesus.  
Love your neighbor.





**Please note:** Our church office is 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

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Assistant to the Rector for Outreach

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**Traci Scott**

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## 2021 Vestry

Terry Anderson

Mike Murphy

Densel White

Jessica Parker

Chad Hinton

Brian Scott

Kathyann Dugan

Hugh Laughlin

Simon Haarhoff

David Feldser, Treasurer

# June 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, and thus no need to pre-register or fill out a health screening questionnaire.

## 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](#)

## TEN YEARS OF SERVICE

Many thanks to Elizabeth Pfeifer & Dana Plate' for their dedicated service to St. Margaret's. December 2020 marked 10 yrs. for Elizabeth as our Youth Director and Dana celebrates 10 yrs. as our Preschool Director this summer.

Their energy and contagious smiles are a blessing to the parish & our community. Especially in this pandemic year when children, teens and teachers were forced to pivot and do school and youth group in a whole new way...we had Dana & Elizabeth leading the way with professionalism & grace.



**Dana Plate'**

Assistant to the Rector for  
Preschool Ministries



**Elizabeth Pfeifer**

Assistant to the Rector for  
Youth Ministries

*Thank you*