

MAGGIE'S CROSS

Celebrating 15 years on Rea Road this month

November 2019



A Letter From The Rector

BY FATHER TODD R. DILL+

To Know and Love the Lord

Over the past few months, I have had the great privilege of spending more intentional time with some of the youth of our parish. In July, I traveled to Costa Rica along with our fourth mission team. This team was comprised of adults and high schoolers, and we spent the week helping prepare a teen center that was located in a desperate area of San Jose, Costa Rica. Much of our time was spent painting and preparing the facility for its opening, and the progress that we were able to make in one short week was extraordinary.

More recently, I have helped teach our confirmation class, which began this fall and has a mix of adults and (in this case) 10th grade students. The class meets once a month, and we cover a variety of theological topics, including who Jesus is, why did He die, the Holy Spirit, and other important Christian beliefs and doctrines. What I have been reminded of in these experiences is what an extraordinary group of young people we have at our parish. They are thoughtful, kind, generous and genuinely

enjoy each other's company, and are fully engaged with me and each other as we dive into very complex issues of religion and the Church. I have been thoroughly impressed by them.

I wanted to share my observations about them with you because I believe their lifelong journey in faith did not happen by accident. It happened by the intentional work of many people, who through their witness has instilled in them a deep curiosity about who Jesus is and what His life, resurrection and ascension mean to them. It first starts with their parents. As I look at these young people, it is striking to notice that each of their parents is highly engaged in the ongoing life of this parish through their presence and their financial support. These families attend worship regularly, and most have been a part of our parish for several years. Given that the home is the primary venue for Christian education, it is evident in these youth that they have a keen interest in the Christian faith because it is reflected in their household. In the Marriage Ceremony of the Episcopal Church, the priest reminds the couple that it is their duty, when time blessed with children, for the couple to "...nurture their children in the knowledge and love of the Lord." It is clear from what I see that these promises are being faithfully kept! Secondly, it also

shows that the ministry of Elizabeth Pfeifer is bearing much fruit in this place for our younger generation. Her leadership amongst our youth, as well as her own personal faith that is lived out so publicly, has the natural benefit of bringing others closer to the Risen Lord. Additionally, her ministry would not be possible without the financial support of the entire congregation, as well as the support of the countless volunteers who support her vision at our youth meetings and the various trips they take for outreach.

If we listen to the media these days, we can often hear stories that make some worry about the direction of the younger generations in our society. If our teens are any indication, we should have much hope. For if these young people are to be the future leaders of our church and our world, we will be well served by their leadership and faithfulness.

Thanks to you all for your fidelity in the instruction of our youth. May they, and all of us, be continually nurtured in the knowledge and love of the Lord!

Fr. Todd+

dill@saintmargarets.net





NOVEMBER 16: SAINT MARGARET'S DAY

FROM THE EYES OF SAINT MARGARET

DID YOU KNOW?

excerpts taken from: historic-uk.com, author Ben Johnson & undiscoveredsotland.co.uk

Our patron Saint Margaret was born in 1046 and was a member of an ancient English royal family. She was beautiful, devout and intelligent. Margaret and her family were in exile when their ship was blown off course and landed in Fife. The Scottish King, Malcolm III offered his protection to the royal family.

Malcolm was particularly protective towards Margaret. She initially refused his proposals of marriage, preferring, according to one account, a life of piety. Malcolm however was a persistent king, and the couple finally married in 1069.

Their union was exceptionally happy and fruitful for both themselves and the Scottish nation. Margaret brought with her some of the finer points of European manners, ceremony and culture to the Scottish Court, which highly improved its civilized reputation.

Queen Margaret was renowned for her good influence on her husband and also for her devout piety and religious observance. She was a prime mover in the reform of the Church in Scotland. Under Queen Margaret's leadership Church councils promoted Easter communion and, to much joy of the working-class, abstinence from work on Sundays.

Margaret's influence on Malcolm helped changed the way Mass was spoken from the many dialects of Gaelic spoken throughout Scotland to the unifying Latin. By adopting Latin to celebrate the Mass she believed that all Scots could worship together in unity, along with the other Christians of Western Europe. Many people believe that in doing this, it was not only Queen Margaret's goal to unite the Scots, but also the two nations of Scotland and England in an attempt to end the bloody warfare between the two countries.

Margaret and Malcolm had eight children. Margaret cared especially for the poor and orphans. It was her piety that caused considerable damage to her health with the repeated fasting and abstinence. In 1093, as she lay on her deathbed after a long illness, she was told that her husband and eldest son had been ambushed and treacherously killed in battle. She died shortly after at age forty-seven.

Margaret had built what is today called St. Margaret's Chapel, in the highest part of Edinburgh Castle.



Be truly alive in the Spirit of the Living God in you.



BY FATHER LITO SANTOS+

"...all who are led by the Spirit of God are the sons of God."

Romans 8:14

Be truly alive in the Spirit of the Living God in you. As clouds of doubt and fear surround us. When we are overwhelmed by feelings of inadequacies. **Where can we find comfort, confidence and assurances?**

Our Lord made it clear - he promised to send us an advocate – the **Spirit of truth.**

He lives in each of us. Saint Paul in Ephesians 3:16 states that the Holy Spirit enables us to be "...strengthened and reinforced with mighty power in the inner man".

The Holy Spirit teaches and guides us according to God's plan and purpose for us. One of the ways He does this is by convicting us of the sins in our life.

Much like a child does, as Christians, we learn what's right and wrong as we grow in our faith. We may get by with things that are not right for awhile, but the time comes when we need to grow. And the Holy Spirit tells us when it is time to grow up and mature spiritually. We need to be inclined and develop sensitivity and obedience to His voice as He leads and guides each of our lives.

For, indeed "...all who are led by the Spirit of God are the sons of God." (Romans 8:14) God is looking for sons and daughters with hearts of flesh and obedient wills. He doesn't want us all

just following a bunch of rules for the sake of obedience. We are free to obey God simply because we love Him and we know that everything He tells us to do, or not do, is for our good. It's no longer about a long list of rules and regulations; but following the Holy Spirit. We just need to learn to follow His lead. It's rather exciting to follow the Holy Spirit. I can tell you that life will never be boring with Him in the lead. The Holy Spirit wants to lead us all according to the plans God has for each of our lives. I'm not saying it will always be easy.

Our part is to pray, study God's Word, and learn to develop our own sensitivity and obedience to the Holy Spirit's lead. His promise to us is, "...I will give them one heart and I will put a new spirit within them; and I will take the stony heart out of their flesh, and will give them a heart of flesh (Ezekiel 11:19).

Trust the Holy Spirit in you...He knows what's best. Let your adventure begin! Be truly alive in the Spirit of the Living God in you.

Fr. Lito+ santos@saintmargarets.net

Questions of Faith



BY DEACON ERIC GRUBB

**Questions of Faith—
How should I pray?**

One of his disciples said unto him, Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples. And he said unto them, When ye pray, say, Our Father which art in heaven... (Luke 11:1-2 KJV)

Like the first disciples we can often wonder how should we pray. We know that praying is a part of the Christian life but can sometimes feel at a loss when thinking about what our praying should look like or how it should feel. Sometimes we feel that our prayer, to be good, should be long and elaborate. Other times we may struggle with praying especially when it may seem dry and boring. Or we may be tempted to think that prayer is for more "spiritual people" who have the time to think deeply about matters of faith and God.

Jesus teaches his disciples a simple prayer, one that Christians have been praying everyday since Jesus first thought it. The Lord's Prayer is simple and it is this simple prayer that can teach us how to pray. At the heart of it prayer is simply turning our hearts to God or, to put another way, it is conversation with God. Prayer then can take many different forms just like the many different kinds of conversations we have in our day to day. Some conversations are formal others informal. Some conversations are long and others brief. Some conversations use lot words and like with a close friend or spouse some conversations can be very quiet. Anything we do from making dinner for our family, washing our hands, time in church can be a prayer if we are using it to turn our hearts and minds to God. There are many different ways to pray and many books of the topic of prayer. But one of my favorite ways to pray is the office of Morning and Evening prayer found in the book of Common Prayer. I like to start and end each day with these prayers to remind me and help me focus of the presence of God that is all around in my daily life. If you are struggling with prayer it might be helpful just to start each day with the words our savior has taught us. "Our Father which art in heaven..."

"The Lord's Prayer is simple and it is this simple prayer that can teach us how to pray. At the heart of it prayer is simply turning our hearts to God or, to put another way, it is conversation with God."

- Deacon Eric



grubb@saintmargarets.net

Youth Spotlight



BY ELIZABETH PFEIFER

*ASSISTANT TO THE RECTOR
FOR YOUTH MINISTRY*



EYC had a very busy, very fun October with our middle and high school retreats!

On 10/5, our middle school students spent an afternoon at Camp Canaan and then had a sleepover at the church. While at Camp Canaan, we participated in team building challenges and worked on learning the names of other members of our group and building trust. We then played archery tag with arrows made of what looked (and felt) like giant marshmallows. We had a bonfire at camp and went back to church for games, snacks, and a lot of general silliness before Compline and bed. We were up in time for 7:45 service then went back home to bed. Thanks to David Rourke for spending the day with us!

Our high school students spent a weekend in Boone, NC in mid-October. On Saturday we went ziplining at Hawk's Nest and got our adrenaline up with 11 zips with spectacular mountain views. We had a BBQ lunch and ventured into downtown Boone for some window shopping. Saturday evening our group had a "living room Eucharist" courtesy of Deacon Eric and enjoyed s'mores and lots of laughter with each other. We finished up the weekend Sunday morning with a misty and foggy walk around Moses Cones in Blowing



Rock. As always, many thanks to our adults, Deacon Eric and Erin, for spending the weekend with us! We look forward to getting back into our normal routine with EYC meetings for all 6th-12th graders Nov 3rd, Nov 10th and Nov 24th from 5-6:30 with dinner 6:30-7.

Haven't made it to EYC yet this year? Please come visit the youth room for a meeting in November! There will be no EYC on Nov 17th as the youth are hosting our St. Margaret's Day celebration (more info out soon!).

Questions on our Youth Program?

Please contact Elizabeth at: pfeifer@saintmargarets.net

Sunday School



BY CATHERINE CHINTALA
ASSISTANT TO THE RECTOR
FOR CHILDRENS MINISTRY

A big thank you to everyone who participated in the recent Family Teach Day! Our St. Margaret's family came together to make **478 sandwiches to benefit Urban Ministry's Operation Sandwich Program.** What a wonderful way to come together for fellowship, fun, and service! Special thanks go to Beth Klepar for organizing this great event!

There is so much coming up in Children's Ministry! Please mark your calendars and save the date for these upcoming events:

Our annual **St. Nicholas Festival** will be on Saturday, December 7th from 9:30-11:30am. Join us for a pancake breakfast and family-friendly activities!

Spring Holy Communion Classes will be held on 4/26, 5/3, 5/10, with a Holy Communion Celebration on 5/17. Details and registration to come.

Get ready for **VBS!** Rocky Railway will be pulling into the St. Margaret's Station on June 22-26th. It will be a fun-filled week of learning and fellowship!



*Are you interested in getting involved with Children's Ministry,
or just learning more about our programs?
I would love to talk to you! - Catherine*

Children's Ministry is looking for substitute teachers and nursery volunteers that can fill in when a regular teacher is unable to help. It's a great way to "test out" teaching or helping with Children's Ministry without making a regular weekly commitment. We also have some behind the scenes volunteer positions that don't take a lot of time, but make a big impact on this ministry!

You can reach Catherine at: childrensministry@saintmargarets.net

a place to CONNECT



BY TRACI SCOTT
ASSISTANT TO THE RECTOR
FOR NEWCOMERS & PARISH LIFE

Interested in....

- *Taking a StM campus tour?*
- *Joining an ECW Circle?*
- *Fellowship lunch?*

Contact Traci to learn more!

Questions on membership or parish life?

Please contact Traci at:
connection@saintmargarets.net

WELCOME

*A special welcome to those that have
officially registered with the church office
over the last few months:*

Howard & Evelyn Fitzpatrick
Nicole York
John & Katherine Brown
Brandie Grubb
Priscilla Lennon
The Carey Family
Ken & Jackie Paar
Karen Paar
The Giftos Family

"Thank you all for making me feel so welcome as I joined the St. Margaret's staff last month. It is truly such an honor to serve our church in this way and is so encouraging to see the energy and enthusiasm that is behind all of the ministries of this special place."

StM 101 Express will be offered after the 5pm Saturday service on November 16th. This is a consolidated version of our 4-week class. Refreshments will be provided. We will tour the church, get to know each other, receive membership information and learn about ways to connect at St. Margaret's.

RSVP to: connection@saintmargarets.net

All women of the church are invited to join an **ECW Circle**. Meetings are beginning throughout November and you can pick a group that works for your schedule. Luncheon groups on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday or Saturday; weekday book club; and weekday dinner. Let me know what you're interested in and I can put you in touch with the appropriate Circle leader.

All parishioners are encouraged and invited to join in our **St. Margaret's Day** celebration lunch on Sunday, November 17 following the 11:15 service. Lunch will be provided by the church so, no need to bring anything. Just join us for fun and fellowship!

Sunday, November 17th

BBQ LUNCH

after the 11:15 service



November Calendar

- 11/4 15th Anniversary of StM on Rea Road
- 11/5 Centering Prayer, 1:00 pm in the Prayer Room
- 11/6 Confirmation Class, 7:00 pm in the Parish Hall
- 11/9 DOK monthly meeting, 9:30 am in the Parish Hall
- 11/11 *Church Office Closed*
- 11/13 SAGES lunch & learn, 12:00 noon in the Parish Hall
- 11/14 Candy Collection for the troops concludes
- 11/16 Men's Monthly Fellowship Breakfast,
8:30 am in the Parish Hall
- 11/16 Knots of Love monthly meeting,
10:00 am in the Prayer Room
- 11/17 Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes due back
- 11/17 Saint Margaret's Day & Stewardship Sunday;
BBQ to follow 11:15 service
- 11/22-23: Diocesan Convention in Winton-Salem, NC
- 11/23: ECW Advent Wreath Making
- 11/27: Thanksgiving Service, 7:00 pm



ST. MARGARET'S DAY PRAYER

O God, who made Saint Margaret of Scotland wonderful in her outstanding charity towards the poor, grant that through her intercession and example we may reflect among all humanity the image of your divine goodness. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.



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 Deacon Eric Grubb

grubb@saintmargarets.net

Director of Music

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 Kiliniski

finance@saintmargarets.net

Assistant to the Rector for Children's Ministry

Catherine Chintala

childrensministry@saintmargarets.net

Assistant to the Rector for Newcomers & Parish Life

Traci Scott

connection@saintmargarets.net

2019 Vestry

Janet Mills, *Senior Warden*

Amy Gorman, *Junior Warden*

Phil Hejl

Linda Jensen

Chris Cox

Julie Jenkins

Terry Anderson

Mike Murphy

Densel White

Warren McDonald, *Treasurer*