

MAGGIE'S CROSS



A Letter from our Rector

BY FATHER TODD R. DILL+

This Election is an Opportunity

In case you haven't heard yet, we have an election coming up on November 3rd. This election will decide the ultimate fate of our nation; or so I've heard. If you vote for Donald Trump our country will end. If you vote for Joe Biden, civilization will cease to exist. If you just vote for the correct candidate we are told, everything will be fine.

Unless, of course, you vote for the wrong person, in which case it will be the end of the world for us all! So when you go into the voting booth or send in your ballot, no pressure! It's just the fate of the world that is in your hands.

Anyone who knows me well knows that I grow tired of this sort of political rhetoric surrounding election campaigns. Sadly, even though I grow weary of this sort of dialogue, I have come to expect it during election cycles. It has become more and more common place in our national dialogue over the past 25 years. But even with that expectation, this election cycle

seems different to me. Political party allegiance has reached new and unhealthy heights, and our society is increasingly reflecting the new reality that opposing views are not only something that we cannot discuss or debate, but those opposing views and its advocates must be utterly destroyed. I find this change in our culture not just troubling, but heartbreaking. What is most disturbing, however, is that the Church and its members often play right along, being just as divisive and just as hurtful as the surrounding culture, rather than reflecting the Light of Jesus into the world through our words and our deeds.

This election offers us an opportunity. An opportunity to remember who we are and who it is we follow. A chance to remember that we follow this Jesus, who while He was clear in His beliefs and teaching, was gentle, loving, gracious, and merciful, and He calls His followers to strive for the same. Jesus did not have much to say about democracy, or voting, or political parties, but He did have a lot to say about love and charity. Our country is a work in progress, and sometimes that journey is messy, but you and I beloved are followers of the Way; and being pilgrims on that journey offers us the opportunity to reflect the divine virtues of our Savior, even in the most contentious of circumstances.

And so this election season, let the people of Saint Margaret's endeavor to be different. Let us exhibit patience, charity, and self-control. Let us reflect the love of Jesus in all that we do and say, loving our neighbors as ourselves.

*"Let us exhibit
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And remember, no matter who wins the election this year, the world will not end, and Jesus is still Lord. Let that be our proclamation, and may the Name of Jesus be praised through our words and through our actions, even during this election! *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.* (BCP pg 833) Amen.

Your Priest,

-Fr. Todd+

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WHAT IS YOUR ST. MARGARET'S STORY?



In the season of Stewardship and focusing on why we make St. Margaret's a part of our lives, we asked around and learned these personal stories we wanted to share...



Being part of a Breakfast Team



St. Margaret's is a very open and inviting church. I was able to get to know a lot of different people in a short amount of time.

The ability to have fellowship with current parishioners as a part of the breakfast team really stood out to me. This was a great way to learn more about St. Margaret's and why it is a special place. I also appreciate the traditional services that are held at St. Margaret's.

-Mike Murphy

WHAT A BEAUTIFUL PLACE!

My husband Will and I moved to Waxhaw from South Charlotte in June, 2013. St. John's had been our church...I knew Father Paul there. As soon as we drove by St. Margaret's...I thought, "*what a beautiful place!*" and started attending services there the very next Sunday.

Father Todd, Father Lito, Deacon Susie, then Father Eric have been so special, warm and caring ♥ in every way. I've always felt God's presence at St. Margaret's.

I'll never forget when I had to have radiation on an acoustic neuroma near my brain, at The Levine Cancer Center in uptown Charlotte at 8:00 a.m...one October morning in 2014.....In walked Father Todd having



driven all the way from Waxhaw in the morning traffic. I almost fell off my chair! He prayed with me and I know I was able to tolerate that procedure so much better because of those prayers...I knew God was with me. I will never forget Father Todd's kindness towards me at that most difficult time.

Thank you just isn't enough to express my heartfelt appreciation. Much love to you always Father Todd.

-Linda Strong



I knew StM was my home when...



"I had a pretty intense oral surgery in May 2012 and several students dropped off get well cards on my doorstep."

A special part of that journey was Father Todd, clearly. But, it also was a group of high school students who, early on in my ministry, decided to share their life with me that have made a profound impact on my life: Emily, Jake, John, Madison, Riley (and now many, many more)

I have always felt such joy radiating from our parish family. Our students and parents have welcomed me into their families and shared the joyous and tragic, it is so meaningful to be a part of teen's lives. I love getting called when a student has found out that they were accepted into their first choice college!

-Elizabeth Pfeifer

THE HOLY SPIRIT

I realized StM was my church home on our first visit back, which was Father Todd's second Sunday here – Yep – this is where we are supposed to be. The sermon was meaningful – both Kevin and I were comfortable – felt like home. The Liturgy stood out to me and I felt comforted. This parish has impacted my life in numerous ways over 15 years – but as of late, this Parish has given me a way to serve when so many other things in life were difficult. A specific memory for me was when I was received into the Episcopal church, and Bishop Curry laid



hands on me at our prayer rail, and I experienced the Holy Spirit move through me. I was forever changed in that moment.

-Amy Gorman



"CHURCH COMMUNITY MATTERS...WE CHECK ON EACH OTHER; WE PRAY FOR EACH OTHER; WE CELEBRATE AND MOURN TOGETHER; WE FOLLOW JESUS TOGETHER."

-Traci Scott

The first time we visited, we were immediately struck by the warm feeling of the people and the church itself. Everyone was so welcoming. We loved coming to breakfast with our kids and getting to know people at those tables. Fr. Todd's sermons were just so inspiring, relatable and filled with the Holy Spirit. A greeter called me that week after we visited and it was so special to hear that someone cared that we were there.

St. Margaret's and our faith journey here has changed our whole family. It strengthened our marriage which made us better parents. Our boys were able to grow up in a church home where the priest and youth leader knows their name and prays for them regularly. They have witnessed how we take care of each other and those in our surrounding community.



As I slowly got involved in Outreach at St. Margaret's, my eyes were opened to those who are struggling right in our in our backyard. Serving in the community through Outreach... meals at the shelter, taking food to people's homes, food pantries, Galilee, Fixing it for Christ projects...has been such a huge blessing and completely changed path. There are so many that need God's help and we are called to be

His hands and feet here in our little corner of the world. -Traci Scott

➔ There was so much energy



I remember feeling at home the day I stepped into St. Margaret's. Our family was still living in NJ and we were house hunting in NC and getting ready to move. I wanted to check out St. Margaret's as we were looking at various neighborhoods and houses. The website was welcoming, and it appeared that it was a vibrant parish. I wanted to get a feel for what the church felt like in person, so we attended a service one Sunday.

I was drawn in by the preaching and the feeling of community. I remember checking out the Christian Education hallway after service, and striking up a conversation with a gentleman. I can't remember who it was, but we had a great conversation about how much he liked it here. There were so many children and families and there was so much energy, and I knew that this would be a perfect church home for my family! -Catherine Chintala

➔ We felt welcomed



My family has had the opportunity to move quite a bit; we've lived in four states in the last thirteen years.

Each move has been full of opportunity and challenges - challenges that have required us to be open, vulnerable, and place our faith in God. Our move to Waxhaw in 2017 was a unique one for us. My husband Aaron toured and placed an offer on what would be our home by himself. Before I even saw our house in person, my father called me to say he noticed on Google maps there was an Episcopal Church just down the road. From the first moment we entered St. Margaret's that summer, we felt welcomed. I was so happy to have a thriving children and youth program for Nathan and Elaine, but it was the choir and worship music at St. Margaret's that made me feel so at home. I have made some wonderful friends through the choir, and love participating in the service through music. Worship at St. Margaret's is such a profound experience to me - communal, meditative, artistic, and reverent. I miss our pre-Covid services, but I know we will find our way back, soon.

-Jessica Parker

STEWARDSHIP *Twenty21*

CLICK HERE
TO PLEDGE

Youth Spotlight



BY ELIZABETH PFEIFER
ASSISTANT TO THE RECTOR
FOR YOUTH MINISTRY

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Join us!

Youth Group has been back on campus since September for outdoor, masked gatherings! We have been meeting in small groups based on gathering restrictions from the Diocese of North Carolina. In October we learned about St. Francis of Assisi and how God's home is not just the physical church building, we discussed how we can look for moments of joy in tough circumstances, and we kept trying to play those silly games Elizabeth loves but with proper distancing!

If your student has not yet made it to youth group this year, we would love to see them soon!

Youth Group will continue to meet weekly on Sundays for outdoor, distanced gatherings in November. **We hope you'll join us for Fireside Chats!** We will gather near the playground (back of the church off of Crane Rd.) Middle School (6th-8th grade) will gather from 4:00-5:00pm and High School (9th-12th grade) will gather from 5:15-6:15pm. Friends are welcome. Masks are required and students are asked to bring their own tailgate chair or blanket.

If you have questions about safety procedures, please contact Elizabeth.

All in-person gatherings are contingent on permission from the Diocese of North Carolina and continuing declining COVID rates and are subject to change.

A "Just Because" to bring an October Smile:

In October, Elizabeth delivered "sneak attack snacks" for our students who are doing all remote learning! Online school days have their ups and downs. PJs all day? Yes! Not seeing anyone besides my siblings all day? Maybe not! Elizabeth got our student's favorite snack and drink and dropped them off at their house so they could have a snack in between classes. We continue to pray for our students, parents, and all who support our schools. If you have a student who is doing all virtual learning, please contact Elizabeth with their favorite snack and drink and she will drop it on the doorstep unannounced one day in the next few weeks!

NOVEMBER FIRESIDE CHATS

FOR NOVEMBER, EYC
WILL GATHER BY THE
PLAYGROUND



SUNDAYS!
MIDDLE: 4:00-5:00
HIGH: 5:15-6:15





CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

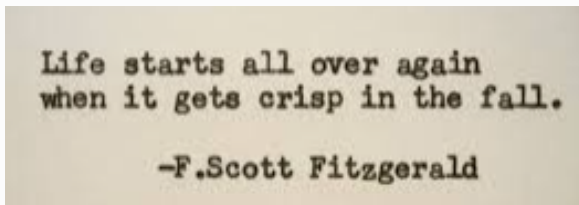
BY CATHERINE CHINTALA

ASSISTANT TO THE RECTOR FOR CHILDRENS MINISTRY
childrensministry@saintmargarets.net



"My prayer is that with the changing of the seasons, your family can enjoy time together outdoors and take part in holiday traditions...even if they have to look different this year."

As the air is getting cooler and leaves are turning, I cannot believe it is already November! The long spring and summer of quarantine are drawing to a close, but we are still in uncertain times, when things seem to change on a daily basis. Some kids are learning virtually and some are back in school, while many are doing a combination of both. Many sports and activities have started back up again, but they look a bit different. One of my favorite quotes is from F Scott Fitzgerald: *"Life starts all over again when it gets crisp in the fall."* My prayer is that with the changing of the seasons, your family can enjoy time together outdoors and take part in holiday traditions...even if they have to look different this year. We have to re-think many of our traditions and do things differently than we have done in the past, which can seem exhausting. I've been trying to think of it in a new way, that this season of uncertainty has given us permission to try something new. We aren't bound by what we've done the past. We can try something completely new, or try to tweak our favorite traditions to something that works for us now. I'm praying for you, and I hope that you and your family are well and can find joy in the traditions of this season...both old and new.



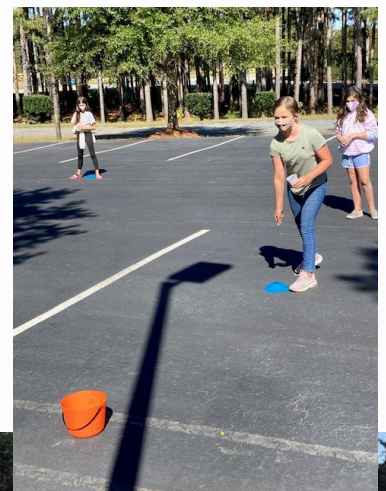
Blessings,
Catherine



Club 4/5 is back!

These youth group style meetings are open to all 4th and 5th grade students, and we had two great meetings in October. We played games and enjoyed fellowship and devotions together, all while soaking up the sun and fall breezes! It feels so good to gather in-person again and enjoy each other's company! During our October meetings we celebrated St. Francis of Assisi, and all things fall! We have two more meetings planned on November 1st and 15th. We will focus on All Saints' Day and the theme of "thankfulness". We will meet outside in the parking lot from 1:30-2:30pm. These gatherings will follow all of the protocol you have come to expect as required by the Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina: masks are required, students should bring their own tailgate chairs, and students not in the same household must maintain a minimum six feet distance from others. There will be no shared items and no meals will be served. Sign-ups are required and groups must be kept to a maximum of eight students.

Please sign up by clicking this link



Did you know?

A Sainly Scavenger Hunt

To mark All Saints Day our campus became a great location for a fun and informative Scavenger Hunt. From Nov. 1 - 3 all ages are encouraged to participate by using the supplied clue sheet from the Sunday School lesson packet sent out. Participants are directed to fill in the answers on the clue sheet as the saints are found hiding around our campus! *Snapping and submitting photos encouraged.*



CANDY COLLECTION to Support Troops

Save that Halloween candy! This year, we will be collecting your leftover Halloween candy again for NCPacksforPatriots who uses it in care packages for our Troops abroad.

All types of candy accepted, including chocolate. Please only drop off your candy in one of the 2 following ways:

- **Saturday, November 7, 9am-11am at the REAR of the church, off of Crane Rd.**
- **Saturday, November 7 & Sunday, November 8 in the collection bin in the narthex if you are attending a worship service.**

Due to COVID restrictions, we are not able to accept candy dropped off any other time at the church.

Questions, please contact Penny Feldser at pennyloopen@gmail.com

Show & Tell a SUCCESS!

In October, we started a new virtual fellowship opportunity called "Show & Tell." All are welcome as we connect with fellow parishioners and do Show & Tell like we used to in 1st grade! Each gathering has a theme of what you should bring to show the group, such as "oldest piece of clothing in your home" or "a souvenir from your favorite vacation." These items foster conversation and we discover common ties amongst the group. Show & Tell is every other Thursday at 1:00pm.

No commitment needed...just join when you can.

3 meetings left in 2020: Nov 12, Dec 3, Dec 17.

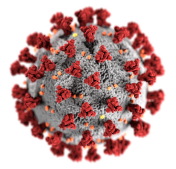
Contact Traci Scott at connection@saintmargarets.net for the Zoom meeting link.

Thanks to all our participants.

From top left to right in the picture: Janice Evans, Traci Scott, Kathy Couture, Jackie & Ken Paar, Kim Owens, Ludwig & Carolyn Wallner, Catherine Chintala & Naomi Scrogam



Parishioners in Pandemic: Q & A



BY TRACI SCOTT

ASSISTANT TO THE RECTOR FOR NEWCOMERS & PARISH LIFE

connection@saintmargarets.net



To help keep us all a little more connected and entertained while we still don't see each other at church, we bring you another month of **"Pandemic Parishioners."** Meet our newest group below for some insight *on the next few pages* on how they have spent the last few months.

KATHY & JOHN

The Ballard's enjoyed playing Wii Sports and eating breakfast for dinner!

THE SELLS

It was time for Alex to learn to ride a bike and for lots of puzzles and walks with the dogs.

GIFTOS FAMILY

Virtual graduation on the beach and chicken marsala with pesto pasta was on the menu for Kelly & family.

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QUARANTINE Q & A:

ANSWERS BY KATHY BALLARD

Q: Favorite Netflix/Amazon/Hulu show during quarantine?

A: *"Last Tango in Halifax" on Netflix. It's a terrific show!*

Q: Favorite family activity during quarantine?

A: *Like a lot of others we rediscovered jigsaw puzzles and our Wii Sports*

Q: How many Zoom calls have you participated in?

A: *A LOT!!! "The one in the corner"*

Q: Did you have any big reasons to celebrate that required creative parties during Covid?

A: *We had outdoor celebrations for a granddaughter's college graduation and several family birthdays*

Q: Have you given yourself or someone else an at-home haircut?

A: *Kathy gave John a little trim (not very successfully) before the salons opened back up.*

Q: How many times do you run the dishwasher each week?

A: *3*

Q: Have you learned something new?

A: *Kathy did a 1/2 hour weekly preschool class on Zoom in April and May for her St. Margaret's Preschool kids, including some Music and Movement, which went surprisingly well!*

Q: Which social media platform do you use?

A: *Facebook...for better or for worse!*

Q: Favorite culinary creation?

A: *No new creations... but we cooked more breakfasts than we had in years...even for dinner!*

HOW DO YOU WATCH OUR SUNDAY SERVICE?

Q: How do you watch our Sunday service? e.g. wearing pjs, with coffee in hand, on the porch, etc.

A: *In our recliner chairs watching YouTube on the TV*





QUARANTINE Q & A:

ANSWERS BY KELLY GIFTOS

Q: Favorite Netflix/Amazon/Hulu show during quarantine?

A: *HGTV - BeachFront Bargains and Island Hunters, early on in the pandemic I watched some disturbing Netflix (TigerKing and Ozark) but now I stick to the beach shows.*

Q: Favorite culinary creation?

A: *chicken marsala with pesto pasta (and red wine)*

Q: Which social media platform do you spend most of your time on?

A: *I have a love hate relationship with Facebook...and Instagram which I am liking better these days (just pictures, less politics)*

Q: Did you have a trip or any big events cancelled due to Covid?

A: *My son's senior class spring break to Cancun that I was chaperoning (probably was a blessing in disguise that this was cancelled) High school graduation was on a beach with just our family instead of virtual with the whole high school.*

Q: Have you given yourself or someone else an at-home haircut?

A: *No home hair cuts - recommend Planet 21 at the Arboretum, glad they reopened, they are essential workers.*

Q: How do you watch our Sunday service?

A: *We go in person when possible to church, get more of a connection, virtual church didn't click for us, but we appreciated St. M's virtual options early on when there was nothing else.*

Q: Have you made any big changes?

A: *We bought a Peloton which stares at me every morning, and new windows and doors for house.*

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE ACTIVITY DURING QUARANTINE?

A: *Reading... like authors Emily Giffin (The Lies that Bind) and J. Courtney Sullivan, (Friends and Strangers)*



QUARANTINE Q & A:

ANSWERS BY LAURA SELLS

Q: Favorite Netflix/Amazon/Hulu show during quarantine?

A: *As a family, we began rewatching the Harry Potter series at the beginning of quarantine. Rachel & Laura really enjoyed watching all the baking shows. In addition, Kevin & Laura enjoyed the show "Midsomer Murders" on the Roku Channel. We enjoyed it so much, we signed up for Brit Box just so we could finish watching the series!*

Q: How many times do you run the dishwasher each week?

A: *We ran the dishwasher every day before quarantine, and that really didn't change too much. The trash/recycling bins, however, needed emptying way more often!*

Q: Favorite family activity during quarantine?

A: *While we didn't play a lot of board games/cards, we did do a lot of puzzles, especially Laura & Rachel! The more pieces, the better!*

Q: Did you have a trip that was cancelled due to Covid?

A: *Fortunately for us, 2019 was filled with travel and we hadn't really planned much for 2020. So, no trips were cancelled. However, fingers are still crossed to see whether we will be able to take Alex on his Senior Trip to England in 2021....*

Q: How many Zoom calls have you participated in?

A: *Zoom calls...Not sure of an exact count, but it's been a lot for the whole family! We're all pretty boring Zoomers, too. The boys prefer no camera, Rachel is always muted, and Kevin & Laura talk when needed, muted when not.*

Q: Have you cleaned out your closets or garage?

A: *We haven't really made any big changes. We have been slowly renovating the boys' bathroom and have bought a few new pieces of furniture. That's about all.*

Q: How do you watch Sunday service?

A: *We watched church as a family in the living room, kids in pjs, Laura with coffee. The dogs would sometimes "watch" with us too! Now, we are excited to be back in church (at least every other week)!*



LEARN ANYTHING NEW?

A: Alex learned a few new things during quarantine. He learned to play the guitar and he finally learned to ride a bike!

In the culinary world, we didn't do too much additional baking than usual. Alex and his girlfriend did experiment making bread (dinner rolls) for dinner one night. They were really tasty!



November Calendar

In our continued response to the COVID-19 pandemic, we are following the direction of the Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina. We continue indoor weekend worship opportunities with limited seating & continue to offer online worship through our YouTube channel.

For the month of November, we will continue to offer three in-person offerings.

- **Saturday at 5 pm, Rite II with Holy Eucharist**
- **Sunday at 9 am, Rite I with Holy Eucharist**
- **Sunday at 11 am, Rite II with Holy Eucharist**

In consideration for the health and safety of our parish family and our clergy, and in compliance with directives from the Diocese of North Carolina, **each service is limited to 25 people and sign ups are required.** ➡ **SIGN UP HERE**

All who attend service will be required to follow guidelines as prescribed by the Diocese of North Carolina and in conjunction with the CDC.

Check your email EVERY MONDAY at 12 noon for sign up links for INDOOR services.

New!

Note on VIRTUAL SERVICES:

As of 11/8, we will be LIVESTREAMING our Sunday 9:00 RITE I service. We will be broadcasting our live service through our YouTube channel. Our hope is that more people will watch at the same time and worship together.

Please note: If you miss the livestream at 9:00 am, the **SERMON ONLY PORTION** of the service will be stored in the video library of our YouTube channel to be viewed at a later time.

So... tune in at 9:00 each Sunday to see the whole service LIVE.



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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

