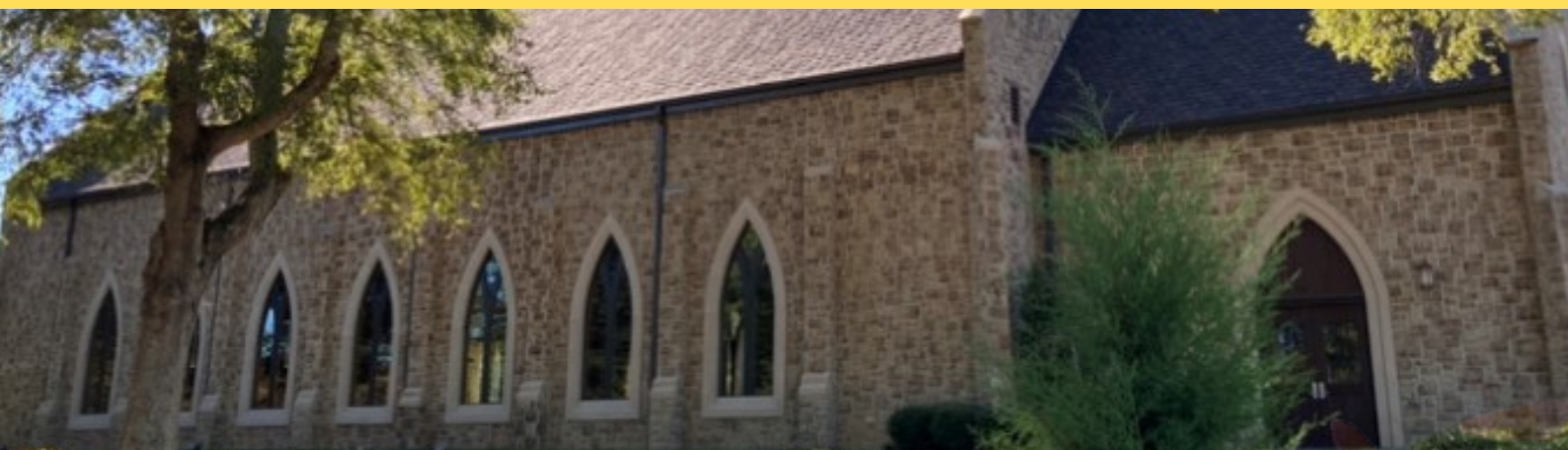


MAGGIE'S CROSS



A Letter from our Rector

BY FATHER TODD R. DILL+

The Communion of Saints

I believe in the Communion of Saints. I profess so every time I recite the Apostles' Creed, and so do you. While this creed is not contained within the Sunday liturgy every week, it is a part of Daily Morning Prayer and Evening Prayer, and we do pray this creed corporately within our liturgies for Baptism and the Burial Rite. We state together that:

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

In short, the communion of saints is the collection of all baptized believers, both in heaven and on earth. When one is baptized into the life, death, and resurrection of our Lord, one is marked as Christ's own forever, and is offered the pathway to new and eternal life. That connection with Jesus, and with one another, is a connection that is not limited by time or space. To quote Saint Paul from his letter to the Romans, *For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.* How wonderful is that promise! In that moment where one is marked as belonging to Christ, one enters a relationship with Him and His family that is never ending.

To truly understand this is so important, because for those of us who are still on our earthly pilgrimage, we know that we are not alone. Not only is our Lord present to intercede on our behalf, but so too are the saints, praying for us and supporting us. It's as if we are in a large stadium, running a race, and the communion of saints are gathered in the stadium to cheer us on. We are bound together in a mystical way, to those who have gone before and to those who are yet to come. That is one reason why the Episcopal Church embraces the ancient liturgies of our faith. Their prayers are our prayers, their hymns are our hymns.

When one realizes that we are connected to all those beloved souls who have gone before us, the present struggles of our own personal lives can better be put in perspective. Their witness and triumphs can inspire us to participate in God's Divine plan, and to cooperate in His plan for love and mercy throughout all creation.

November 1st is All Saints' Day, a moment in which we intentionally remember all who follow Jesus. But know this; they are there every day, waiting to pray for you, cheering you on.

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart. (Hebrews 12: 1-2)

Your priest,

-Fr. Todd+

Rector

dill@saintmargarets.net





Thoughts from Rev. Sarah

Rev. Sarah Hollar+

Office Hours: Wednesdays, 9 am - 4 pm

704-243-3523, ext. 222

hollar@saintmargarets.net

Giving Thanks

This year Thanksgiving will be celebrated differently at our house. Fall gourds won't be arranged on the dining table with less artistic flair than the way my mother would have placed them. There will be no fretting over timing the Sister Schubert rolls to come out warm but not burned. The son who always comes with the deviled eggs and sweet potato casserole will be in New Jersey with the wife's side of the family. Instead, the husband, daughter and I will take an uneventful drive to the wood paneled dining hall of my parents' retirement community and we will be served a well-executed traditional Thanksgiving lunch.

There will be lots of food options, the service will be gracious and conversation most congenial. We will laugh and appreciate the opportunity to gather. We will know we are so very lucky. We have health and means to pay our bills. We have love in our lives. We have work that engages us and doesn't break our spirits. We have friends, companions and a family that treats its members with affection and respect. Yes, we are so very lucky. At some point during the dinner, we will do as we always do on this day. We will share that for which we are most grateful. It will be good stuff. Someone will get teary. Probably more than one someone.



I say our Thanksgiving will be different but only in some details. The essentials will be the same. Giving thanks, acknowledging blessings, giving God God's due for his providence and care for the world will be the business and privilege of the day. I hope you and yours will find space around the holiday table to say things that need to be said. I love you. You're doing a good job in parenting me. I'm proud of you. We don't always agree but I respect you in these things....God is good to us. God has blessed us well. In easy times and the harder ones too, I see God working in our family in these ways....

It's important to name the truth of our hearts but if we can't find the words, Meister Eckhart reminds us "If the only prayer you ever say in your entire life is thank you, it will be enough." To help our family focus our gratitude, we will also take a moment to pray A General Thanksgiving from page 836 of The Book of Common Prayer. You and yours may find it captures your gratitude for the goodness of the Lord.

Blessings on your season of giving thanks,

Rev. Sarah



A General Thanksgiving

BCP pg. 836

Accept, O Lord, our thanks and praise for all that you have done for us. We thank you for the splendor of the whole creation, for the beauty of this world, for the wonder of life, and for the mystery of love.

We thank you for the blessing of family and friends, and for the loving care which surrounds us on every side.

We thank you for setting us at tasks which demand our best efforts, and for leading us to accomplishments which satisfy and delight us.

We thank you also for those disappointments and failures that lead us to acknowledge our dependence on you alone.

Above all, we thank you for your Son Jesus Christ; for the truth of his Word and the example of his life; for his steadfast obedience, by which he overcame temptation; for his dying, through which he overcame death; and for his rising to life again, in which we are raised to the life of your kingdom.

Grant us the gift of your Spirit, that we may know Christ and make him known; and through him, at all times and in all places, may give thanks to you in all things.

Amen.



From the Deacon's Bench

Deacon Ludwig Wallner
thewallners@hotmail.com

Live thankfully

Before thanksgiving became a noun as in **Thanksgiving Day**, the word thanksgiving was a verb. **This difference really matters in our lives – yours and mine.**

A desert father once said: *“If you have a chest full of oranges, and leave them for a long time, the fruit will rot inside of it. It is the same with thoughts in our heart. If we do not carry them out by physical action, after a while they will spoil and turn bad.”*

Living thankfully is not essentially about feeling thankful, or even being thankful. **To live thankfully is to act differently day by day because we are compelled by the Spirit to participate in the generous life of God-with-us**, constantly practicing thanks-giving.

Thanksgiving is well established as a cultural institution in our country. We know it as a day to observe, a milestone in the year...the beginning of the holiday season. We are told that Thanksgiving is the high holy day for retailers, the bellwether of our national economic health.

It is a time for families and wider communities to gather; a day for starting to write up our Christmas lists; for watching football; for eating, and eating and eating. For many it is a time when attention is given to those who live in deep need throughout the year. “Have a good Thanksgiving” many will say to each other as we leave church or greet one another as November draws near the day. The question is: *how was your Thanksgiving?* All of this is assuming Thanksgiving to be a noun. But as a verb, a spiritual practice, what is thanksgiving all about?

Giving thanks is actually central to the practice of being a follower of Christ. It is a golden thread woven through and uniting all we do as followers of Christ. At Thanksgiving, we celebrate the gift of the harvest. As Charles Winters put in his wonderful prayer offered by many just before the Great Thanksgiving celebration of the Eucharist: **“We make, O Lord, our glorious exchanges. What you have given us, we now offer to you, That in turn, we may receive yourself.”**

It is a common practice at Thanksgiving for congregations and other community groups to gather food for food pantries, assist at soup kitchens, and even offer a meal to those who are alone at this time. As a Christian spiritual practice, we understand this work of feeding others to be a natural consequence of participating in the dance of abundance with God. Compassion and acts of charity flow naturally as a way of giving thanks to God; for in that action, we receive so very much. The blessing flows both ways in that exchange.

Thanksgiving, then, as followers of Christ, is a time when we are called to move beyond feeling thankful. We are called to give thanks by taking very specific spiritual actions: **We practice hospitality. We practice generosity. We practice stewardship. We practice compassion.**

Giving thanks is a verb, a spiritual practice that runs like the golden thread through all that we do as followers of Christ. Of course, it's important to remember to say “thank you” to our friends and family, our co-workers and neighbors. It's a simple way to show our appreciation for the nice things they do. How much more then, do we owe our Thanksgiving to Almighty God, who has done so much more. In fact, nothing that we give to each other or do for others would be possible without God.

*As we prepare to celebrate
Thanksgiving let us consider the
following prayer:*

*Generous God of love,
We gather in community
To praise and thank you
For the harvest of our orchards and
vineyards.*

*From trees carefully pruned
Has emerged a rich crop
on every branch.
Your boundless generosity,
O God, is like
The overflowing of baskets and bins.*

*May we be moved to
give back to you a portion
of what you have gifted to us.
From the richness of your community
And the wealth of your creation,*

*For the sake of the gospel
And to your honor and glory
Help us live a
THANKSGIVING life.*

Amen.



Youth Spotlight

BY ELIZABETH PFEIFER

ASSISTANT TO THE RECTOR FOR YOUTH MINISTRY

pfeifer@saintmargarets.net

Our StM Youth Group is thankful for the incredible weather we had for our October outdoor meetings! We had a fantastic month of meetings continuing to reconnect with friends, play games, and learn about God.

We have been focusing on a verse from Micah (6:8) about walking humbly with God and we wrapped up our study on that verse by participating in Compline together in the worship space.

We also had two theme nights: one on music and how we can use music to connect us with God and a Halloween themed night. We played a thrilling game of EYC Halloween Family Feud and had a program involving decorating pumpkins and how pumpkins can remind us to follow the Greatest Commandment (Matthew 22:34-40).

Our middle school students spent an adventuresome Saturday at Camp Canaan in Rock Hill, SC. Our group went ziplining, played lots of games, ate dessert first because our pizza delivery could not find us, had Compline by the fire, and more! It was a wonderful day spent in fellowship and God's beautiful creation while zipping over the Catawba River.

EYC will meet on Nov 7th, Nov 14th, and Nov 21st from 5:00-6:30pm (no dinner served). We will not gather on Nov 28th. All 6th-12th graders and their friends are invited. We hope to see your student at a meeting soon!

As of writing, we will be inside for our upcoming meetings due to the time change. When we go inside, all in our group must wear masks; masks are not required outside. When coming to youth group, please use the back entrance off of Crane Rd.

Stay up-to-date with youth group gatherings by signing up for our EYC text updates: text **stmyouth1** to **43506** and reply "yes" if prompted with an opt-in text message.





CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

BY CATHERINE CHINTALA

ASSISTANT TO THE RECTOR FOR CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

childrensministry@saintmargarets.net



Sunday School

Each Sunday I'm reminded how much of a blessing our children are to our Saint Margaret's family! We have had a wonderful fall meeting outdoors for Sunday School classes, and I just love seeing our students learn with our teachers and play together on the playground. Their smiles and energy are amazing!

This year we are focusing on "getting back to basics" with our Sunday School classes. Due to the pandemic, many of our students haven't been at church in a while, and we are focusing on fellowship and relationship building. Our classes have featured lessons like: Prayer, Bible Basics, Baptism, Communion, and the Liturgical Calendar. With the holidays coming up, we have some great activities and lessons planned around All Saints' Day, Saint Margaret's Day, Advent, and Christmas.

Our Sunday School program couldn't happen without our amazing volunteer teachers! A BIG thank you to Keri Collins, Carolyn Dunand, Dawn Fell, Page Hinton, Aaron Parker, Jamie Peters, Erin Stephens, Michelle Stephens, Sarah Whalen, and Christine Wilkins.

We meet each Sunday from 10-10:45am. Weather permitting, we meet outside at the picnic tables for class. All students 4 years of age through 5th grade are invited, and they are welcome to bring a friend!



Holy Communion Celebration

On October 10th we celebrated a special Holy Communion with Matthew Saunders and Emily Chintala! Our students, along with their parents, took a series of classes to help prepare them to receive this holy sacrament.

Each fall and spring, Saint Margaret's offers a 3-week series of classes for students aged 7 and above who are interested in learning more about Holy Communion. We meet to learn about the sacraments of baptism and communion, and how they began. Students also learn more about what we do each week during Sunday worship and get a close-up look at the altar and

everything our priests do to share in this beautiful sacrament with our church family.

Special thanks to Reverend Sarah for helping teach our class!



We have had so much fun at our Club 4/5 meetings! The beautiful weather has allowed us to meet outside for fun games and activities and delicious pizza! No fall gathering would be complete without toilet paper mummy races and a candy corn toss!

Club 4/5 meets once a month for lunch and is a great way to meet other 4th and 5th graders at Saint Margaret's...and friends are welcome too!

These meetings focus on building friendships and fellowship through games, activities, and a short time for prayers/devotions. **Our next meeting will be on Nov 14th from 12:15 – 1:30pm.**

Weather permitting, our gatherings will be outside at the picnic tables.

Registration is not required, just bring a water bottle and a mask (in case we go inside) and be ready to have fun!



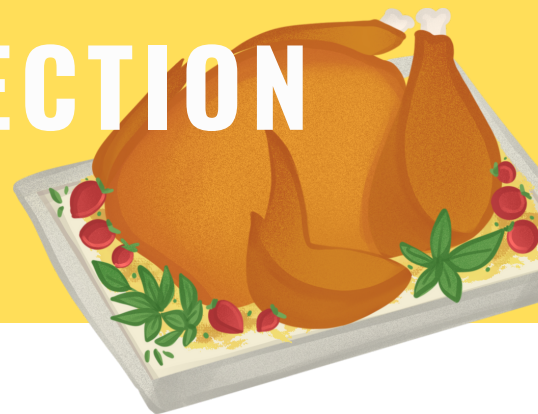
OUTREACH



& PARISH CONNECTION

BY TRACI SCOTT

ASSISTANT TO THE RECTOR FOR OUTREACH
& PARISH CONNECTION



Help us support our neighbors this Thanksgiving.

The Great Turkey Countdown is underway!

Join us in donating 1,500 turkeys for 1,500 local families! Common Heart provides a Thanksgiving dinner for local families and the countdown is on!

This year, St. Margaret's is asking our parish to financially support Common Heart by donating directly to their organization rather than bringing food items to the church. By purchasing in bulk, Common Heart can provide a full Thanksgiving for \$30 per family! Use this link: [**CLICK HERE**](#)

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: Saturday, November 20th

We'll be delivering hot meals and turkey dinners for our new ministry called Community Kitchen Fellowship. On November 20th, we need help picking up Thanksgiving turkey dinners at Common Heart and bringing them to St. Margaret's. Then, at 11am, we need volunteers to deliver our fresh meals and the Thanksgiving meals to about 30 homes in Waxhaw/Mineral Springs. [**CLICK HERE**](#) to volunteer or email Traci at connection@saintmargarets.net.



DON'T THROW AWAY YOUR HALLOWEEN CANDY! *Donate it to our Troops!*



We are excited to again partner with NC Packs 4 Patriots to collect and ship candy to our U.S. Military deployed in combat areas. The troops love the candy for themselves, but also to give out to the children in the communities they patrol. All types of candy are acceptable (including chocolate). We will also be collecting individually-packaged toothbrushes, dental floss and toothpaste to send along with all that candy. There are collection bins at StM outside the bathrooms in the Connector Hall or outside the rear church doors by the playground. For more information [**click here**](#) for the [NC Packs 4 Patriots Facebook page](#)

Operation Christmas Child boxes and instructions are now available. You can take them, fill them up with gifts and return them to St. Margaret's by November 14. [**CLICK HERE**](#) for information on this popular outreach opportunity and to see how to pack a box or how to donate online. If no boxes are left, you can always use a regular shoe box.

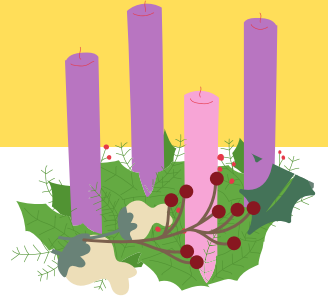
HELP NEEDED: Outreach help is needed to coordinate the upcoming **Angel Tree** project in mid November-early December, including putting up our tree in the Narthex. If you would like to work with Traci to organize this special project, please contact her at connection@saintmargarets.net



Our next Shelter meal will be on Tuesday, November 23. One group will cook the meal in the St. Margaret's kitchen at 1:00pm and another group will serve it at the Shelter in Monroe at 5:30pm. Cookies and brownies are needed as well. [***Click here to volunteer.***](#)

SAVE THE DATE: our next Blood Drive with OneBlood will be Sunday, December 5

OUTREACH & PARISH CONNECTION CONTINUED...



Advent Wreath making set for 11/20

Looking to connect with other parishioners and get in the holiday spirit?

Come to our **ADVENT WREATH MAKING EVENT** on **Saturday 11/20**.

Starting at 11:30am in the Parish Hall hosted by ECW (Episcopal Church Women) this will be an intergenerational event so, children and grandchildren are encouraged to attend as well.

In order to have enough supplies on-hand, **pre-registration is required** and each wreath kit costs \$16.

Please bring your own florals to decorate the styrofoam form. Glue & floral wire provided.

To register by November 11th [CLICK HERE](#)

Please contact Traci Scott with questions at:
connection@saintmargarets.net



Saint Margaret's Welcomes New Bookkeeper

We welcome **Kathy Marakoff**, our new *Assistant to the Rector for Finance & Accounting*.

Kathy is taking over for Denise Kilinski, who has served our parish faithfully for over eight years. Kathy has extensive experience in finances and accounting, as well as many years of involvement working in churches.

Denise and Kathy have been working together over the last few weeks to transition Kathy into her new position. They are both working diligently to ensure that this transfer of duties will be seamless.

Please join our parish in offering to God our prayers of gratitude for continuing to bless this church as we continue to strive to be His faithful servants.

Kathy can be reached at: finance@saintmargaret.net

Office hours: Monday 10 am-3pm and Thursday 10 am-2pm





VIEW FROM THE VESTRY

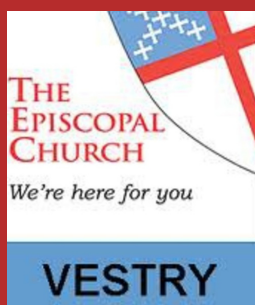
FROM OUR SENIOR WARDEN

We have reached the part of the year where time seems to speed up. Before we know it, we will all be deep into Thanksgiving mode and Advent will be here. I know I get pulled in many directions this time of year, balancing all of my current commitments with preparing for the holidays with my family. However, it also a time to consider the health and welfare of our church, as we make our financial pledges for 2022. In October's newsletter, Hugh Laughlin highlighted how the financial commitments of our congregation helped address major drainage work. This work is great example of our stewardship theme for 2022: "Staying Structurally and Spiritually Sound."

Our continued support will be necessary in the coming year for anticipated building work that will occur at St. Margaret's. Our beautiful building requires some attention to its masonry. The cost of materials and labor has only gone up in the past two years, but we cannot delay necessary repairs to protect our campus. Beyond our church's structure, we need to give some thought to how we stay "spiritually sound." For my family being "spiritually sound" looks like regular attendance at Sunday services, participating in worship ministries, and supporting children and youth Christian education. We also rely on the spiritual council and pastoral care provided by St. Margaret's. I am hoping our congregation's stewardship pledges this year will support an additional full-time priest on staff. This will help with the pastoral care needs of our congregation, which are significant as we are still learning how to live in this post-Covid world.

I ask you to consider how your pledge can contribute to the spiritual and structural soundness of St. Margaret's. Whatever you decide at this time, please respond to the pledge drive with your commitment, so we can move forward with 2022 budget planning.

Sincerely,
Jessica Parker



[**CLICK HERE to PLEDGE**](#)



Please note: Our church office is open M- Th from 9-4 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

Kathy Marakoff

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*

November Calendar

In our continued response to the COVID-19 pandemic, we are following the direction of the Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina.

Guidelines for worshipping at StM in the season of covid:

- Masks are required, 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**  **[CLICK HERE for our YouTube channel](#)**

At this time, all services are Holy Eucharist Rite II. Our 8:45 service will continue to be livestreamed.

*Nursery care is provided for both Sunday services.

11/1- 11/14	Stewardship Campaign continues
11/11	Church Office Closed
11/13	Usher Ministry Coffee Social, 9 - 9:45 am in the Parish Hall
11/13	Daughters of the King monthly meeting, 9:30 am in the Parish Hall
11/16	Online Vestry Business Meeting, 7:00 pm
11/20	Community Kitchen Fellowship, 8:00 am - 11:30 am
11/20	Knots of Love Meeting, 10:00 am in the Prayer Room
11/20	ECW Advent Wreath making, 11:30 am in the Parish Hall
11/24	Prayers of Thanksgiving, 5:00 pm
11/24	Thanksgiving Mass, 5:30 pm
11/25-26	Church Office Closed
11/28	Angel Tree gift collection begins



**We can stay strong
with your help
& participation**

2022 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN RESULTS TO DATE

2022 Pledging Unit GOAL:	230
Pledging Units to date:	116
Proposed 2022 Budget Goal:	\$1,042,250
\$ Pledged to date:	\$458,953

[CLICK HERE to PLEDGE](#)