

MAGGIE'S CROSS



A Letter from our Rector

BY FATHER TODD R. DILL+

A return to Sacred Space

As I trust that most of you have heard by now, and after a long hiatus from worship in our beautiful space, Saint Margaret's and its people will return this weekend to in-person, inside worship! It has been almost seven months since we gathered inside to worship together, and I cannot tell you how excited I am to be with you again inside of our beautiful nave worshipping the Risen Lord. What Good News this truly is!

As we prepare to come together again, I did feel that it was worth communicating to you some of the changes that you can expect to experience. To be sure, it will be wonderful to gather, but it will look, at least for some time, very different from our previous gatherings for worship. In the beginning, we will be limited to a very small number of worshippers until it becomes clear that the state of North

Carolina continues to manage the risk of the virus effectively. Additionally, everyone will be required to wear masks and to maintain appropriate social distancing. To begin with, Holy Eucharist will be offered at two of the three weekend services.

This allows us to follow the guidelines of our diocese; guidelines that require a minimum of six hours between all services in which Holy Eucharist is celebrated. In order to manage the attendance at each service, we will continue to utilize our online sign up system, until such time that we open up our gatherings to a larger number of people, presumably at a time when the virus and its affects are less of a threat. Also, and this breaks my heart, it will likely be quite some time before we are able to sing together again. It will happen, but currently the medical community believes that this is a very high-risk activity, and out of an abundance of caution, we will refrain from singing together until the science indicates that we can do this in a safe way for all.

Let me also take this opportunity to thank each one of you for your faithfulness, gentleness, and your understanding during this time of the pandemic. Seven months ago, I never imagined that our society would still be so affected and that our church would just now be reopening its doors for worship.

"But let me remind each of you, and perhaps myself too, that the Church has endured far more trying times in its past."

Nevertheless, through war, famine, disease, and a myriad of other hardships, the Church has endured, and it will continue to endure. It persists because we are led by Jesus Christ, and our Lord has promised that the rock of this foundation of His Church shall never be overpowered, not even by Hades itself.

So thank you for your faithfulness. Be prepared to be flexible in the coming weeks and months, and together we will continue to get through this together.

May Jesus our Lord bring you His peace and blessings this day, and forever more!

Your priest,



-Fr. Todd+

dill@saintmargarets.net





Shining Christ's

LIGHT

through the darkness

Darkness and unpredictability. For many of us, those words sum up the challenges we all face in 2020. But when we turn off the news and social media and be still, we remember that Jesus said, ***"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life."*** (John 8:12) God's love for us is steadfast, predictable and unwavering.

Your Stewardship Committee leaned into those truths to create this year's campaign, ***"Shining Christ's Light through the Darkness."*** St. Margaret's has been that light for many of us and our community this year.

Despite many challenges, Fr. Todd, Fr. Lito, Fr. Eric and the rest of the staff have continued to offer FB Live morning prayer and evening compline; weekly virtual services; weekly email reminders and the Thursday newsletter; virtual Bible study and EYC social-distanced gatherings.

You, our faithful parishioners, have continued to generously support our Outreach ministries, which included baking cookies for Kairos and partnering with 3 local churches to provide a weekly food collection for Operation Reach Out from April to August, helping with increased local need due to Covid. Beautiful vegetables from the garden on St. Margaret's property were also included in the donations to ORO.

Our church and our community need our time, talent and treasure now more than ever. We will miss Fr. Lito, who retired in August, and Fr. Eric, who was called to serve as rector at St. Paul's in Clinton. St. Margaret's is prepared to continue to grow and serve our community as we are called to do. To do that successfully, our most pressing need is to hire an additional priest in 2021.

We are excited to share weekly video and emails with you in the coming month. The videos will highlight how St. Margaret's has been a light in the darkness for many of us and the emails will offer insights into each of our church ministries and their goals for 2020-21.

God tells us in Jeremiah 29:11: ***"For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope."*** With your generosity, we can continue to build on all St. Margaret's has meant to us as parishioners and to our community. **Let us be that light in the darkness.**

STEWARDSHIP *Twenty21*

Youth Spotlight



BY ELIZABETH PFEIFER
ASSISTANT TO THE RECTOR
FOR YOUTH MINISTRY

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EYC is back on **campus**



Youth Group was back on campus in September and it was phenomenal! Our students met in small gatherings throughout the day on Sundays for no-touch games, lots of chalk activities, catching up on what we watched the last few months (most of Netflix!), how school is going (too many virtual calls!), and reconnecting with one another. Our programs have focused on how, even though church at St. Margaret's looks very different right now, God is with us and we discussed different ways to notice God in our everyday lives.

Youth Group will continue to meet weekly on Sundays for outdoor, distanced gatherings in October.

- **Middle School (6th-8th grade)** will gather from 4:00-5:00pm
- **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.



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION: FALL 2020

REMINDER

Our at-home Christian Formation for this fall is based on Presiding Bishop Curry's invitation to walk The Way of Love.

Our entire parish family will study the same principles and practices, but we will offer different lessons for children and youth/adult.

This initiative invites us to live a Christ-centered life and focuses on seven verbs: Turn, Learn, Pray, Worship, Bless, Go and Rest.

This year we are being asked to ponder for ourselves what it means to follow Jesus.

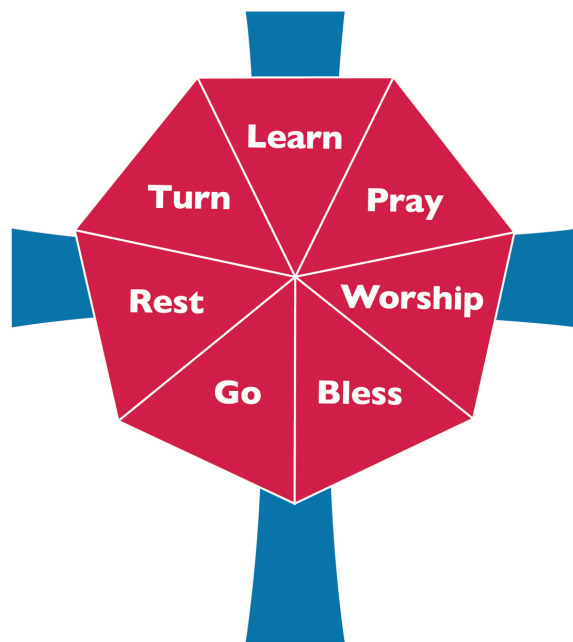
Our verb for October is **LEARN** and lessons will engage with what it means to read and reflect on Holy Scripture. When we open our minds and hearts to scripture, we learn to see God's story and God's activity in everyday life.

There are three lessons for this verb (Oct 4, 11 and 18) and can be accessed below.

These lessons are designed to be done at your convenience and can be structured to best fit your family's needs.

[Click here to access](#) lessons for families with children 5th grade and under.

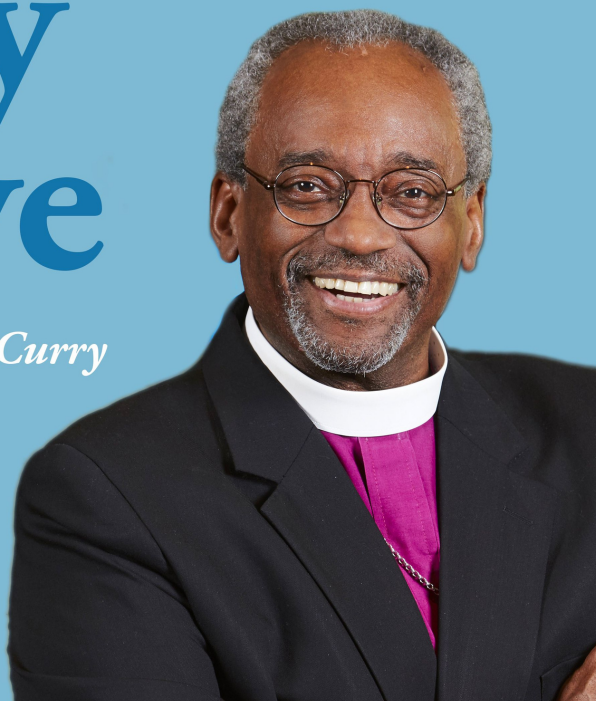
[Click here to access](#) lessons for adults and families with students 6th-12th grade.



THE WAY OF LOVE
Practices for Jesus-Centered Life

The
Way
of
Love

*with
Bishop Michael Curry*





CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

BY CATHERINE CHINTALA

ASSISTANT TO THE RECTOR FOR CHILDRENS MINISTRY

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We are so excited for the return of **Club 4/5**...in person! This gathering is open to all 4th and 5th graders on Sunday October 4th and 18th from 1:30 – 2:30pm. We will meet outside in the parking lot to enjoy games, fellowship, and a short devotional lesson. We will stay outside, and students are asked to bring their own chair, mask, and water (please note, lunch will not be served).

To maintain social distancing, we will limit the number of students to 8 per meeting, and a sign-up will be required.

Sign up at: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f044ba8a82aaafa7-club> and if you have any questions, please reach out to Catherine.

I hope you are enjoying your walk through **The Way of Love**. This month we will study the second principle of “Learn”. What I love about this principle is that it is applicable to everyone – regardless of age or stage in life! Taking the time to learn by reading God’s Word is important to our daily lives as Christians and as followers of Jesus. I want to stress that this month is all about learning together – not being an expert in the Bible or in theology. Taking the time to read, think, and talk together is so beneficial.

As families, we are busier than ever. The quiet of quarantine has been replaced with the busy start of school and activities. Life is changing each day, and we have had to be flexible and adapt to changing rules, schedules, and expectations.

In this ever-changing time, taking a few moments each day to read the unchanging Word of God can be so comforting. Sharing this practice with your children will benefit them and the entire family. I have found in my own home that some days we have a longer discussion about a reading or a specific topic, and some days it's a quick Bible story and a prayer before bedtime. Especially during this time, I think it's the daily practice of being in the Word with your children that is important, even if you keep it short and simple!

Blessings, Catherine

"...it's the daily practice of being in the Word with your children that is important, even if you keep it short and simple!"

Parents:

You are doing a great job! At times, life can feel uncertain and unsettled right now, but I want to encourage you to take time to pray and be in the Word each day. I found a prayer that I thought was so helpful:

Heavenly Father,

**My life is filled with
trials and hardships.**

**Sometimes I feel
overwhelmed and grieved.**

**Nevertheless,
I'm grateful that in every
situation You are with me.**

**In You, I can have peace.
No matter what I face, today
I choose not to let my heart
be troubled or afraid.**

**My mind is fixed on You
and I trust in You.**

**Fill me with joy and peace so
that by the power of**

**Your Holy Spirit,
I may abound with hope.**

**Guard my heart and give me
the strength to live a life
marked by Your peace.**

Amen.

Did you know?

Cookie count EXCEEDED goal

Thank you to our 31 bakers for helping us to collect over 160 dozen chocolate chip cookies for the Kairos Prison Ministry. This SUPER EXCEEDS our past collections and goal.



Exterior & Interior campus improvements



Besides our new roof and gutters, our campus is undergoing some improvements you may have noticed on a drive by or might want to know about:

- Stone facing power washed
- Stucco repaired and painted
- Fresh mulch and plantings & trimming of bushes & hedges
- Connector hall ceiling repaired and painted
- Fabric on pews deep cleaned
- Wiring upgrade for future livestreaming capabilities
- New editing software purchased for virtual worship productions
- Interior & exterior light fixtures repaired
- Hand sanitizing stations placed throughout the building

NEW FELLOWSHIP opportunity

We have a **NEW Fellowship opportunity** we are introducing THIS OCTOBER.

You are invited to join in **every other Thursday at 1:00pm** for a virtual **"Show & Tell."** A great new way to connect with fellow parishioners while relying on the tried-and-true elementary school stand-by of Show & Tell.

Each gathering will have a theme of what you should bring to show to the group which will foster conversation and discovering common ties.

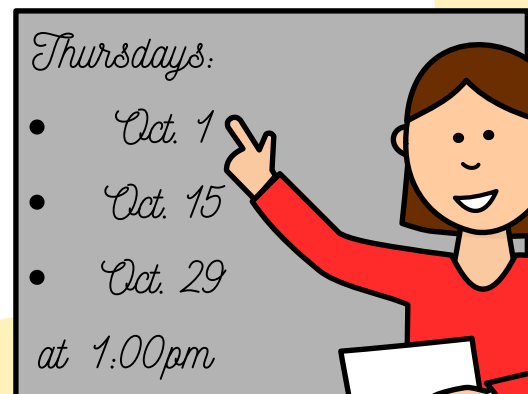
We will end each session with a devotional.

Brian & Traci Scott will host. No commitment is needed... just join when you can.

Great way to spend your lunch hour too!

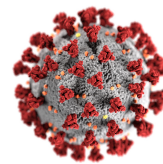
If interested, contact Traci Scott at: connection@saintmargarets.net for the Zoom meeting ID.

We'll meet Oct 1, 15 and 29 at 1:00pm



zoom

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 **OUR THIRD MONTH** of "**Pandemic Parishioners.**" Meet our third group below for some insight *on the next few pages* on how they have spent the last few months.

KRISTEN & DAVE

The Richardson's didn't get to go to France as planned but they did complete ten, 1,000 piece puzzles in quarantine.

THE COX FAMILY

Chris & Melanie along with their kids Callie & Nathan and two dogs are busy living their Waxhaw life covid style.

THE DELMAR'S

Camping, cribbage, ice cream and a nod to Bernie define the Delmar's corona virus days.

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QUARANTINE Q & A:

ANSWERS BY KRISTEN RICHARDSON

Q: Favorite Netflix/Amazon/Hulu show during quarantine? Did you watch "Tiger King?"

A: *We love a lot of the British mystery series but we are currently watching an American one called Bosch on Amazon Prime now. We did not watch Tiger King although I feel that we may be the only people left on the planet that haven't.*

Q: Favorite family activity during quarantine?

A: *We have done at least ten 1000 piece puzzles. We have what we call our "pandemic puzzle table" in our kitchen area. It now seems a permanent fixture in the house.*

Q: Favorite culinary creation?

A: *I have done a lot of cooking during this pandemic! Not sure I have a favorite culinary creation but we started a pandemic garden this spring and had a lot of lettuce, tomatoes, cucumbers and a few other vegetables. It was pretty satisfying to eat food that we had grown and we have already started our fall vegetable garden. We may be eating a lot of kale this fall!*

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

A: *We did have a trip planned to Provence, France in May and a trip to Seattle and Olympic National Park in August. Fortunately, we were able to get full refunds for all the airfare and hotel reservations.*

Q: How many Zoom calls have you participated in?

A: *Enough zooming to create Zoom fatigue! Dave zooms regularly through work as well. For our social and family zooms, we are definitely virtual background zoomers.*

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

A: *No but we did miss being able to get the family together this summer. We have been zooming with our kids every Sunday. Our son Jake is in Dallas, TX and our daughter Macon is in Binghamton, NY.*

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

A: *No but Dave did go from early March to July without a cut and he grew (and still has) a pandemic beard.*



Q: Have you made any big changes?

A: *We do not have any new pets but the two we have have been adjusting their needs accordingly. Our cat Clio is anxiously awaiting a Covid vaccine so we can leave the house for long periods of time. She hasn't had a decent nap since March. Our dog Zoe is anxiously hoping we will never get the vaccine and will be unable to leave the house ever again.*

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: *On the big TV, pj's on, coffee in hand- of course!*





QUARANTINE Q & A:

ANSWERS BY MELANIE COX

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

A: *Callie watches The Office on Hulu every night but her favorite series is Outer Banks. And yes, embarrassingly enough Chris and Melanie did watch Tiger King.*

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

A: *Beginning of quarantine twice a day – we are finally down to once a day.*

Q: Favorite culinary creation?

A: *Not sure if it was a favorite, but we gave homemade sushi a try.*

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

A: *Spring break trip to Turks and Caicos, but we rescheduled to 2021.*

Q: How many Zoom calls have you participated in? What type of “Zoomer” are you?

A: *Too many to zoom calls to count! Nathan was the first in his class to use the virtual backgrounds and taught all his friends how to do the same. Melanie – one in front of a window; Chris is the one outside.*

Q: Have you cleaned out your closets or garage?

A: *Early on in quarantine in March/April – but they are messy again.*

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

A: *Melanie gave Chris a couple of haircuts and Chris used his dull clippers to cut Nathan’s hair and accidentally cut his ear.*

Q: How do you watch our Sunday service?

A: *Mix between screened in porch and family room typically with PJs and coffee in hand with dogs right next to us on the couch.*

Q: Have you made any big changes?

A: *We got a pandemic puppy – Cavachon (mix between a King Charles Cavalier and a Bischon) named Gracie.*



WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE FAMILY ACTIVITY DURING QUARANTINE? FAVORITE BOARD GAME OR CARD GAME?

A: *evening bike rides around the neighborhood and walking the dogs; card game “taco cat goat cheese pizza” and Uno.*



QUARANTINE Q & A:

ANSWERS BY VICKI DELMAR

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

A: *We enjoyed Hinterland and DCI Banks, but our favorite was Anne with an E.*

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

A: *We've run the dishwasher every other day, which makes us realize how much we were going out to eat!*

Q: Favorite family activity during quarantine?

A: *We have a running Cribbage marathon going. So far Vicki has won 80 games to Rick's 73. He's waiting for the cards to turn. Rick has also assembled two 1500 piece jigsaw puzzles. One of our favorite activities was to take ice cream treats to our grandkids, Ellie, June and Ben, every week and visit while socially distant. We also enjoyed a scenery break when we camped with Cindy and Bob Bonner near Wilkesboro, NC*

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

A: *We had booked a trip to the Oregon coast to visit our son and family. Then the whole group was going to travel to California to see the redwoods.*

Q: How many Zoom calls have you participated in?

A: *Our zoom calls have been primarily for Fr. Todd's Wednesday morning Bible study. Vicki also participates in centering prayer several times each month.*

Q: Have you cleaned out your closets or garage?

A: *We started cleaning gung ho, but that quickly died off. Rick did assemble some overhead storage racks in the garage which we filled with useless stuff from our attic.*

Q: How do you watch Sunday service?

A: *We usually enjoy the Sunday service on our screened porch with coffee.*

**DID YOU
GET AN
AT HOME
HAIRCUT?**

A: *No at home haircuts here. Rick was going for the Bernie Sanders look.*



Rector

The Reverend Fr. Todd R. Dill+

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October Calendar

In our continued response to the COVID-19 pandemic, we are following the direction of the Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina. As of 10/3-4 we will move to indoor weekend worship opportunities with limited seating as well as continuing to offer online worship through our YouTube channel.

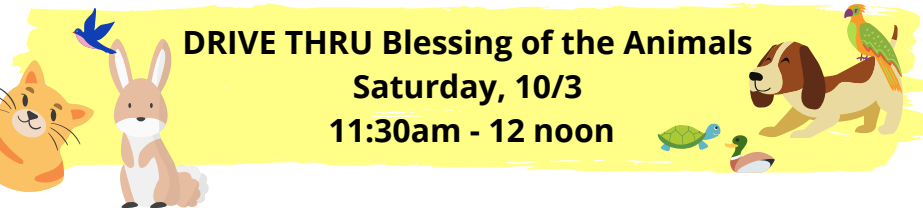
Please note: Our church office will now be open M- Th from 9-2 and on Fridays from 9-12 noon with limited staffing. Drop in visits are not allowed

At this time, our clergy, staff & vestry remain committed to following the stage 2 reopening timelines and protocols as directed by our Bishop.

DRIVE THRU Blessing of the Animals

Saturday, 10/3

11:30am - 12 noon



We continue to offer ONLINE WORSHIP each Sunday. All virtual worship service videos are produced each week and uploaded to our YouTube channel.

CLICK HERE to subscribe.



We are committed to bring you daily prayer, Christian formation offerings and discussions through Facebook live, zoom and other social media platforms.

FINALLY! Returning to Sacred Space

The Diocese of North Carolina has given churches permission to gather INDOORS for worship in limited numbers beginning October 1st. For the month of October, we will offer three in-person offerings, beginning 10/3-4.

- Saturday, Oct. 3rd at 5 pm, *Rite II with Holy Eucharist*
- Sunday, Oct. 4th at 9 am, *Rite I Morning Prayer with sermon*
- Sunday, Oct. 4th 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.

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*