

MAGGIE'S CROSS



A Letter from our Rector

BY FATHER TODD R. DILL+

Life is Changed at Saint Margaret's

It is the month of September, and at Saint Margaret's, we find ourselves saying goodbye to our dear friends and members of the clergy, Fr. Lito+ and Fr. Eric+. While I never expected these departures to occur so close together, they are a result of God's call for each one of them. For Fr. Lito+, a call to the retired life after 47 years of faithful ministry. For Fr. Eric+, the exciting call to lead a congregation as its next rector. They both have been important parts of our community at Saint Margaret's, and we let them each go, both with feelings of sadness and joy. Our prayers go with each of them and their families as they embark on God's journey into their next ministry.

Many of you have already contacted me directly to ask about the future plans in augmenting our clergy staff. Instinctively, those who have reached out understand that our parish is too large and has too many needs for one clergy to cover. I love you all dearly, and my first priority is to assure as best as I am able that the spiritual and sacramental needs of this parish community are being offered in a faithful way. That is my responsibility as

your spiritual leader, and I want you to know that I am already in deep prayer to discern what God's desire is for us going forward together. First and foremost, Saint Margaret's is here so that we can all foster a deeper relationship with Jesus and with one another. Please know that your Vestry and I are already in prayer and conversation about the calling of an additional priest to join our ministry staff and to partner with us in the important kingdom building work that we are called together to do.

With that being said, we are not going to rush ahead too quickly on this or any other decision. Given the uncertainties brought to us throughout 2020, we need to proceed very deliberately in any future plans that we make at our parish. In order to call an experienced priest to serve with us, the Vestry needs to assess our financial strength for the future, and to balance the need to call a second priest to Saint Margaret's, while at the same time committing to the current staff and assuring that they remain with us as we navigate through this pandemic. This means that the upcoming stewardship drive for our church will be of vital importance. What I do know about Saint Margaret's is that when there is a need, you respond. As we enter the fall, and our society and church begin to open up (albeit ever so slowly) please remember that the next few months will be pivotal for our parish.

As best as you are able, please continue to support the ministry of this church, so that we can transform our community, grow in our relationship with Jesus, take

care of our beautiful building, and support the staff that we need to continue to grow our ministry in our area, our diocese, and the world. Personally, I would also like to ask for your prayers and patience.

I am currently reworking our plans for the eventual reopening of our church for worship. Know that because I am your only priest, it will affect the number of worship services that we will hold for the next few months, and it will be difficult to manage all of the needs of the parish. But please know this; I will not be too busy to connect with you if you need me. It may look different for a while (i.e. digitally) but if you need me, please call me. If you need prayer, I will pray with you. Do not ever think that I am too busy to have a conversation with you or to pray with you when the need arises. God has got this, and He will show us the way forward together. In the meantime, please pray for me as I will pray for you.

Your priest,

-Fr. Todd+

dill@saintmargarets.net



Sundays in September:

Outdoor Worship will
— be offered at: —
— 8:00 & 9:00 am. —
— Sign ups required. —

CLICK HERE for details

Saying Goodbye

Dear St. Margaret's,

I have found that one of the hardest parts of my vocation as a priest is saying goodbye. I have gotten to know so many of you as you have invited me into your homes, attended one of my programs, or chatted about life in the office or halls of the parish. For each of you, I am immensely grateful. I have been so fortunate to begin my priestly ministry in this healthy and faithful parish and to have shared this ministry with one of the best church staff I have ever been apart. You have a lot to be proud of and thankful for in this place.

Eugene Vodolazkin's adventurous novel *Laurus* tells the story of a medieval Russian Orthodox healer Arseny, as he makes a pilgrimage through plague-stricken Europe and eventually to the Holy Land. For a brief moment in his journey, Arseny is accompanied by a Franciscan monk, Brother Hugo. When they part ways Brother Hugo says with watery eyes, *"Sometimes, you wonder if it is worth getting attached to people if it will be this difficult to part with them."* With an embrace, Arseny responds, *"You know, O friend, any meeting is surely more than parting. There is an emptiness before meeting someone, just nothing, but there is no longer emptiness after parting. After having met someone once, it is impossible to part completely. A person remains in the memory, as a part of the memory. The person created that part, and that part lives, sometimes coming into contact with its creator. Otherwise, how would we sense those dear to us from a distance?"*

I am grateful for the former absence in my memory that St. Margaret's now fills. I will continue to take comfort in knowing we can never part completely as God holds us together, always, in this one body, the Church. I hope that you will hold me in your prayers as Brandie and I follow God's call to serve St. Paul's in Clinton. You will remain in ours.

The Rev. Eric Grubb



Father Eric has accepted a call to become the rector of Saint Paul's Episcopal Church in Clinton, NC, in the Diocese of Eastern North Carolina.

His new appointment will begin on September 16th.

grubb@saintmargarets.net



"After having met someone once, it is impossible to part completely."

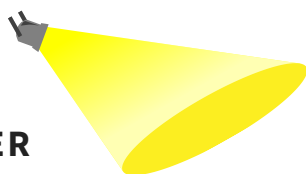
Youth Spotlight



BY ELIZABETH PFEIFER

ASSISTANT TO THE RECTOR FOR YOUTH MINISTRY

pfeifer@saintmargarets.net



"...all I can say is how excited I am to see our students!"

EYC is back

The Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina has recently given permission for churches to host in-person social gatherings for students! These gatherings must be outside and will follow all of the protocol you have come to expect: 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 ten students.

Even with all those things mentioned above, all I can say is how excited I am to see our students! Truly, words cannot express my excitement to see each one of them in-person. Your children are an integral part of my life and I have missed our group so much.

As we all are all too aware of, life is constantly in flux these days.

EYC is going to meet for the following schedule for Sept. 13th, 20th, and 27th.

This is for two main reasons:

1) our gathering times are attached to the outdoor worship services and, if those times shift, EYC will need to shift and 2) I welcome feedback on these times and day.

I have purposely chosen to keep EYC gatherings on Sunday so as to avoid conflicts with school days and homework, club athletics or other extra curriculars, and dinnertime but, with that, I realize some of our families will be "back and forth" to the church a few times on Sundays.

EYC ON SUNDAYS!

6TH : 10:15-11:15AM

7TH & 8TH : 11:30AM-12:30PM

9TH & 10TH: 5:00-6:00PM

11TH & 12TH: 6:15-7:15PM

**STM EYC RETURNS!
SUNDAYS IN SEPTEMBER**



Youth Spotlight can't

I realize this is one of many activities your student is involved in that has similar restrictions and I believe your student will likely be better at navigating these new norms than me because they are living them every day at school and practices. I thank everyone in advance for their patience and grace as we grow into these new procedures.

These first few meetings may feel uncomfortable for your student, six months is a long time to go without seeing a group of people. If your student mentions this, please let them know they are not alone in this feeling! But a big way to conquer those uncomfortable feelings is just embrace the “weirdness.” I am likely to be a little rusty after six months of not leading youth group, so I’ll be leaning into the “uncomfortableness” right there with them!

Please contact me with any questions or concerns regarding safety procedures. I look forward to seeing our students!

-Elizabeth

Click here to sign your student up for EYC beginning September 13th.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F44AAD2AA20-stmeyc>

If your student would prefer to continue to meet virtually, we will host a weekly Zoom check in for middle school and high school beginning the week of September 13th.

These gatherings will be a causal check in followed by a short Bible Study (max gathering time of 45 minutes).

The lessons for this Zoom call will differ from youth group.



Please contact Elizabeth
for Zoom links.

Middle School

Tuesdays, 7:30-8:15pm

High School

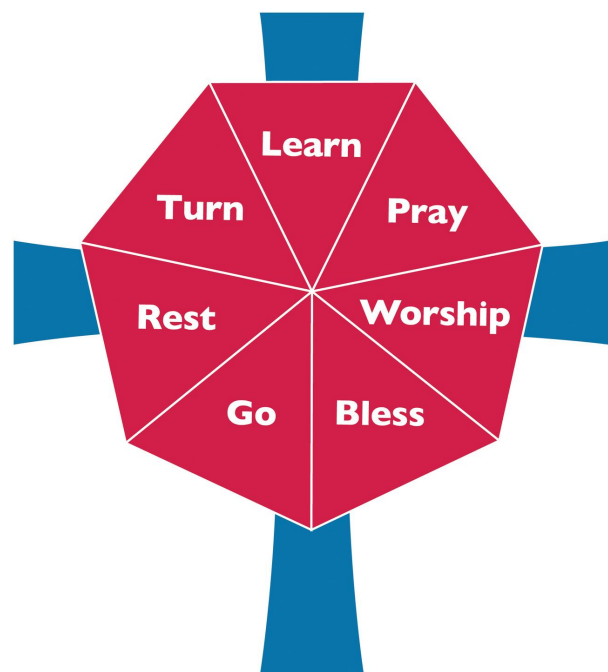
Wednesdays, 7:30-8:15pm

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION: FALL 2020

The Way of Love

We have a brand-new curriculum for Christian Education at St. Margaret's, based on Presiding Bishop Michael Curry's The Way of Love.

As a church family, we will all study this Jesus-centered approach to living life and loving God and those around us. Our entire parish family will study the same principles and practices, but we will offer different lessons for children and youth/adult.



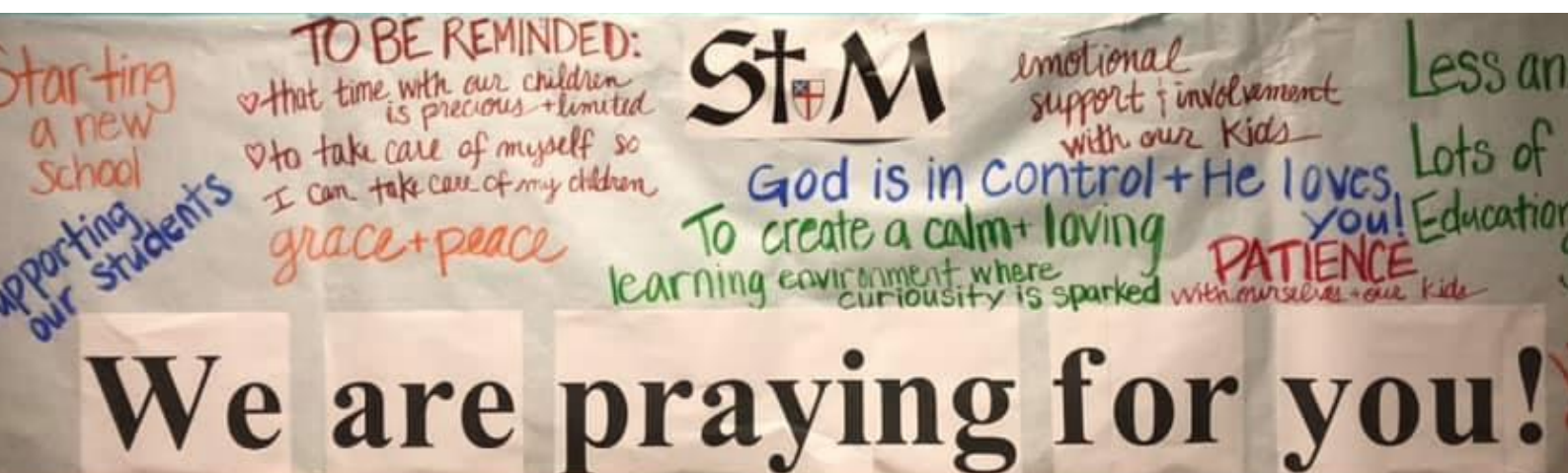
THE WAY OF LOVE
Practices for Jesus-Centered Life

This is a new curriculum for St. Margaret's, and we are excited to share it with you! We will have a lesson for each week, although lessons can be done at your own pace. Faith formation does not just happen on Sunday mornings, it happens all throughout the week in the conversations and interactions we have.

These lessons are designed to be flexible, approachable, and appropriate for a wide variety of ages. Lessons will be emailed out to parishioners monthly, available for download on our website, and included in the weekly Sunday worship video.

If you would prefer a hard copy, please contact Elizabeth Pfeifer (youth and adult curriculum; pfeifer@saintmargarets.net) or Catherine Chintala (5th grade and under; childrensministry@saintmargarets.net).

Lessons begin the week of September 6th. We look forward to sharing this curriculum with you and walking in the Way of Love.



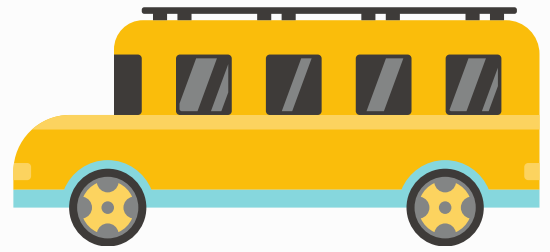


CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

BY CATHERINE CHINTALA

ASSISTANT TO THE RECTOR FOR CHILDRENS MINISTRY

childrensministry@saintmargarets.net



It's back to school time, and what a year it has been so far! Most of our children are learning virtually, which means families are learning, working, and living at home together. This will be a challenging year for parents, as we are now juggling many jobs at the same time. Although this COVID situation is temporary, the days can sometimes seem long and frustrating.

This year, more than ever, it will be so important to try and carve out a few moments of stillness, silence, and prayer during the day. I find that the morning, before my family wakes, is the best time for me. I've noticed a big difference in the way I feel throughout the day if I take a little time in the morning to be quiet and reconnect with God. I know some friends who find their quiet at night. Whatever works for your schedule and season of life, try and take a few moments each day to just be quiet.

Connection is also vital during challenging times like this. Reaching out to a friend who is also trying to balance school, work, and family life can be so encouraging and comforting. **Parents, know that you are doing a great job, and remember that we will get through this together!**

Thank you to everyone who attended our Blessing of the Backpacks and Devices! Although it looked different this year, it was wonderful to have this annual tradition for the children and youth of St. Margaret's!

Father Lito offered a blessing to everyone during this drive-in style event. At the event we had a "prayer wall" displayed that contained blessings and prayers that members of our church family shared. It's now hanging in the hallway at church, and offers us a reminder of all of our students, teachers, and parents during this time. We are praying for you!

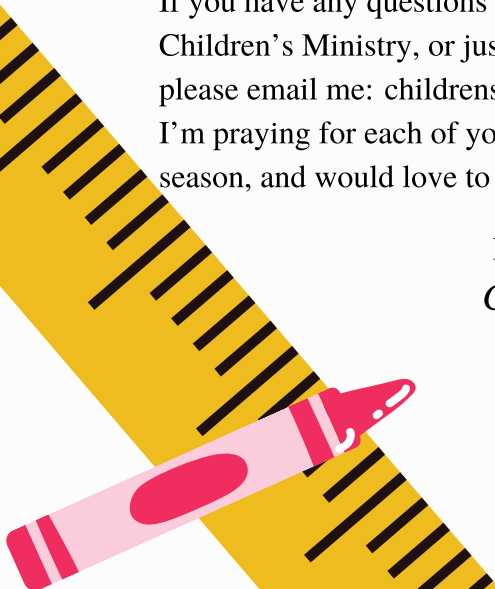
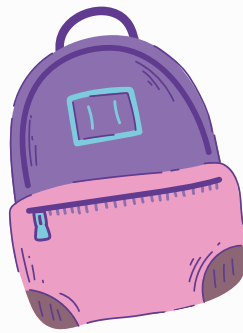


"This year, more than ever, it will be so important to try and carve out a few moments of stillness, silence, and prayer during the day."

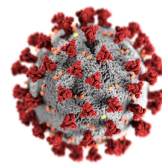
If you have any questions about Sunday School or Children's Ministry, or just want to reach out to chat please email me: childrensministry@saintmargarets.net

I'm praying for each of you during this back to school season, and would love to connect!

Blessings,
Catherine



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 can't see each other at church right now, we bring you month two of **"Pandemic Parishioners."** Meet our second group below for some insight on the next few pages on how they have spent the last few months.

THE JENKIN'S

Julie & Jay Jenkins and kids had a covid style graduation celebration, love hanging by the pool and enjoy pizzas on the grill



PAGE 7 | OLIVIA, JAY & WILL JENKINS

SEPULVEDA 6

The Sepulveda's welcomed baby Hayley to their nest and got a bigger camper for some new adventures.

THE MCDONALD'S

What does over 200 zoom calls and new braces for twin teenage boys call for?...s'mores cups!



PAGE 8 | FAMILY OF 6



PAGE 9 | THE MCDONALDS

StM connect



QUARANTINE Q & A:

ANSWERS BY JULIE JENKINS

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

A: *We all watched Tiger King and it was crazy! That feels like so long ago which is weird.*

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

A: *Feels like EVERY day!! LOL!*

Q: Favorite family activity during quarantine?

A: *We did a few puzzles, hung out by the pool, walked the dogs, and played a bunch of different games*

Q: Favorite culinary creation?

A: *Make your own pizzas on the grill - so good!*

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

A: *Yes we had a few...spring break to the Bahamas and Jay & I were supposed to go to Hawaii for a work trip. Disappointing for sure but the family time has been so nice.*

Q: How many Zoom calls have you participated in?

A: *Luckily not too many*

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

A: *Instagram*

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

A: *Yes we had Will's graduation party Covid style complete with face masks we had made with his face on them!*

Q: Have you made any big changes?

A: *We got a puppy, another cockapoo. His name is Ryder and big sister Holden "tolerates" him!*

Q: Have you cleaned out your closets or garage?

A: *Had all sorts of plans to do this but sadly no*

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

A: *Jay cut Will's hair, he was the only one brave enough!*

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: *We are in our pj's watching from the couch and drinking coffee. If we happen to miss it Sunday morning I usually watch it one evening on the porch.*





QUARANTINE Q & A:

ANSWERS BY CRYSTAL SEPULVEDA

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

A: *Disney+ has been our saving grace but I think that is to be expected with a house full of little girls. Caitlin is 8 yr, Emma will be 7 yr (Sept 14th), Addy is 3.5 yr and Hayley just turned 6 months.*

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

A: *Dishwasher has to be run daily and I STILL have items that are hand washed. Our counter has a permanent place for 'drying'*

Q: Favorite culinary creation?

A: *My father-in-law taught us how to make spaghetti & eggs which the kids love! And I love because it's easy and usually on hand.*

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

A: *We would have had our 6th Annual Sepulveda Family Beach Week with 30-40 family members. For some of the extended family it's the only time they get to spend with our Girls so it was a pretty big disappointment. But it was best since family would have been coming from all over. Emma has her 7th birthday coming up 9/14. We are going to have cake with her grandparents that day but are taking a last minute camping trip this weekend to celebrate just us 6. Something fun and special for her to mark the occasion even if it's not the normal party.*

Q: How many Zoom calls have you participated in and what type of "Zoomer" are you?

A: *I am definitely a mix of The Drinker and Family Member Cameos :) We are on at least one and sometimes 4 zoom calls a day!*

Q: Have you made any big changes?

A: *With the addition of Hayley we sold our camper and bought a little bigger one. This will be her 3rd camping trip.*

Q: Have you cleaned out your closets or garage?

A: *Garage*

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

A: *Facebook*

Q: Favorite activity during quarantine?

A: *Swimming!...and Jon found kayaks for the 2 big girls and they have been practicing in our pool!*



"Emma has her 7th birthday on 9/14. We are going to have cake with her grandparents that day but are taking a last minute camping trip to celebrate just us 6. Something fun and special for her to mark the occasion even if it's not the normal party."



QUARANTINE Q & A:

ANSWERS BY CHRISTINA MCDONALD

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

A: *We watched every Brooklyn 99 from start to present; the boys watched all of Parks and Rec and Christina and Ryan enjoyed OBX.*

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

A: 6

Q: Favorite family activity during quarantine? Favorite board game or card game?

A: *Eating lunch together every day since we've never been able to do that before! We also played golf, tennis and ping pong. Favorite board game or card game? Uno*

Q: Favorite culinary creation?

A: *S'mores Cups*

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

A: *Yes, sadly we had several trips get cancelled. Our annual family gathering in Blowing Rock for the 4th of July, Andrew's hockey camp in Lake Placid, NY and an annual trip to Lake Glenville. Warren had many work trips cancelled.*

Q: How many Zoom calls have you participated in?

A: *Christina had the least with 7- 8 We did zoom family game nights a few times with my sister's family and my parents. She also enjoyed Zoom happy hours with some of our hockey friends. The boys had about 40 for school calls. Warren won the award with well over 200 Zoom calls!*

Q: Have you made any big changes?

A: *Andrew and Ryan got braces! With the mask mandate, some of their friends still don't know!!*

Q: Have you cleaned out your closets or garage?

A: *Yes!! We cleaned out every closet in our house and our garage and made a huge donation to Turning Point once they reopened!*

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: *We usually watch the Sunday service either in our PJs in the morning or during dinner. Watching during meal time for us allows us to talk about the sermon afterwards.*





Tuesday food collection CHANGE

A HUGE thanks to all who have donated food faithfully for the past 5 months to our weekly collection for Operation Reach Out!

We have made an impact in our community. With the demand leveling off a bit and our outdoor worship services starting, it's time to make a change.

Beginning September 1, we will shift back to our collection for Loaves & Fishes.

2 ways to donate:

- you can bring your non-perishable food donations to our Sunday outdoor worship services
- OR you can drop them off during the week in the labeled bin by the back door of the church (by the playground). A staff member will empty out the box daily to avoid having the food get too hot.



We are in need of drivers that can collect the food weekly and take it over to Monroe so, please contact traciscott@me.com if you are able to help.



Clergy & staff honor Fr. Lito's retirement with a covid style celebration, 8.9.20

September Calendar

In our continued response to the COVID-19 pandemic, we are following the direction of the Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina. For now we will continue to practice physical distancing. We are now able to offer limited seating at two outdoor Sunday worship services and continue to offer online worship through our Youtube channel.

Please note: Although our church office is open M-F from 9-12 noon with limited staffing, we can not receive any drop in visits.

At this time, our clergy, staff & vestry remain committed to planning for a stage 2 reopening as directed by our Bishop. More details will follow as we get more information on safety timelines and protocols.

Virtual opportunities to connect continue:



We continue to WORSHIP ONLINE each Sunday in the months ahead. All virtual worship service videos are produced each week and uploaded to our YouTube channel. **CLICK [HERE](#) to subscribe to our YouTube channel.**



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

Sunday Outdoor Worship:

The Diocese of North Carolina has given churches permission to gather outdoors for worship in limited numbers. In consideration for the health and safety of our parish family and our priests, St. Margaret's will host two Sunday services of Morning Prayer with a sermon:

- Rite I at 8:00am
- Rite II at 9:00am



Each service will be 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.



Rector

The Reverend Fr. Todd R. Dill+

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Senior Assistant to the Rector for Pastoral Care

The Reverend Fr. Lito Santos+

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Assistant to the Rector

The Reverend Fr. Eric Grubb+

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Director of Music & Organist

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Traci Scott

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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*