

MAGGIE'S CROSS



A Letter from our Rector



Let's be honest, it's been rough lately for a lot of us. I cannot remember a time in my life when so many difficult circumstances were present in our society.

Racial divisions, political turmoil, national unrest, war, poverty, disease.

The list can go on and on.

We live in challenging times, and the past eighteen months have been particularly unsettling in the West, especially when we account for the massive change in lifestyle for many of us. I'm sure historians might look back someday and suggest that we might lack some historical perspective, and that given the relative safety saying it and comforts

afforded to us, the current unsettledness we face is not as dire as we might think. But nonetheless, it is what many are experiencing, and what we are feeling is real, and we need to be okay saying it out loud; that what we are experiencing as a society is just plain hard.

But I would like to remind you beloved, that despite the way we might feel, God's purposes are still being accomplished. It has always been this way. Time and again in Scripture, we see the world going crazy, yet God was still at work, still divinely active within creation itself to bring about His purpose.

Take for example the Israelites during the reign of King Saul. Saul was the first king of Israel, and the

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A Letter from our Rector continued

victor of countless military victories chronicled in Scripture.

Yet Saul, anointed by God, chosen as His first King, ultimately disobeyed God. Despite all that God has shown Saul, Saul lacked the faith to truly obey God, and thus was rejected by Him. And yet young David, almost an afterthought in his own family, was then quietly called by God to be the next true King of Israel. No one knew it yet, but even during this trying time, even when hardly anyone knew it, God was already clandestinely at work, bringing His Divine Will into this world.

As it was then, so it is today. I know, things look and feel crazy, and it is so hard for many of us to be hopeful during times like this when there is so much strife in our society. But God is still with us. He sent His only begotten Son Jesus into this world so that no matter what circumstances we find ourselves in, we are never separated from God, and His purposes are always being worked out. It is so easy to get discouraged, and it is so hard to have faith in anything. But remember this; where human institutions fail, God does not. Where human beings fall short and disappoint, Jesus is there to pick us up, hold us tight, and encourage us on.

So, keep the faith. Look for the active presence of Jesus around you. He is at work and His purposes are being accomplished at this very moment. Even in the darkest of moments, God is active in the world. To see it, all we need to do is look!

O God of unchangeable power and eternal light: Look favorably on your whole Church, that wonderful and sacred mystery; by the effectual working of your providence, carry out in tranquillity the plan of salvation; let the whole world see and know that things which were being cast down are being raised up, and things which had grown old are being made new, and that all things are being brought to their perfection by him through whom all things were made, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

"...it is what many are experiencing, and what we are feeling is real, and we need to be okay saying it out loud; that what we are experiencing as a society is just plain hard."

-Fr. Todd+

Rector



Thoughts from Rev. Sarah

Rev. Sarah Hollar+

Office Hours: Wednesdays, 9 am - 4 pm
704-243-3523, ext. 222

CHRISTIAN FORMATION



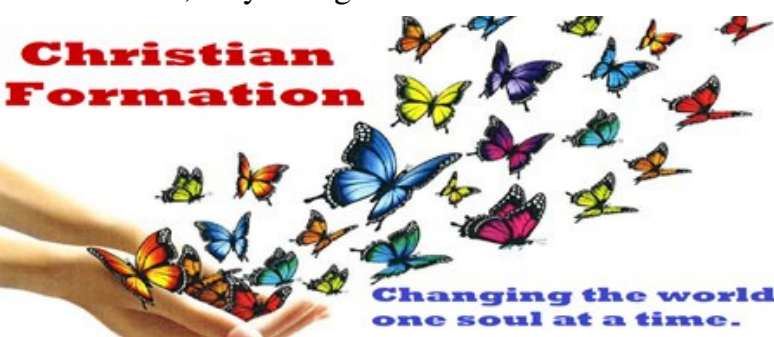
One of my favorite things about September is that it begins the start of a new Christian Formation year. I get really juiced by faithful and curious folk coming together to explore what they believe about God and how those beliefs impact their day-to-day living. There aren't many places people can go that guarantee welcome for these conversations, that guarantee reliable, thoughtful content. A place to go to listen to individuals work out what they think about ethereal topics with grace and respect. There aren't many places that don't require pre-registration or course fees or commitments to be present every week. There aren't many places that say come when you can, we'll be open and ready to meet you where you are. We'll talk about the greatest story ever, ever told. We'll help make sense of its meaning. We'll tell it in ways that inspire and awe and move you.

"Faithful folk are encouraged and strengthened in worship. They grow in maturity and wisdom through formation."

We'll prepare a pristine loving space for your babies and hire professionals with the spiritual gift of nurturing small humans. We'll build a curriculum for young children that fosters fellowship between church friends and teaches the love of God and neighbor, that outlines the benefits of Christian virtues and what it means to be beloved and mighty in the eyes of God.

For youth and adults, we'll arrange space, supplies and instruction to create art as a way into our spiritual being. We'll make prayer beads and journals, learn about icons and mold healing crosses. We'll offer a Jesus centered series, a Sacrament series, a series centered of ancient spiritual practices adapted for modern life. We'll learn how to pray on the go and see God in the daily. We'll learn how to help our families do the same. In intergenerational offerings, we'll learn the sweetness of Christian fellowship and power of Christian service.

Faithful folk are encouraged and strengthened in worship. They grow in maturity and wisdom through formation. That is why Jesus read and taught in the Synagogues. It is why disciples sat at his feet and leaned in. Because their souls were changed through their formation, their lives followed a different path and with those lives, they changed the world. Countless believers who followed understand this dynamic.



Know God, Father Son and Spirit and you live a different life.

Here's hoping you'll form us as we form you.

Rev. Sarah

hollar@saintmargarets.net



From the Deacon's Bench

Deacon Ludwig Wallner
thewallners@hotmail.com

Three Branches - Two Masses - One Church

I'm an Episcopalian and I belong to St. Margaret's Episcopal Church..."Oh, what is an Episcopalian?" might be a response from someone new.

How many times have you ever thought about your religious affiliation?

The Episcopal Church at times may be referred to as a "High Church", "Low Church" and/or "Broad Church." *What does that mean?*

Aren't all Episcopal Churches the same?

An Episcopalian is a member of a church in the Anglican Communion or Anglican Tradition. The Episcopal Church is diverse in beliefs but overall we are considered "High Church." Considered "High Church" because we have maintained many Pre-Reformation practices, liturgies and rituals like the Orthodox Church and the Roman Catholic Church. We also maintain the process of apostolic succession. We have an open communion for all Baptized Christians to be able to receive at the Lord's Supper.



- The **High Church** services may include incense and chanting. The Celebrant wears a chasuble and the congregation kneels at different times during the service.
- The **Low Church** services do not include the chanting of certain prayers, or incense. The celebrant wears no particular vestments and there is usually no kneeling.
- The **Broad Church** services tend to be a unique mixture of both High and Low.

At St. Margaret's, I believe we are a Broad to High Church in our services. We use incense from time to time, the celebrant sometimes chants at the worship service, and the celebrant wears a chasuble and other appropriate liturgical vestments during the service, and during the "Great Thanksgiving" some people stand while others kneel.

The Anglican tradition differs from other Reformation branches in two primary ways:

1. First our founding fathers believed that the best way to help Christians to know and experience God was through PRAYER. *Our founding fathers believed that for Christian growth a day- to-day practice of prayer is important.*
2. **The Mass**, also called Holy Communion or Holy Eucharist is important; Bible reading and studying is important as well.



Youth Spotlight

BY ELIZABETH PFEIFER
ASSISTANT TO THE RECTOR
FOR YOUTH MINISTRY

pfeifer@saintmargarets.net

EYC had our Fall 2021 Kick Off on August 22nd. We introduced our 6th graders and new members to EYC and our love of silly games, icebreakers, God, and a decent amount of laughter and general noise. It was great to see so many new faces (and familiar ones). If your youth was not able to make it to our first meeting, we hope they will join us at one of our next gatherings.

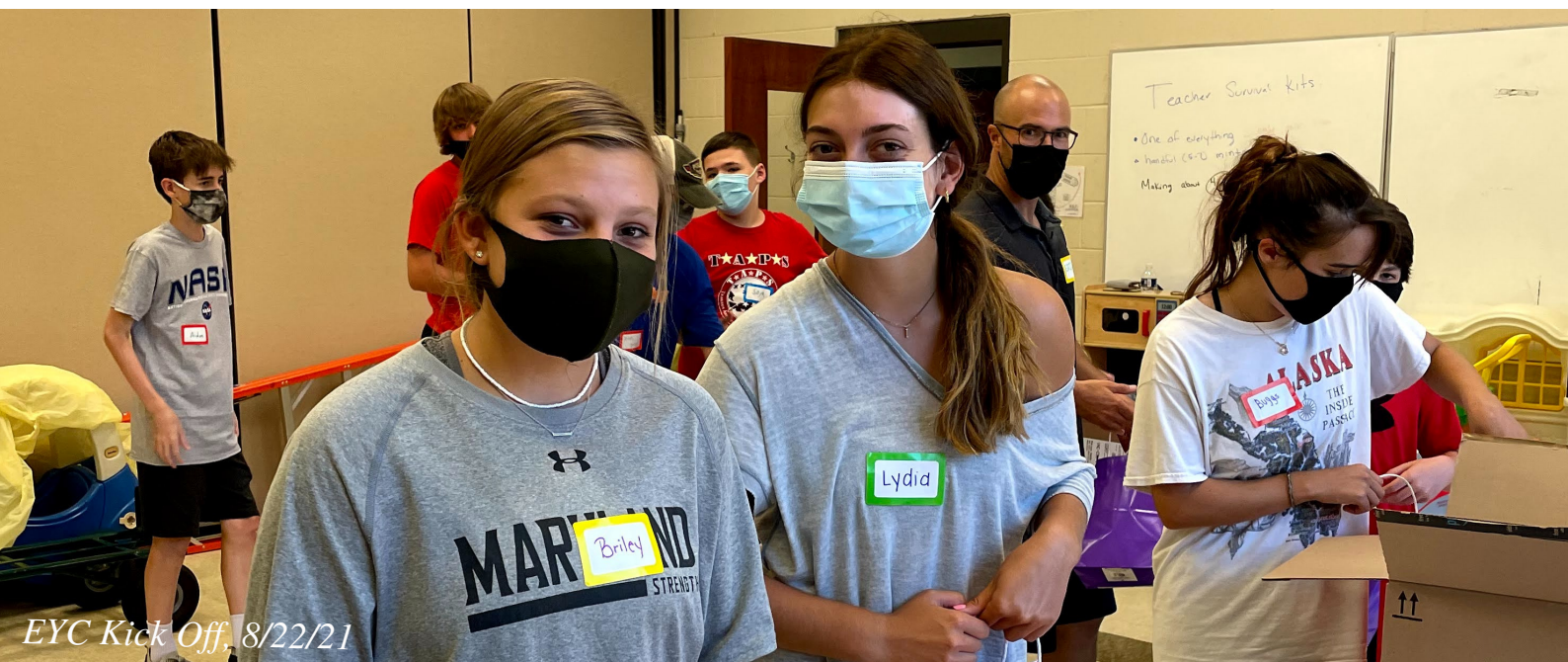


- **EYC will meet on the following Sundays for the rest of September: 12th, 19th, and 26th. EYC meets from 5:00-6:30pm.** As of writing, we are spending most of our meeting outside at the picnic tables outside of the playground. When we go inside, all in our group must wear masks; masks are not required outside.
- **The middle school fall overnight to Camp Canaan is Oct 15th-16th and the high school fall retreat to Boone is Oct 22nd-24th.** More information will be out in mid-September on those events. For these retreats, we are hopeful and planning for the return of these events in fall 2021 but realize plans may need to be altered due to NC Diocesan guidelines related to covid.

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.

Sunday School Reminder

Christian Formation at St. Margaret's will begin on September 5th from 10:00-10:45am and will gather weekly! St. Margaret's has revamped our youth (6th-12th grade) Sunday School class for the 2021-2022 year with the goal of facilitating education and discussion between teens and their parents. For this year, students 6th-12th grade will attend formation with their parents. We will offer two classes each week: one will be clergy- led by Fr. Todd or Rev. Sarah and the other is "Spirituality in the Arts" and will spend time engaging in our relationship with God through art (paint, sculpture, other crafts). We look forward to seeing you!



EYC Kick Off, 8/22/21



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

BY CATHERINE CHINTALA

ASSISTANT TO THE RECTOR FOR CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

A new school year has started...

and we are also seeing the return of fellowship and learning opportunities for children at Saint Margaret's! What a blessing it was to see so many new and familiar faces at our annual Blessing of the Backpacks on August 22nd!

Last month I shared a resource from the **Building Faith** website [linked here](#) that has beautiful prayers for students, families, and teachers. If you are like me, you've spent some time in school car rider lines in the morning! I have found this to be the perfect time to do a quick prayer with my kids....formal or informal, this is a sweet way to send your kids on their way with a blessing for the day!

If you haven't checked out the Building Faith website, I highly encourage you to. It is a wonderful source of articles, prayers, and activities. This website is a ministry of The Virginia Theological Seminary, so the resources, prayers, and language mirror what we use at church. Check it out!

Mark your calendars....

Club 4/5 is back! This fun monthly gathering is open to all 4th and 5th graders, and we will kick off a new year on Sunday, September 12th from 12:30-2:00pm. Pizza will be served for lunch, and students will have a chance to play games and do activities, followed with a short devotion.



Club 4/5 is a great opportunity to meet new friends and fellowship together in an informal setting! We will do most of our activities outside, but in case we are inside due to weather, students should bring a mask. Questions? Please contact me at childrensministry@saintmargarets.net

A few more reminders about what's going on in Children's Ministry:

- **Our nursery is open!** Each Sunday we will have nursery care available for children up to 3 years of age for both our 8:45am and 11:00am services. Nannies will be masked and vaccinated.
- **Sunday School classes will start back up on Sunday 9/5** Please take a few minutes to register your child(ren) for Sunday School [here](#). Registration isn't necessary to attend, but it helps us greatly in planning for supplies and classroom needs.
- **Holy Communion Classes** will be held on 9/19, 9/26, and 10/3 for students 7 years of age and up, with a Holy Communion Celebration on 10/10. [Please click here to register](#). We still have a few spots left!

***Have a blessed
start to your
school year, and
I can't wait to
see you soon!***

-Catherine

OUTREACH



& PARISH CONNECTION

BY TRACI SCOTT

ASSISTANT TO THE RECTOR FOR OUTREACH
& PARISH CONNECTION



Connect at StM 101

A new session of our StM 101 class for newcomers will take place on September 12 and 19 at 10am in the Youth Room.

All who are new or “new-ish” to St. Margaret’s are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Please let Traci know if you plan to attend at:
connection@saintmargarets.net

Join us for one of our sessions this Fall.

- **Fall Session 1: Sept 12 & 19**
- **Fall Session 2: Oct 10, 17, 24**

**classes will meet in the Youth Room*



Ladies of StM:

You are all invited to attend

our **ECW** Fall Meeting on 9/18 at 3:30pm in the Parish Hall. Our **Episcopal Church Women's** group will gather to reconnect after a long absence, re-establish Circle groups and do some planning for the upcoming year. This will be the first of four meetings in 2021-2022. If you're a member of StM, then you're already a member of the ECW! We will wrap up before the 5pm worship service.



You're invited



ECW Fall Meeting
Saturday, September 18
3:30pm ~ StM Parish Hall

Meeting will conclude prior to 5pm worship service.



Inviting all StM women to reconnect, set goals for the year and re-establish our Circle groups. This is the first of four meetings in 2021-22.



connection@saintmargarets.net

OUTREACH & PARISH CONNECTION CONTINUED...

August was a busy Outreach month.
Thank you to all who participated and supported these wonderful projects.

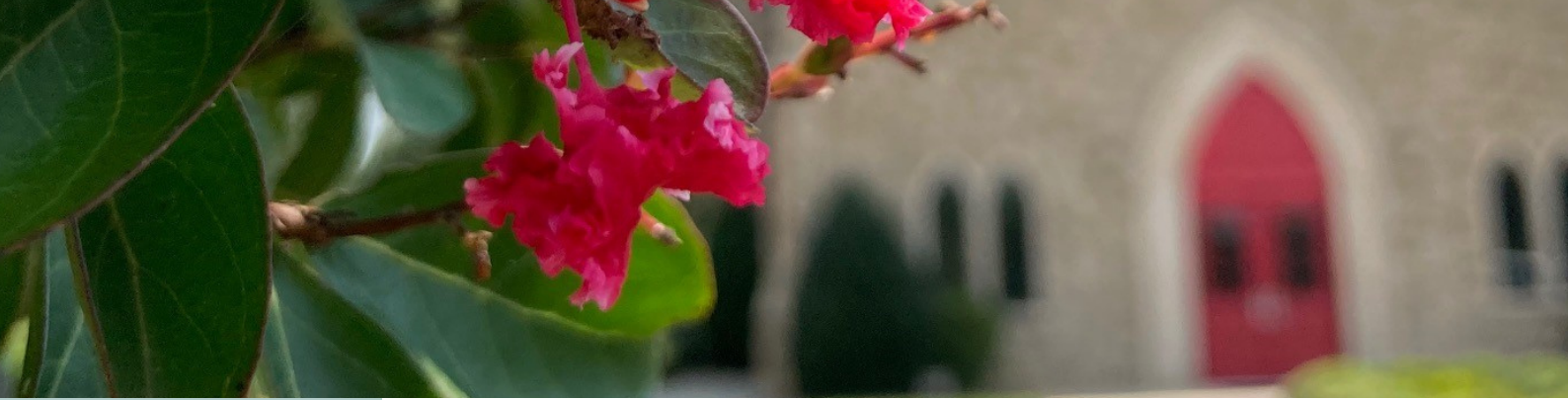
- Another successful blood drive was held on our campus on August 18. **Thank you One Blood and Jeremy Ervin.**
- 6 more **full-sized beds** were ordered and sent to the **Community Shelter of Union County** to supply their Home Again program which helps move clients into permanent housing. The Shelter moved 175 people into permanent housing from July 2020 to June 2021, which is a record for them. They can always use donated furniture for these new homes.
- Several bins of **school supplies** and \$350 were collected for Union County Schools.
- Our **Community Worker Snack Attacks** continue with the Lancaster Police Department and the staff at Common Heart! Thank you Pierce family and Marchands for spreading the love of Jesus in our community! If you'd like to do a Snack Attack this fall, please let Traci know. Outreach will cover the cost.



- **Fixing it for Christ** is a ministry in Waxhaw that does repair projects on homes in our community. They were unable to do their large 4-day work event last summer and this summer, but have been able to do some critical projects on an as-needed basis. A crew of volunteers were replacing the rotting handicap ramp at a gentleman's home off Bigham Road and we provided a BBQ lunch for the crew. The crew was working hard in the heat and the homeowner was so appreciative.
- **Monthly "Backpack Snacks"** are provided to 30 students at South Providence School in Waxhaw who need some extra food on the weekends. Our EYC assembled the August bags for us and we delivered them on the first day of school. We need a volunteer to shop for, assemble and deliver the bags for September. If you're interested, please let Traci know.
- We were also able to provide some fun **"Teacher Survival Kits"** to the staff at South Providence School who doesn't have a PTA.



- DOK members got together and made laminated fall-themed placemats for the residents of White Oak nursing home in Waxhaw. They plan to do more for the Christmas season too!



VIEW FROM THE VESTRY

- Mortgage refinanced
- Drainage remediation
- Reporting needed repairs
- Being good stewards
- Importance of fellowship

FROM OUR SENIOR WARDEN

Hello Church Family,

It was wonderful to see so many of you during the "Blessing of the Backpacks" on 8/22.

During the past month, with the support of the finance committee, the church was able to refinance its mortgage and take advantage of a lower interest rate. The mortgage's term remains the same.

Our vestry is working to obtain a final quote to remediate drainage around the perimeter of the building. Our current downspouts are not always sufficient for torrential rains, and we are seeing the impact of poor drainage in our education building. We hope to move forward with a repair soon.

Just a reminder, if you see something that is broken or in need of repair at the church, you can reach out to the church office and/or Junior Warden, Hugh Laughlin by email at: hclvii7@gmail.com or Junior Warden assistant, Simon Haarhoff at sdh1709@hotmail.com, to make sure those observations are addressed.

Sincerely,
Jessica Parker, *Senior Warden*

FROM OUR JUNIOR WARDEN

For many of us at St Margaret's, the end of summer break and the start of school for our children is upon us. For our family, we were fortunate to have a vacation together seeing other family members for the first time in nearly two years in some cases.

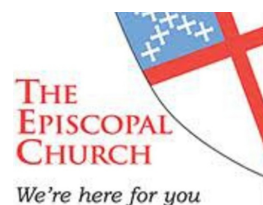
After our return, the last Saturday in August, I had an opportunity to join our men's breakfast group for fellowship at St Margaret's. Their first meeting in more than a year. Honestly, I got this group mixed up with those who have prepared breakfast for us in the past prior to our church services on Sundays. As the junior warden responsible for our facilities, I wanted to discuss the possibility of returning to this fellowship prior to our worship on Sundays.

What I didn't expect was to walk away inspired by the fellowship and discussion of important topics which we encounter and live as Christians. I find making these connections are important. Our current pandemic environment creates barriers to finding fellowship in Jesus Christ. This provided an opportunity to spread the word of Christ in our lives. I believe you cannot get this connection without personal interactions with others.

This meeting also made a great connection to how we use our wonderful building outside Sunday worship. With the return to school, our preschool restarts this month. Making sure the buildings can support our fellowship and work beyond Sunday mornings is what I will continue to work towards. We will be addressing some water drainage issues in the coming weeks, protecting against potential water damage.

Getting ahead of potential and severe water damage will be a theme as we get into our third quarter this year, and carefully consider how to be good stewards of your generous tithing, and protect our house.

God bless.
Hugh Laughlin, *Junior Warden*



VESTRY



Ken & Jacklyn Paar traveled to Iceland this summer and took Flat Maggie along.

September 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

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.

EYC Youth Group (6-12 grade) starts back on 8/22

- Sunday evenings 5-6:30 pm

Calendar notes:

9/5 Sunday School for kids 4 yrs.-5th grade starts, 10 am- 10:45 am

9/5 Rector's Forum, 10 am - 10:45 am

Adults & youth (6th-12th grade) are encouraged to attend

9/10 Fellowship Night: Waxhaw Tap House, 6:00 - 8:00 pm.

9/12 Christian Formation * Classes for all ages run in between church services from 10:00-10:45 am. *StM 101, is an option for newcomers & visitors *Classes are: 9/12 & 9/19 in the Youth Room



MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE

Choir will meet in person this fall!

- Adult choir:

Wednesdays from 7:30-9 *Start date: September 1

- Children's choir:

Wednesdays from 4:30-5:30 *Start date: September 8

New members are welcome at any time in both groups!



Contact Mara DeLuca at:

music@saintmargarets.net with questions and to sign up



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

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Assistant to the Rector for Children's Ministry

Catherine Chintala

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Assistant to the Rector for Outreach

& Parish Connection

Traci Scott

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2021 Vestry

Terry Anderson

Mike Murphy

Densel White

Jessica Parker

Chad Hinton

Brian Scott

Kathyann Dugan

Hugh Laughlin

Simon Haarhoff

David Feldser, Treasurer