

# MAGGIE'S CROSS



## A Letter from our Rector



BY FATHER TODD R. DILL+

## Celebrating the Incarnation

### CHRISTMAS SERVICES 2021:

- **Friday, 12/24**

4:00, 7:00 & 11:00 pm

\*5:30 Carols by Candlelight

- **Saturday, 12/25**

11:00 only

- **Sunday, 12/26**

11:00 only



It occurred to me today that we have not gathered to celebrate the birth of Jesus since December 2019! This pandemic has really messed with my sense of time, and even though I know it has been two years since our last Nativity gathering, it seems crazy to say it (or write it) out loud. Perhaps that is why I find myself even more excited this Advent season. As the yearly marking of the birth of Jesus draws closer we can plan to gather and hear the great story of the birth of Jesus. We will sing the great hymnody of the church in celebration of this blessed event when God became flesh to dwell among us.

In many ways, things will be the same; in other ways it will be different. As always, we plan on holding our worship services at the same time this year as we have in the recent past: **4pm, 7pm, and 11pm**, and this year we will livestream the 7pm service.

Additionally, we will also offer a **Christmas Day Mass at 11am** on the 25th.

At this point, we do not know what the attendance capacity will be, and given the daily increase in the rates of infection in our community, we will likely be masking again once the 24th arrives. As that date gets closer, please be assured that as we have information to share with you, we will do so in a timely fashion. With that said, and no matter what our guidelines may be at that time, I do sense that many of our faithful parishioners are still not comfortable with the idea of coming to an indoor space with large numbers of people to worship. With that in mind, and weather permitting, we are planning to gather outside at 5:30p for

30 minutes of what we are calling *Carols by Candlelight*. The plan is to gather in community, sing the beautiful hymns of the season, and hear the story of the birth of the Christ Child. We will provide the copies of the words for the hymns so that you and your family can sing along. All you need to bring is yourself, your candle, and an expectant heart ready to celebrate. And maybe a heavy coat!

All this serves as reminder that no matter the circumstances we find ourselves in, the story of Jesus continues to unfold in our world. No disease, no obstacle, no personal situation can thwart the spreading of the love of God through Jesus Christ that began on that day in Bethlehem. God came to be with us, and He has never left. That is why I am so thankful that this year the church will be open, the community of faith will gather, and we will gaze together upon this wonderful act that God has done.

That is why I hope that you will join us for worship, in whatever way that you can. In person, online, or singing in the field, I hope that I will see you and your family as we celebrate the Nativity of our Lord.

Until then, may you each have a blessed season of Advent as we prepare to celebrate the birth of our Savior, even as we await His coming again to us in great glory!

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](mailto:hollar@saintmargarets.net)

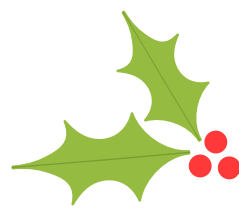
A few years ago, I discovered a poem written by Colin Gibson, a New Zealand poet and composer. It speaks to both the sacred and commercial aspects of Advent. It speaks to the frenzy of preparations. It reminds us that the season is experienced well beyond ourselves. It is not the bleak midwinter in the southern hemisphere. It reminds us that the reason for the season and how we respond in our hearts originates in the counterintuitive nature of our most benevolent God.

The poem draws its inspiration from Paul's writing:

***“God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong.” 1 Corinthians 1:27***

To full immersion in the folly of love,

*Rev. Sarah*



# The Folly of Love

## The Folly of Love

There's straw in the manger and babies in danger,  
some shepherds possessed by the folly of love.  
the register's ringing, the shop choirs singing,  
it's bargains galore in the folly of love.

It's midsummer madness and everyday badness;  
the usual scene for the coming of Christ.  
It's parcels and wrapping, it's father caught napping,  
and children awake in the folly of love.

It's suntan and lotion, it's surf and commotion,  
it's sand in the sandwiches, folly of love.  
It's crackers and candles, it's shorts and it's sandals,  
plums and pudding in summer, the folly of love.  
It's friends and relations, it's neighbours and nations  
enjoying a moment of peace and goodwill.  
It's crowds at the local, old aunties gone vocal,  
and 'house full' signs out, O, the folly of love.

It's fam'lies united, it's grandmas delighted,  
it's long distance calls in the folly of love.  
It's caravans, camels and fellows in flannels,  
three kings chasing stars for the folly of love.  
It's postcard Madonnas receiving full honours,  
Saint Nicholas wearing a cotton wool beard.  
It's trees hung with baubles, angelical warbles,  
and God come to earth in the folly of love.







## From the Deacon's Bench

Deacon Ludwig Wallner

thewallners@hotmail.com

### on the twelfth day of Christmas . . .

Well, the cards have been sent, most of the shopping completed (considering that the most sought after gifts of the season were not available), plans made for Christmas dinner, friends and family invited over and all the decorations including the tree are up and the lights are working. Now the only thing we have to wait for is the Christmas Mass to remind us that Christmas is about the Birth of Christ and not Santa Claus. Then we can plan on the opening of the gifts, clean up the day after Christmas and the making of plans on when to return the unwanted gifts, and of course the day-after shopping for the great bargains of the leftover stock and planning for another New Year's celebration.

How many of us go through this routine? As we run around making final preparations and shopping, how many of us hear the Christmas song that has a verse that states "And on the twelfth day of Christmas my true love gave to me . . . ."?

**Exactly what does that mean – "on the twelfth day of Christmas"?** We celebrate Christmas on December 25th every year, but to Christians, Christmas is more than just a day. Christmas is a season which lasts until January 6th. Let's take a little time and travel through some of the feast days in the twelve days of Christmas.

- **Christmas Eve:** Many of us go to church at this service and in many churches the service is done as a candlelight service. This is the first service of the Christmas season and the emphasis of the scriptural readings is the Birth of Christ.
- **Christmas Day:** This day we rejoice in the fact that God has become human in the person of a baby. This is the greatest gift God has given to humanity, His only begotten Son. On this day we celebrate the Christ Mass.
- **December 26th – St Stephen's Day:** St. Stephen is the Deacon's patron saint. He was selected by the apostles to minister to the people and to preach the Gospel. For this he was stoned to death while Saul (St. Paul) watched and condoned the execution. Tradition states that St. Stephen saw a vision of Christ standing at the right hand of God during his stoning.
- **December 27th – St. John's Day:** St. John is the "Beloved Disciple". He is credited with writing the Gospel of St. John which focuses on Christ being the light and coming into the darkness of the world, John 1:4,5 In Him was life, in that life was the light of mankind. The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not mastered it."

- **December 28th – Holy Innocents:** On this day we remember all the male children who were two and younger who were slain by King Herod in Bethlehem in an attempt to kill Jesus. *Matthew 2:13*
- **1st Sunday of Christmas:** On this Sunday the focus is on the theology of the Incarnation and the dual nature of Christ as both God and Man.
- **January 1 – Holy Name:** According to Jewish custom, Jesus is presented to the temple where he is circumcised and His name given. (Luke 2). Jesus is the Greek form of the Hebrew name Joshua which translated means "The Lord will save."
- **2nd Sunday of Christmas:** On this Sunday we focus our attention on the humanity of Jesus. The collect of the day begins this focus as the priest prays "Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity . . . ."
- **January 6 – Epiphany:** On this day we celebrate the arrival of the Wise Men as they were guided by the star to worship Jesus. This day also shows the world that Jesus came into the world to save all people who believe in Him. This day also marks the end of the Christmas season.

Although we have not covered each of the twelve days of the Christmas season, I hope and pray that we all have a better understanding of the wonderful church feast days we have during Christmas.

May the Star of Bethlehem lead each of us to the stable so that we may have a richer and deeper relationship with our Lord and Savior Jesus this and every Christmas day and season.







# Youth Spotlight

BY ELIZABETH PFEIFER

ASSISTANT TO THE RECTOR FOR YOUTH MINISTRY

[pfeifer@saintmargarets.net](mailto:pfeifer@saintmargarets.net)

Our StM Youth Group is wrapping up our fall semester and we have had a blast being back together as one large group this year! Our guiding principle this semester was walking humbly with God from Micah 6:8. During November we continued to discuss what “walking with God” looks like and how we do that.

With the time change the first weekend, we played glow in the dark games and spent time talking about how “light” is used in the Bible. As a group, we discussed how shining the light of God into the world is a way we walk with God and what it means to “shine light.”

The time change also brought cooler weather and a dark-by-5:20pm-campus, so EYC moved inside for the first time since March 2020! It was a big night for the group, and particularly for our 7th graders who have been with us for over a year but never had a full meeting inside! We are thankful for plenty of room in the Parish Hall to gather and feel safe.

**St. Margaret’s EYC only has 2 gatherings left in 2021!** We look forward to seeing all 6th-12th graders at our final two meetings of 2021 on Dec 5th and Dec 12th from 5:00-6:30pm. Haven’t made it to EYC yet this year? We hope to see you soon, friends are always welcome. We are gathering in the Parish Hall, while indoors all in our group will wear masks.



**Last EYC of 2021 is on December 12th** and we cannot think of a better way to end than with one of our most loved traditions coming back! **Make sure to carve out time in your schedule for EYC on Dec 12th from 5:00-6:30pm.** Bring a small (\$10 or less) and welcome back our yearly, hilarious tradition of a White Elephant gift exchange; feel free to get creative or reuse something from around the house. Remember: **NO GIFT CARDS.** Christmas PJs or tacky Christmas sweaters welcome!



*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](mailto:childrensministry@saintmargarets.net)



The month of November focused on saints. We kicked it off with an intergenerational event where we guessed Mystery Saints and learned about the history of “souling” on All Souls’ Day. We enjoyed our own version of soul cakes (doughnuts!) During Sunday School we continued our theme by doing a scavenger hunt for All Saints’ Day, we learned about our patron saint, **Saint Margaret**. We even competed in the StM Scottish Highland Games! We also talked about how we are all saints, and part of the great cloud of witnesses. Please check out some fantastic artwork our students created – hanging on the wall by the youth room!

**Make sure to also look at the bulletin board the next time you’re in the hallway.** We created a beautiful stained glass window for Advent. On November 28th an intergenerational group got together to talk about the four themes of Advent: hope, love, joy, and peace, and created a beautiful display. **Look closely at the pieces of stained glass....they contain thoughts, prayers, and blessings for this season of Advent.** There’s a marker attached to the bulletin board – feel free to add your own prayer to a piece of stained glass!

**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!**

**Please note there will be no Sunday School on December 19th or 26th.**



Last month’s Club 4/5 was all about being thankful...we made thankfulness pumpkins, played a fun memory game with Thanksgiving foods, and competed in turkey waddle races!

**Club 4/5** meets once a month for a pizza 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 final meeting of 2021 will be on December 12th 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!

**Mark your calendars!**

On Sunday, January 9th we will celebrate Epiphany at church....and that celebration wouldn’t be complete without our children’s pageant! Stay tuned for details...we will have information in the coming weeks!

**I hope you and your family have a blessed Advent and Christmas season!**

*Catherine*





# OUTREACH

## & PARISH CONNECTION

BY TRACI SCOTT

ASSISTANT TO THE RECTOR FOR OUTREACH  
& PARISH CONNECTION



What a wonderful month of  
Outreach efforts we had in  
November and so many  
volunteers willing to serve!

*Thank you all!*



The Feldser family coordinated our annual leftover Halloween candy collection and StM collected an estimated 1,000 pounds of candy for our Troops! We also gave them a lot of dental hygiene supplies and a \$500 donation to help with the shipping costs. ***Thank you Feldser family!***

Monroe Middle School held a clothing and supplies giveaway event for their students and families in November. StM parishioner, Jeremy Ervin, who is a teacher at MMS, let us know about this and asked if we could donate some personal hygiene items to be given away. We were able to supply them with enough items to make 50 kits and they were gone in about 20 minutes. What a blessing to those families in need. ***Thank you Jeremy!***

Our DOK learned that the residents at White Oak Nursing Home in Waxhaw enjoy having seasonal placemats in their dining room so, the DOK bought a laminator and made some beautiful winter-themed placemats at a recent meeting. These will surely brighten the room, along with the flowers from the worship service that we are now taking there weekly. ***Thank you DOK ladies!***

One of our ECW Circles packed backpack snacks for South Providence School at Gen Koch's house after a lovely meal. ***Thank you Gen!***

We collected over 50 boxes for Operation Christmas Child. ***Thank you to StM parishioners and preschool families.***





# OUTREACH & PARISH CONNECTION CONTINUED...

Our fabulous volunteers cooked and served another dinner at the Community Shelter of Union County. *Thank you to Karen Schaphorst and her team!* Our next meal will be in January.

On November 20th, we had an amazing day of cooking meals and **delivering Thanksgiving turkeys** to our neighbors in need. Each person on our delivery list received a hot meal of chili and cornbread plus a frozen turkey with all of the fixins from Common Heart. Our “chefs” and drivers are all wonderful to give their time to this special ministry. Plus, it could not have been done without Karen Mills & Eric Cameron coordinating all of the work that went into the hot meal.

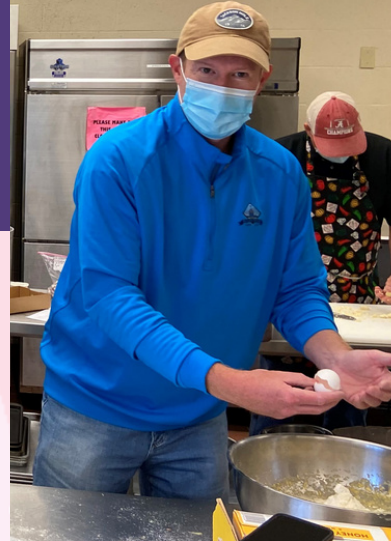
Our **Community Kitchen Fellowship** ministry will be continuing on a monthly basis so, we will need volunteers to help with cooking and delivering the food on the 3rd Saturday of each month. Cooking at 8am and delivery at 11am.

If you are able to help deliver on December 18th or beyond, please sign up here:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0f4eaba7283-delivery>

**Thank you to all who have “adopted” a child from our Angel Tree!** They have all been taken now. If you’d still like to help a child, **Waxhaw’s Ray of Hope** needs some items for their Christmas party for local children.

You can buy coloring books, crayons, blankets, etc. for them to give out to the kids while Santa is visiting. They also need \$20 Food Lion gift cards to accompany the Christmas meals they will be giving out to the families. They also need some Dollar Tree big gift sacks to put all of the kids’ presents in. Donations may be dropped off at the Sweet Repeats store in downtown Waxhaw before December 18th. You can see details on their Facebook page “RayofHopeOrganization.”



## ADVENT WREATH MAKING:

The Episcopal Church Women (ECW) held an Advent Wreath-making event in November where our families could prepare for Advent by creating a beautiful wreath for their homes.

Thank you to all who participated. We hope that this will become an annual event for StM.

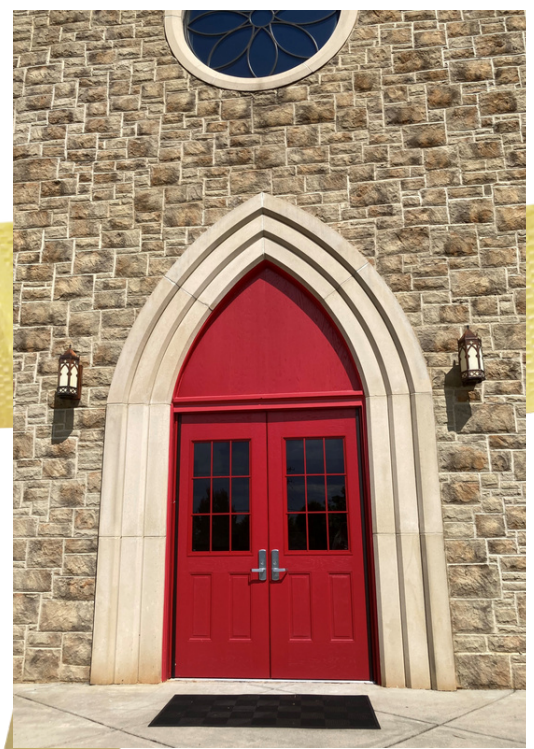


# RED DOOR

WELCOME

*Please welcome our new members:*

- Derrick & Gilberta Lewis
- Rhonda Morsey
- Keith Adams
- Patti Kelly
- Bill & Beth Semisch
- Michael, Mary Elizabeth & Patrick Bryant



## Office Notes:

### Year End Financial Reminders

Thank you for your continued generous support given to the ministries of Saint Margaret's. Please remember that any year -end contributions need to be mailed and postmarked by 12/31 to be considered a contribution for 2021.

We accept credit or debit card donations online in addition to ACH bank draft.

Please visit [www.saintmargarets.net](http://www.saintmargarets.net) and click the giving tab at the top of the page.

The enrichment of our parish services, ministries and facilities are dependent upon your generosity.

A reminder that the church mailing address is:  
8515 Rea Rd., Waxhaw, NC 28173

Kathy Marakoff

*Assistant to the Rector for Finance & Administration*



Kathy can be reached at:  
**[finance@saintmargaret.net](mailto:finance@saintmargaret.net)**

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

## Confirmation Class for 2022

The Rite of Confirmation, in which one makes a mature profession of faith in Jesus Christ, will take place on June 26 at St. Margaret's.

**The classes are open to students 10th grade and above and any adult members of the parish who wish to be confirmed, to be received, or to reaffirm their faith.**

The Confirmation class will gather weekly on Sunday mornings from 10:00-10:45am for the first few months of 2022. Regular attendance at class and worship will be required.

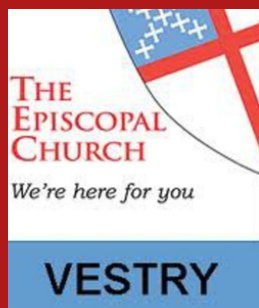
**For more information:**  
**[CLICK HERE](#)**







# VIEW FROM THE VESTRY



## FROM OUR JUNIOR WARDEN

So the running joke this month may go, how many vestry members does it take to change a light bulb? Well the answer is more than two.

We have been working through some electrical issues related to our lighting around the church.

What we thought was just a couple of light bulbs that needed to be swapped out, is now turning out to be a little bit more than that. We have requested an estimate from a certified electrician for which we are reviewing the proposal at this time.

As always when you have a significant expense presented, we will get competing estimates from another qualified electrician. The point here is our church is showing its age in more ways than just the drainage that we fixed earlier.

We will continue to tackle these issues as they come up, but more importantly make some preventative maintenance plans going forward.

Looking ahead to the winter months we will be planning more restoration and preventative maintenance, always being careful stewards of your tithing while maintaining our wonderful property.

As the calendar year comes to an end, we look forward to seeing our beautiful church on display for this Christmas season.

Respectfully,

Hugh C. Laughlin, *Junior Warden*  
hclvii7@gmail.com







# December Calendar

Service times are as follows:

- Wednesday at 11 am
- Saturday at 5pm
- Sunday at \*8:45am and 11:00am

[CLICK HERE for our YouTube channel](#)

\*Our 8:45 service is livestreamed each Sunday. Nursery care is provided for both Sunday services.

**PLEASE NOTE:** As of 12/2/21, due to rising covid infection rates and protocol from the Diocese, masks are required once again for all when worshipping, regardless of vaccination status.

- 12/1 A Service of Reflection & Prayers this Advent, 6:30 pm
- 12/4 St. Nicholas Festival, 10 am - 12 noon
- 12/11 Daughters of the King monthly meeting, 9:30 am in the Parish Hall
- 12/15 A Service of Reflection & Prayers this Advent, 6:30 pm
- 12/18 Community Kitchen Fellowship, 8:00 am - 11:30 am
- 12/21 Online Vestry Business Meeting, 7:00 pm
- 12/22 A Service of Reflection & Prayers this Advent, 6:30 pm
- 12/24 Service of Holy Eucharist on the Eve of the Feast of the Nativity, 4:00 pm, 7:00 pm 11:00 pm  
Carols by Candlelight (weather permitting) 5:30 pm – 6:00 pm
- 12/25 Holy Eucharist on the Day of the Nativity, 11:00 am only
- 12/26 Holy Eucharist for the First Sunday after Christmas Day, 11:00 am only



## 2022 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN RESULTS TO DATE

2022 Pledging Unit GOAL: 230  
**Pledging Units to date: 207**  
 Proposed 2022 Budget Goal: \$1,042,250  
**\$ Pledged to date: \$791,698**

thank you



**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+**  
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Deacon

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**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