

MAGGIE'S CROSS



A Letter from our Rector

BY FATHER TODD R. DILL+

For my yoke is easy, and my burden light

Today was a day at the church that was filled with important ministry. At 8:30, I joined a Zoom meeting with the clergy of our diocese, a meeting that occurs weekly with our diocesan bishop. After that, we held a staff meeting at Saint Margaret's to look at the calendar of activities and ministries, and to make sure we had planned accordingly for all our parish endeavors. Immediately following that, Traci Scott and I met so that we could discuss some new outreach opportunities available to Saint Margaret's, one that offers support to Afghan refugees in the Charlotte area, and another that addresses the needs of women and their families who seek to recover from abuse, trafficking, prostitution, and addiction. Then I transitioned into a funeral service for Sarah Estes, a faithful soul who was a life-long Episcopalian and recently died after her 100th birthday. It was a very good day indeed!

What I did notice along the way was how tired everyone seemed; myself included. +Bishop Sam looked a bit worn out; the staff of our church was somewhat wearied, and the family of Sarah showed the fatigue that comes from the grief and grappling of the loss of a dear loved one. But more than that, this day seemed to reflect the hard reality that January, for many of us, was a tough month. The pandemic still steams ahead after two years. Several members of the church have passed away recently, and the constant flexibility needed to routinely adjust to the changes in our society can leave many of us, myself included, sapped of our energy.

As I sat down to pray this night, these are the words that the Lord put on my heart to share with the parish as we continue to navigate through these unusual times:

Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light. Matthew 11:25-30

How lovely. How refreshing! These words from our Lord really resonated with me this night. In our Prayer Book, these words are recited in the Rite I liturgy immediately following the Absolution of Sin. Jesus' words promise a lifting of a burden, and the gift of new rest and refreshment. In the Gospel of Matthew where this text comes from, Jesus offers

"As I sat down to pray this night, these are the words that the Lord put on my heart to share with the parish as we continue to navigate through these unusual times:"

this teaching as words of encouragement. Life was tough, and Jesus invites his disciples to find their rest in Him, and to let Him walk alongside them and share in the weight of their troubles, in order that Jesus might lighten the trouble on their hearts.

Perhaps you are tired too this night. Maybe your heart is strained with worry and anxiety. Or maybe the month of January, or the entire year of 2021, has worn you out. If this is the case for you, I offer again the words of our Lord to sustain you and keep you.

Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

-Fr. Todd+

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Thoughts from Rev. Sarah

BY THE REVEREND SARAH HOLLAR+
PRIEST ASSOCIATE

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St. Valentine's Day

After blessing our pets in October in tribute to St. Francis, the patron saint of animals, ecology and peace: after remembering the good examples and sacrifices of All Saints through the ages on the first of November: after preparing for the coming of Christ throughout December and celebrating the Feast of Epiphany January 6th with the Wise Men arriving to indicate that Jesus is a gift for the whole world, we come to February.

On the 14th we have a more secularized feast. Tradition lacking scholarly documentation holds that St. Valentine was a Roman priest and physician who suffered martyrdom during the persecution of Christians by the emperor Claudius II about year 270. From jail, he is said to have married young couples to save the grooms from being conscripted into Caesar's army to fight in foreign wars. Valentine became associated with love because February 14th, the day of his martyrdom was believed to be the day birds began their mating season. From this notion, St. Valentine became the patron saint of lovers, happy marriages, beekeepers and epileptics.

It's a gentle thought that the church honors someone associated with romantic love. Finding someone who appreciates our deep essence, whose heart quickens as we enter a room, who has confidence that we will believe the best of them and will also hold our emotional wellbeing carefully is a gift God gave humankind. St. Valentine's Day is an opportunity to give thanks for this part of God's plan. It is an opportunity to acknowledge the blessings the loves in our life bring us. It can also be a reminder of what we are missing. Not everyone has found the partner of their dreams. Not every marriage is happy. Not every year finds a couple in sync with each other and one Valentine's Day will be the first year where one partner has died. Candy hearts won't do much to lessen that pain.

It seems the loving thing to do in cold mid-winter when this feast day arrives is to with gratitude and humility, embrace your beloved. Then sometime that day, give thanks to God for the enrichment he sent into your life in the person of your partner and in an act kindness and solidarity, say a prayer for the peace of God to surround all those missing, grieving, doubting a love of their own or a sense of their innate belovedness. Such a loving prayer would be both welcomed and appropriate on that day of all days. Blessings on all the loves of your life and especially on the never-failing love of our Lord,

Rev. Sarah



"St. Valentine's Day is an opportunity to give thanks for this part of God's plan. It is an opportunity to acknowledge the blessings the loves in our life bring us. It can also be a reminder of what we are missing...."





The Deacon's Bench

Vestments

BY LUDWIG WALLNER

Every time we come to St. Margaret's for a worship service, members of the altar party are dressed in an unusual array of clothing.

Eucharistic vestments as the term implies are the vestments worn during the celebration of the Eucharist. The Celebrant, Deacon and Lay Eucharistic Ministers (LEMs) each have a vestment which is somewhat unique to their order.

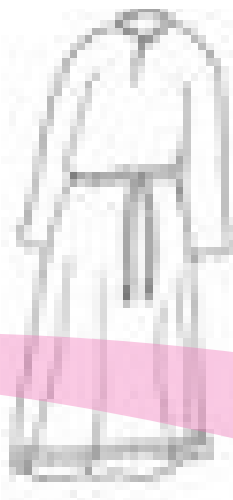
In some very traditional churches, the Celebrant will vest by first putting on an **Amice**. Although this vestment is of historic significance it is usually not worn today.

Amice is a rectangular piece of white or natural cloth worn at the neck to form a collar or hood and fastened by two long ties which are tied in front. **This vestment has been replaced by the hooded or collared alb.** The Celebrant at St. Margaret's begins vesting by first putting on an alb.

Alb. The alb is usually a white vestment, although some churches use a natural colored material, which covers the person from the neck to the ankles. This vestment is also worn by the deacons and the LEMs. The alb may come with no collar, or a collar or an attached collar or it may be fitted with a hood. The alb is fastened at the waist by a rope-looking belt known as a **Cincture**. The deacons and LEMs usually tie the cincture by a simple slip knot on the left side with the ends being allowed to hang. The celebrant knots the cincture in the middle and forms a loop on either side of the knot. This creates an opening which

allows the celebrant to place the ends of the stole. This fastening of the stole prevents it from shifting during the service.

The next vestment to be worn- is the **Stole**. The stole is a long narrow strip of material, often with religious symbols and is the color of the liturgical season.

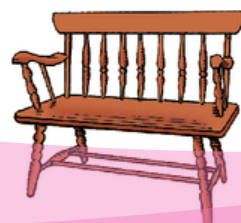


This vestment is unique to deacons and priests; however deacons wear the stole over the left shoulder so that it crosses the chest and back and is fastened together under the right arm. Priests wear the stole around the neck with the ends hanging down in front. Many priests will thread the ends of their stoles through the cincture to keep it in place.

The final vestment to be put on is the **Chasuble**. The chasuble is the outermost-worn garment and is worn over the rest of the vestments and is unique to the priest. A chasuble is usually an oval-shaped cloak with an opening in the center for the celebrant's head. It is worn like a poncho so that it drapes over the arms, back and chest of the celebrant.

A deacon may wear an outer vestment called a **Dalmatic**. A dalmatic is a tunic-like vestment which is decorated with strips of material that run vertically from front to back and are connected in the front and back by two horizontal strips of the same material. Unlike the chasuble the dalmatic has sleeves. Dalmatics, like chasubles, are in the liturgical colors of the season.

Deacon Ludwig can be reached at:
thewallners@hotmail.com





Youth Spotlight

BY ELIZABETH PFEIFER
ASSISTANT TO THE RECTOR
FOR YOUTH MINISTRY

"During this season of Epiphany, youth group is spending several weeks on what the stories of Jesus can reveal to us today."

pfeifer@saintmargarets.net

We are in the season of Epiphany and the scripture and stories we hear during this season are about Jesus revealing himself and his ministry to others.

Epiphany means to reveal or to show and as the weeks go by, Jesus is revealed as a king, the son of God, a healer, a teacher, and more.

During this season of Epiphany, youth group is spending several weeks on what the stories of Jesus can reveal to us today. We first looked at John the Baptist baptizing Jesus and spent time creating Epiphany banners with symbols of the season and questions or hopes of things that Jesus will reveal to us over the next few weeks. We will dive into Jesus' first miracle at a wedding in Cana, Jesus being rejected in his hometown, the calling of the disciples, and more.

In between the stories, we can guarantee game-time, our group is currently loving any take on capture the flag or hide-n-seek and Elizabeth intersperses the weeks with silly games like indoor noodle hockey or sockball dodgeball.


EYC IN FEBRUARY
ALL 6TH-12TH GRADERS INVITED

**FEB 6
FEB 20
FEB 27
5-6:30PM**

Join us!

NO YOUTH GROUP ON FEB 13TH
(SUPER BOWL SUNDAY)

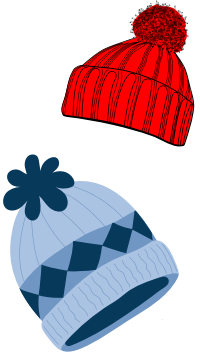
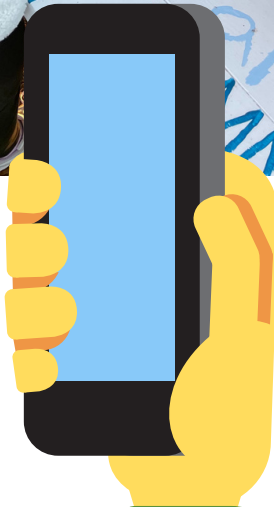
EYC will gather most Sundays in February!

Join us on February 6th, 20th, and 27th from 5:00-6:30pm. We will not gather on February 13th due to the Super Bowl. We are currently gathering in the Parish Hall, please use the back doors, near the playground, when coming to youth group. When indoors, all in our group will wear masks. All 6th-12th graders, and their friends, are welcome.

Save the Date: Our EYC beach retreat for all 6th-12th graders is May 13th-15th at Oak Island. More info out in spring 2022.

Save the Date, Pt2! Our EYC summer mission trip for current 8th-12th graders will be Sun, June 19th- Sat, June 25th. We're headed to Jacksonville, FL for a week of home repair. More info out in spring 2022.

winter snapshots of EYC





Children's Ministry

BY CATHERINE CHINTALA

ASSISTANT TO THE RECTOR
FOR CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

childrensministry@saintmargarets.net

Epiphany lessons

During the month of January we have been enjoying the beautiful season of Epiphany! On January 9th we held our Children's Epiphany Pageant - outside! Many thanks to Mara DeLuca, Sarah Whalen, Erin Stephens, and all of our wonderful students who braved uncertain weather and a very cold rehearsal to keep this annual tradition going! It was a sweet reminder that although things looked a little different, we can still find ways to gather together to remember what is important this season...and to have fun!



In Sunday School our students learned about Epiphany and the story of the wise men through Matthew 2:1-12. Just like the wise men gave gifts to Jesus, we are able to give Him gifts every day, by loving and caring for those around us. **Please check out the beautiful nativity scene on the bulletin board outside of the church office, and take a close look at the stars.** The students wrote down their gifts that they can share with others. What a wonderful reminder of how we can live out our faith each day! There are also some Epiphany resources to use at home, including blessed chalk. Please help yourself!



Children's Ministry continued...

Job Opportunity:

Saint Margaret's is looking to hire caregivers to help support our Nursery

Ministry on Sunday mornings! We are looking for adults 18 years of age and older to provide a safe, caring, positive environment during Sunday worship for the youngest members of our church family.

We are looking for caregivers to staff the nursery in two shifts: from 8:30am – 10:15am and 10:15am – 12:15pm.

Responsibilities will include caring for and playing with babies and children up to 3 years of age, assisting with diapering if needed, and sanitizing toys. **Pay will be \$40 per shift.** Caregivers will be background checked, and will be trained on Safe Church policies and nursery protocols.

Please contact Catherine if you are interested!



Stay tuned for details about VBS – and mark your calendars for June 27-30th!

We will host VBS from 9am

– 12pm, and children will learn that Jesus' power pulls us through with an exciting Rocky Railway themed week! This event is always a highlight of the summer, and we can't wait to see you there!

Interested in volunteering?

Please contact Catherine at childrensministry@saintmargarets.net

Holy Communion Instruction

The sacrament of Communion is a central part of our worship, and Saint Margaret's welcomes all baptized Christians to share in this weekly meal.

To help prepare our students and instruct them in the meaning and significance of this sacrament, we will have a series of Holy Communion classes that are open to students age 7 and up who have not yet received Holy Communion instruction.

Classes will be held from 10:00-10:45am on

February 13

February 20

February 27

A special recognition for our students will take place pm Sunday, March 6th during the 8:45am worship service.

Class registration is required, and each student with his/her parent must be present for all 3 classes. **Please click here to sign up.**



This month's Club 4-5 will be on February 13th. Club 4-5 is a

monthly gathering for all 4th and 5th graders.

We meet from 12:15-1:30pm at church, and we

enjoy games, activities, fellowship, and a short

devotion. This is a great place to have fun and meet

other 4th and 5th graders at StM!



Outreach & Parish Connection

BY TRACI SCOTT

ASSISTANT TO THE RECTOR FOR OUTREACH & PARISH CONNECTION

connection@saintmargarets.net

Thank you for your support!

We are grateful for the amazing support we received for our refugee welcome baskets! In just over 2 weeks, **our parishioners donated \$3,195 to help us pay for 30 welcome baskets for Afghan refugees moving into our area.** And with the \$2,000 match that St. Margaret's contributed, we covered the cost of the supplies with funds to spare. We used the leftover money to provide other needed supplies such as vacuum cleaners, cooking oil, detergent, colored pencils, construction paper and other small toys for the children.



Fill our Red Wagon!

We invite the donations of canned goods or other non-perishables to our ongoing outreach to Loaves & Fishes of Union County.

Donations may be left in the labeled bin at the back door by the playground or in the L&F barrel or wagon in the Narthex. You may also shop our Amazon Wish List and have it shipped directly to the church.



Traci Scott along with Parishioners Kathy Couture, Kathy Cornell, Leslie Montgomery and Janice Evans helped assemble all the baskets. They were delivered to the refugee coordinator where they were warmly received.

More ways to help local Afghan refugees will be coming soon!

Our “**Little Free Pantry**” in the rear parking lot is getting a lot of traffic lately and we need more food to re-stock. Non-perishable items such as cereals, oatmeal, peanut butter, mac & cheese, canned ravioli-type meals, canned tuna & chicken...any items that can help make a quick, easy meal. All cans should be pop-top.

Any donations can also be placed in the black collection bin outside the rear doors or in the Loaves & Fishes barrel in the Narthex. *Please do not put food directly into the Little Free Pantry and please do not donate expired items.

Questions?
please contact Traci at
connection@saintmargarets.net



Outreach & Parish Connection continued...

connection@saintmargarets.net



Our monthly **Community Kitchen Fellowship** continues to be a wonderful way for parishioners to gather and serve together right in our own St. Margaret's building!

January's meal of chicken tenders, beans, slaw and cornbread looked awesome!

A huge thank you to Sarah Dugo for providing the beautiful desserts. And those that are receiving these meals are so grateful for them. This ministry occurs on the 3rd Saturday of each month, but it will only succeed with your support...and we need more help!

Please sign-up to help deliver meals at 11am: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0f4eaba7283-delivery>

Or cook at 8:30am: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0f4eaba7283-cooking>

Questions, please contact Traci at connection@saintmargarets.net



Thank you once again to Karen Schaphorst and the team of cooks and servers who helped provide another delicious meal at the Community Shelter of Union County in Monroe!

You can sign up to help with any of our 2022 meals here:
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0f4eaba7283-2022>

We welcome new members:

Elvis, Laura, Emma & Julia Gregorovic



Join us for StM 101 Class on February 6th and 13th at 10am

Are you new to St. Margaret's or never been able to attend 101? Our newcomers class will take place on February 6th and 13th in the Parish Hall. We will discuss the Episcopal faith, our church's history, our various ministries and how to get engaged in the life of our parish. We'll even take a tour of the building.

If you are able to join us, please email Traci Scott at connection@saintmargarets.net.



Brian Scott

Senior Warden

A View from the Vestry

I am so thankful for the opportunity to serve on the Vestry these past two years and now as Senior Warden in my final year.

My wife, Traci, and I along with our two boys, have been members of St. Margaret's for over 10 years, and as much as it did when we first walked in, still holds a special place in our heart as our church home.

However, no rest for the weary! We kicked off our January Vestry meeting with a lot of activity. We welcomed three new members – Paula Holbein, Colin Miles, and Charlie Winsman. All have a passion for our church, but, more importantly, an evident love of our Lord Jesus Christ. I want to also take this time to thank our three Vestry members rolling off – Terry Anderson, Densel White, and Mike Murphy for their tireless work and support of our church during their time with us.

Another big area was the decision to begin the process of hiring another full-time priest. While it may look like a full house behind the altar, the fact is that Rev. Sarah and Deacon Ludwig are both serving in the capacity of their calling as part-time clergy for us. The love, passion, and energy they bring has been such a blessing to our parish! That being said, this still leaves a lot of work for our good Rector, especially around the pastoral needs of a 1,000-member parish and requires another full-time priest. Please pray for this process that we'll find God's special fit for us.

I'm so excited about what this year has in store for us! We're welcoming many new members to our parish, have loads of opportunities to be Christ's hands and feet in the community, and have the prospect of adding another clergy to our church family.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to me with any questions, ideas, etc. and I'll be more than happy to assist in any way that I can. I can be reached at (704) 219-5513 or briantscott@me.com.

Love Jesus. Love your neighbor. Bless the world.



Did you miss our livestreamed 2021 Annual Meeting ?



A few highlights to note:

- Focus on hiring a second full time priest by the summer of 2022. Search Committee in place to start the process in February.
- 2022 Stewardship Campaign was a success. 223 pledging units totaling \$834,778.
- Father Todd will be taking a sabbatical this summer from early July - September.
- Ideas to expand the columbarium & memorial garden are being explored.



Exhibit 1: Revenue and Expense - November 2021 and 2020

	YTD		YTD	
	2021	2020	Level Difference	Percent Difference
1 Plate				
2 Pledge				
3 Total Offerings	\$ 136,672	\$ 95,479	\$ 41,193	43%
4 Other	\$ 745,798	\$ 735,238	\$ 10,560	1%
5 PPP Grant	\$ 882,470	\$ 830,717	\$ 51,753	6%
6 Total Revenue	\$ 9,609	\$ 16,786	\$ (7,177)	-43%
7 Total Expenses	\$ 113,299	\$ 113,299	\$ 0	0%
8 Net R&E	\$ 1,005,377	\$ 847,503	\$ 157,874	19%
	\$ 879,158	\$ 870,558	\$ 8,600	1%
	\$ 126,219	\$ (23,055)	\$ 149,274	

Renderings of proposed idea for Columbarium Garden expansion, by ADW Architects





Our church office is open M-Th from 9:00-4:00
& 9:00-12:00 noon on Friday.

Rector

The Reverend Fr. Todd R. Dill+
dill@saintmargarets.net

Priest Associate

The Rev. Sarah Hollar
hollar@saintmargarets.net

Deacon

The Rev. Ludwig Wallner

Director of Music & Organist

Mara DeLuca
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Executive Assistant to the Rector

Joanie Cameron
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Assistant to the Rector for Youth Ministries

Elizabeth Pfeifer
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Assistant to the Rector for Preschool Ministries

Dana Plate'
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Assistant to the Rector for Finance & Accounting

Kathy Marakoff
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Assistant to the Rector for Children's Ministry

Catherine Chintala
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Assistant to the Rector for Newcomers

& Parish Life
Traci Scott
connection@saintmargarets.net

2022 Vestry

Jessica Parker
Chad Hinton
Brian Scott
Kathyann Dugan
Hugh Laughlin
Simon Haaroff
Paula Holbein
Colin Miles
Charlie Winsman
David Feldser, *Treasurer*



February



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

- **Saturday Worship: Rite II, 5:00 pm**
- **Sunday Worship: Rite II, 8:45 am** LIVESTREAMED on our YouTube channel
- **Sunday Worship: Rite II, 11:00 am**



CLICK HERE for our YouTube channel



calendar notes:

2/1	Funeral: S. Estes, 1:30 pm
2/6	New Session of StM 101 begins
2/12	DOK monthly meeting, 9:30 am
2/15	Vestry Business Meeting
2/19	Knots of Love monthly meeting, 10 am
2/19	Funeral: B. Kricka, 11 am
2/21	Church Office Closed
2/26	Funeral: J. Smith (father of Heather Joyner), 11 am
3/2	ASH WEDNESDAY , services at noon & 7 pm

Prayer for a Priest for Pastoral Care

February 2022

Almighty and gracious Father, You have blessed us with your love for us, and have provided us with all we need when we cry out in the name your Son.

We pray for your Holy Spirit to stir the hearts of the faithful souls within this parish with a desire to build your kingdom. Guide us as we embark on a search for a new priest to join us at Saint Margaret's. Give us your Wisdom as we seek a priest whose gifts can be used among us in our divine calling.

We pray especially for a pastor with a passion for caring, a servant's heart, and one who loves You deeply with their whole being.

Give us the bold faith needed to trust You, respond to You, and to know that You are with us. And through our grateful response, help us, through the power of your Holy Spirit, to Love Jesus, Love our Neighbor, and Bless the World.

All this we ask in the blessed name of Jesus. Amen.



Love Jesus. Love your neighbor. Bless the world.

