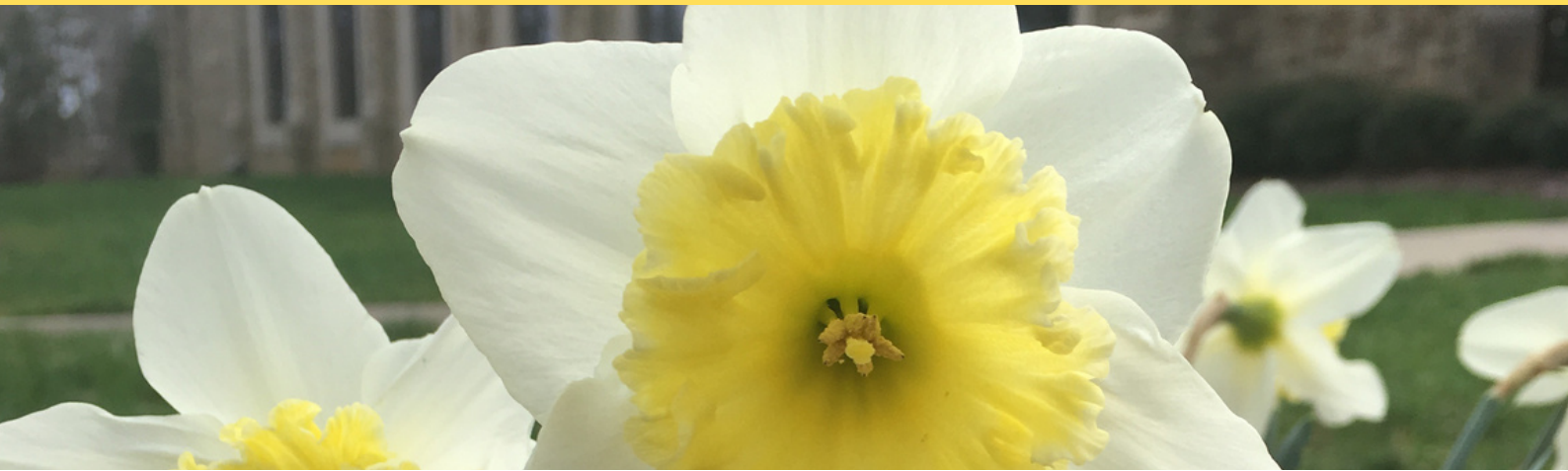


MAGGIE'S CROSS



A Letter from our Rector

BY FATHER TODD R. DILL+

An Invitation to Holy Connection

March 2nd is Ash Wednesday, which begins our journey through the holy season of Lent. During the liturgy of the day, the Church invites us to the observance of a holy Lent through “self-examination and repentance, by prayer, fasting, and self-denial, and by reading and meditating on God’s holy Word.” (BCP pg 265). At first glance, the purpose of these spiritual disciplines might seem to be a call to get our lives straightened out; to rightly order our lives in accordance with God’s will, and indeed it does on some level call us to do just that. But more deeply, and perhaps more importantly, they serve to call us back to God, in order that we might be more intimately connected to Him through the saving power of His Son Jesus Christ.

Connection is something that has been on my mind for some time. It is my belief that the last two years have

accelerated a trend that was already taking place within our society. Many of us have grown increasingly disconnected with one another for a variety of reasons; overwhelming work demands, our family’s activities, traffic, schedules, physical distance, and a myriad of other realities. Social media, as indicated by its name, was designed to connect us more with each other, but ironically and tragically, has in many ways had the opposite effect. Face to face meetings have too often given way to emails, which gave way to text messages, which now have become not even personal notes but general postings to all our friends on Facebook or Instagram. This new way of communication has in fact created the lamentable fact that many of us now live less connected lives than ever before.

That is why at Saint Margaret’s we will continue to endeavor to find ways to offer real, authentic personal connection. Whether it be in worship, Bible study, prayer groups, small groups, book studies, StM Café, or outreach, we will offer ways for all to maintain and develop real connection to Jesus and one another within our parish family. One of the distinctive markings of the Church throughout its history has been the

reality that the followers of Jesus have always come together and been present with each other. The Holy Spirit, by its very nature, is a gathering presence that offers us opportunities to connect to each other in deep and profound ways. In good times and in bad, through joys and sufferings, the community of faith that is the Church exists so that we might participate in the Divine Will of Jesus, together.

The season of Lent is a time offered to us by the Church to intentionally reconnect with Jesus and one another. And so let us do our prayers, spend time in worship, and do those things that help us intertwine our lives with Jesus. And perhaps we might also take some deliberate time and sit down with those who are dear to us, put down the phones, gather over a cup of coffee, and meet face to face.

May you each be blessed this season with more time with Jesus, more time with each other, and more time to deepen your love for our Lord and each other. Surely, we all have some time for that.

Your priest,

-Fr. Todd+

dill@saintmargarets.net



Thoughts from Rev. Sarah



BY THE REVEREND SARAH HOLLAR+
PRIEST ASSOCIATE

hollar@saintmargarets.net



The image to the right and the poem below are both by Jan Richardson, an artist, author, United Methodist minister, and director of The Wellspring Studio. She is also writes The Painted Prayerbook, a blog that explores the intersections of writing, art, and faith.

The poem was specifically written for Ash Wednesday, but it struck me as a poignant place to begin our reflections all through Lent 2022.

Blessing the Dust

All those days
you felt like dust,
like dirt,
as if all you had to do
was turn your face
toward the wind
and be scattered
to the four corners

or swept away
by the smallest
breath
as insubstantial—

did you not know
what the Holy One
can do with dust?

This is the day
we freely say
we are scorched.

This is the hour
we are marked
by what has made it
through the burning.

This is the moment
we ask for the
blessing
that lives within
the ancient ashes,
that makes its home
inside the soil of
this sacred earth.

So let us be marked
not for sorrow.
And let us be marked
not for shame.
Let us be marked
not for false humility
or for thinking
we are less
than we are

but for claiming
what God can do
within the dust,
within the dirt,
within the stuff
of which the world is
made

and the stars that
blaze
in our bones
and the galaxies that
spiral
inside the smudge
we bear.



Lenten blessings,

Rev. Sarah



The Deacon's Bench

Vestments

BY LUDWIG WALLNER



Eucharistic Vestments: Part 2 of 3

Liturgical vestments have evolved over the history of the church and beyond. There are references of liturgical vestments worn by priests in the Old Testament. The vestments worn by priests today were not and are not adaptations of those ancient vestments but were in fact developed from the dress of the Greco-Roman world, including the popular religious culture of the time.

The Amice is the rectangular piece of linen which the priest may wear around his neck. For practical purposes. It is used to absorb any perspiration from the priest's neck and head during the celebration of the Mass. In most churches this part of the vestments have been discontinued. In Greco-Roman times the Amice was a head covering, usually worn under the helmet of Roman soldiers to absorb sweat and to prevent the sweat from flowing in the soldiers' eyes during battle.

The Alb is the long white garment that flows from the shoulders to the ankles. It has long sleeves which extend to the wrists. During the Greco-Roman period this was a common outer garment and is similar to the soutane worn in the Middle East. During this period people of position usually had Albs of better quality and sometimes had special designs or embroidery included.

The Cincture is the long thick cord with heavy knots or tassels on the ends which is worn around the waist like a belt. It is usually white but may also be in the colors of the season. The cincture served the same purpose during the Greco-Roman era. It was used as a belt.

The Stole is the long strip of material that is worn around the neck, crossed in front of the chest and fastened in place by the cincture. The crisscrossing of the stole symbolizes the Cross of Christ but the tradition dates back to the Roman soldier who had crisscrossed belts as part of his uniform. On one side of the belt hung his sword and on the other side hung a pouch with food and water.

Finally we put on the last vestment, the **Chasuble**. The word chasuble comes from the Latin word casula, which means house. The chasuble in Greco-Roman times was a cape-like garment that covered the entire body to protect one from cold stormy weather.

After Christianity was legalized in A.D. 313 the church dealt with the issues of who wore what, for what reason and when and how a "vestment" should be worn. This discussion remained until about A.D. 800 when there was basically a standard set of guidelines established for the liturgical vesting for a service.

Next month in Part 3 of this series, we will look at the liturgical meanings of the vestments that are worn each time the Mass is celebrated.

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





Youth Spotlight

pfeifer@saintmargarets.net

BY ELIZABETH PFEIFER

ASSISTANT TO THE RECTOR
FOR YOUTH MINISTRY

February was a short but mighty month! Even with missing a Sunday meeting for the Super Bowl, youth group managed to play several new games, continue our discussions about what Jesus could be revealing to us during the season of Epiphany, and transition to talks about Lent! Elizabeth's favorite moment of the month was during an activity on Jesus' calling of the first disciples when the group was challenged to literally fish for people by casting a fishing net! The ridiculousness of it made the group laugh but a tangible, silly activity allows for a lasting impression to be made.

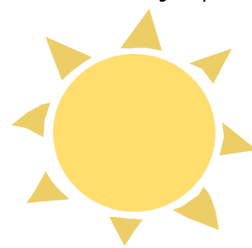
We also spent a Saturday at our first event hosted by the Diocese of North Carolina Youth Department in two years! **Bishop's Ball**, held February 12th, was shortened from a weekend event to a daylong event and we gathered at Holy Comforter in Burlington with students from around the Diocese. We got to know each other while doing silly icebreakers, played games, spent time hearing from our bishops, participated in a worship service, and capped the day off with a dance. It was a long but fun day!

EYC is excited about our spring schedule, and we invite all 6th-12th graders (and their friends) to join us from 5:00-6:30pm. EYC will meet every Sunday for the month of March (March 6, 13, 20, and 27) and we would love to have your student join us.



Youth group meetings are **BACK IN THE YOUTH ROOM** as of early March, students can enter using the back double doors, near the playground, when coming to youth room. The youth room is the second door on the left as you enter, the room with the large couches.

Has been it a few months (or maybe years?) since your student has been to youth group? They are always welcome, please reach out to Elizabeth with any questions.



EYC Summer Mission Trip to Jacksonville, Florida

EYC Summer Mission Trip to Jacksonville, Sun-Sat, June 19th-June 25th: Current 8th-12th graders are invited to join us as we travel to Jacksonville, FL for a week of serving in a hands-on capacity through a variety of home repair projects.

The cost is \$500 (financial assistance available); \$125 deposit due to reserve your spot. Registration is on a first come, first reserved basis.



CLICK HERE for more information and to sign up.

Please Contact Elizabeth Pfeifer with questions.



snapshot of EYC middle schoolers



Landen S. making a clay jug



Bishop's Ball in Burlington, NC



Children's Ministry

childrensministry@saintmargarets.net

BY CATHERINE CHINTALA

ASSISTANT TO THE RECTOR
FOR CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

Bible Deep Dive



Trust in God was our "Bible Deep Dive" theme during the month of February in Sunday School.

Students and teachers spent 4 weeks studying the stories of Jesus in the Book of Matthew; specifically the stories of Jesus walking on water in Matthew 14:22-33 and 8:23-27.

During our classes we studied the stories in a variety of ways – by doing activities, crafts, games, and discussion. It was a lot of fun to think about and interact with the same stories in different ways each week!

Students transitioned into this month with lessons on Shrove Tuesday, Ash Wednesday, and Lent. Later this month we will continue to study the stories of Jesus in the New Testament.

I hope to see you and your family soon at Sunday School and our fellowship events! My prayer is that this upcoming month brings you health, peace, and time for reflection as we observe this Lenten season.



Mark your calendars for some fun upcoming springtime events!

- **Saturday, April 9th** we will host a **Journey to Jerusalem** event from 10am-12pm. This all-ages formation event will be a fun, casual opportunity for fellowship for our families and parishioners! Plan on dropping in to do a craft, sample some food, and enjoy time with your StM family!
- **Saturday, April 16th at 10am** we will host our annual **Easter Egg Hunt** for children 10 years of age and under. Bring your basket and get ready to smile at this sweet StM tradition!

Our 4th and 5th graders have a had a great time at **Club 4-5!** We are excited that the weather is warming back up, so we can start to enjoy some outdoor games together! February saw the return of the popular pizza lunch part of our gatherings, and we had a great time together on February 13th. The afternoon was filled with smiles, laughter, and chocolate as our students worked together to figure out clues hidden around the church in a scavenger hunt!



We have 2 Club 4-5 gatherings left in the school year: we will meet Sunday, March 6th and April 10th from 12:15-1:30pm.

*Blessings,
Catherine*



Outreach & Parish Connection

connection@saintmargarets.net

BY TRACI SCOTT

ASSISTANT TO THE RECTOR FOR OUTREACH & PARISH CONNECTION

Join us!

StM Café:

Join us in the StM Café every Sunday in March, between the 2 worship services.

Adults and students 6th grade and above are invited to the StM Café in the Connector Hallway (just past the restrooms). Please join us to socialize and reconnect with other parishioners, staff, vestry and clergy. Plus, you get free coffee & snacks!

We look forward to seeing you there.



Upcoming Shelter meal on Tuesday, March 22. Two teams of volunteers are needed. One group will cook the meal at 1pm in the St. Margaret's kitchen and another group will serve it at the Community Shelter in Monroe at 5:30pm. **Please sign-up here if you are able to help with cooking, serving or baking:** <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0f4eaba7283-2022>

ECW Circle Outreach

Our "Thursday Lunch Bunch" ECW Circle made blankets for Turning Point's Treehouse Children's Advocacy in February.

Great job ladies!





Thank you to all who continue to support our Community Kitchen Fellowship ministry!

We had some faithful monthly volunteers, as well as several new volunteers in February who cooked and delivered another delicious meal to our neighbors in need.

*For March, our Vestry members are taking over the kitchen to cook the meals, but **WE NEED** 2 more drivers! If you can help on March 19th at 11am, please sign up here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0f4eaba7283-delivery>*

Afghan Refugee update:



In addition to the welcome bags, vacuum cleaners and other household items that we were able to provide with your generous donations in January, we were able to buy 7 sewing machines for the Afghan women. Bedding and rug donations were also provided by StM parishioners. Thank you all for your kind support. I continue to monitor the volunteer "chat" for additional needs and will certainly pass them along. Right now, they would like to collect children's bikes and area rugs for these families.

Many of you may have also seen the tragic news that 2 pedestrians that were killed by a drunk driver on East W.T. Harris Blvd. recently. The victims were one of the refugees that we were supporting and her English tutor. Nabila was a mother of 3 very young children who, along with her husband, were just starting their lives here in America. Links to her story and GoFundMe are below. Please pray for her family and all refugees.

<https://www.wbtv.com/2022/02/16/mother-three-killed-fatal-charlotte-crash-had-fled-afghanistan-with-family/>
<https://gofund.me/ae5d99f8>

Toy drive for local Afghan refugees:

A grassroots group of volunteers are helping to support the needs of our newly-settled refugee neighbors. After addressing many of the larger needs, they are now doing a Ramadan **toy drive** for the beautiful children who need a smile and a little happiness in their worlds. Please visit this Amazon wish list and purchase a toy or two if you are able.

Toys are due by March 20th.

https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/SPZMT6OET4C3?ref_=wl_share

If you would like to purchase toys elsewhere and drop off at the church, please let Traci know at connection@saintmargarets.net

Questions?

please contact Traci at

connection@saintmargarets.net

From Dust to Glory: Daily Meditations for Lent



From Dust to Glory

Daily Meditations for Lent
2022

Our own Lenten Booklets are available in the office and have been sent electronically through email distribution lists. We hope you will use it in your Lenten journey. Thanks to all our parishioners who helped with this annual project.



Take
Note!

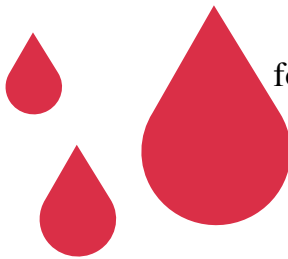
A Lenten Day of Retreat, Saturday, 3/26: God in the Midst:

A universal story, hope, and trust

A Lenten Day of Retreat for St. Margaret's Members & Friends hosted by Daughters of the King and facilitated by Rev. Sarah Hollar on Saturday, 3/26. Plan to join us for conversation, reflection, lunch, sacrament, and blessing. Registration and coffee will begin at 9:00am, first session will start at 9:30am. Please use the following link to register:
<https://stm.breezechms.com/form/2022DOKQUIETDAY>



BLOOD DRIVE on 3/27



One Blood will be on campus on Sunday, 3/27 for a community blood drive. This time, there will be two buses here....one for the regular whole blood donations and another for platelet donations. Platelets are critical for the treatment of cancer as some of you may have experienced if your lives have been impacted by this disease. Platelet donations take about 90 minutes. You can donate platelets every 7 days and donate whole blood every two months. Both buses will be in the front parking lot and you can sign up for an appointment here:

Whole blood - https://donor.oneblood.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/1189315

Platelets - https://donor.oneblood.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/1208185

Calling all gardeners!

Can you help us with our Giving Garden this spring & summer? We need several people to plant and maintain our garden in the field to the right of the church building. For several years now, we have been able to donate the garden produce to Common Heart for distribution to those in need. We truly hope to have enough volunteer support to continue this ministry in 2022. If interested, please contact Traci at connection@saintmargarets.net to discuss.





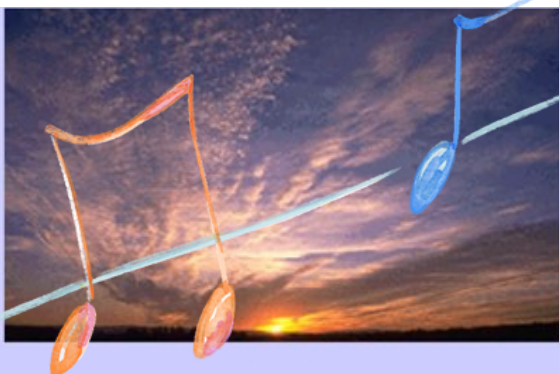
March

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

 [CLICK HERE for our YouTube channel](#)

 *calendar notes:*

2/2	Ash Wednesday: Services at 12 noon & 7 pm
3/6	Common Heart Walk
3/15	Vestry Business Meeting
3/12	Daylight savings: TURN CLOCKS AHEAD
3/19	Knots of Love Ministry Meeting
3/19	Community Kitchen Fellowship
3/20	Evensong, 5 pm
3/22	Community Shelter Meal Prep & Cook Day
3/26	Lenten Quiet Day, hosted by DOK
3/27	Blood Drive



A service of Choral Evensong

For the Third Sunday of Lent

March 20, 2022

5 pm

St M

*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

music@saintmargarets.net

Executive Assistant to the Rector

Joanie Cameron

parishadmin@saintmargarets.net

Assistant to the Rector for Youth Ministries

Elizabeth Pfeifer

pfeifer@saintmargarets.net

Assistant to the Rector for Preschool Ministries

Dana Plate'

preschool@saintmargarets.net

Assistant to the Rector for Finance & Accounting

Kathy Marakoff

finance@saintmargarets.net

Assistant to the Rector for Children's Ministry

Catherine Chintala

childrensministry@saintmargarets.net

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*