

MAGGIE'S CROSS



A Letter from our Rector

BY FATHER TODD R. DILL+

This is My Blood of the New Testament

instituted the sacrifice of this Holy Sacrament.

While this time has been difficult for so many reasons, and many of you have been asking for quite some time for the return of the Cup, perhaps this distance has served to remind each of us of the importance of this most sacred act.

Certainly, in no way am I suggesting that the removal of the Cup was a good thing, but I am suggesting that rather than focus on our loss, perhaps this time will renew within each of us a commitment to its reception. We now have so many choices on how we spend our time on Sunday mornings. Perhaps, just maybe in this post pandemic world, we might reflect a bit to re-prioritize our lives, so that Jesus, His teachings, and His Sacrifice, might become central to our Sundays and our lives once again!

One change that has been directed by our bishop, and many bishops across the Episcopal Church, is that the practice of personal intinction is now not an option. In short, this means that one no longer has the option to dip the wafer they have received into the chalice. While this has become a more common practice in recent years, and it is stated in the Prayer Book that it is allowed with the bishop's approval, it has never been encouraged by the wider church. First, it is by far the most unsanitary practice for reception,

as one's hands can touch the side of the chalice or one's fingers can easily contaminate the wine. Second, and most importantly, there is something profoundly important in sharing the Cup. For centuries, billions of disciples have received in this way, and the grace, strength, and forgiveness of sins offered us in this act is vital to our spiritual life. Additionally, and something worth being reminded of during these times, there has never been any indication that the sharing of the Cup, when properly distributed, has served as a vector for the transmission of any disease.

The most important act we participate in when we gather is the Eucharist. Our Lord commanded it, and His sacrifice is offered to us each time we come to His table. If you have been away for some time, I humbly invite you back. I would love to see you this Holy Week as we remember what Jesus did for us. I know that our community misses you, and I truly know that we are lessened as a parish with your absence. The Table will be set, and the Host will be there to greet you. I do hope that you will come.

-Fr. Todd+

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These words from our Lord's mouth, written down for us in Holy Scripture, and recited by the priest during each Eucharist as we gather, have been heard for two years but not been fully realized. It is one of the great tragedies of the pandemic that we have navigated through since early 2020; that the full expression of the gift of the Eucharist has not been offered as Jesus commanded His disciples. I have been personally heartbroken by this reality, and I believe that we have gone far too long without receiving the full Sacrament at Saint Margaret's. And while the news I now share is long overdue, I am thrilled to write to you this month to let you know that the Common Cup will return on Maundy Thursday, the beginning of the Holy Triduum, in which our Lord

Thoughts from Rev. Sarah



BY THE REVEREND SARAH HOLLAR+
PRIEST ASSOCIATE

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St. Paul wrote to the early church in Ephesus that to follow Jesus Christ was “to tell the truth in love.” It’s a beautiful sentiment and a challenging charge. In these days, the truth spoken in love says we are living in difficult times. We are constrained by a global pandemic. We are besieged by civil divisiveness, racial strife and an unprovoked war. We want to return to normal but doubt that desire is likely to materialize, and we wonder and worry about its replacement. We are tired and weary and want to express, in a faithful way, our lament, our longing and our hope.

St. Margaret’s Lenten Retreat held on a Saturday deep in Lent, hosted by the Daughters’ of King was an invitation to express the truth of our hearts, to locate relief, to experience refreshment and to trust God to hold it all.

We found examples in scripture and in our lived experience where God showed up in the good, the hard and the messy. We broke bread of both kinds, in fellowship and sacramentally.

We prayed and leaned into open hearted listening. We also laughed. A lot. We told the truth in love, and we were both fed and revived. We told each other, “We need more of this.”

Rev. Sarah



*"The Lenten Retreat Day was a very special day of sharing, caring, loving, giving and TALKING which is what everyone needed after months of not really being able to do those important things. The day fed our bodies and our souls. There was laughter and a few tears. A beautiful service ended the day. God was indeed in our midst!
Thank you Rev. Sarah!!"*

-Kathyann Dugan





The Deacon's Bench

Why doesn't Easter fall on the same date each year?

By Ludwig Wallner

On Sunday, April 4, we will be celebrating Easter. Easter is the day that celebrates our Lord and Savior, Jesus' resurrection from the dead. Easter is the oldest and greatest feast in the church calendar.

Easter Sunday marks the end of Lent and Holy Week which recalls for each of us the last week of Jesus' earthly ministry and death. Easter Sunday also marks the beginning of the church's Easter season which lasts for 50 days and ends with Pentecost.

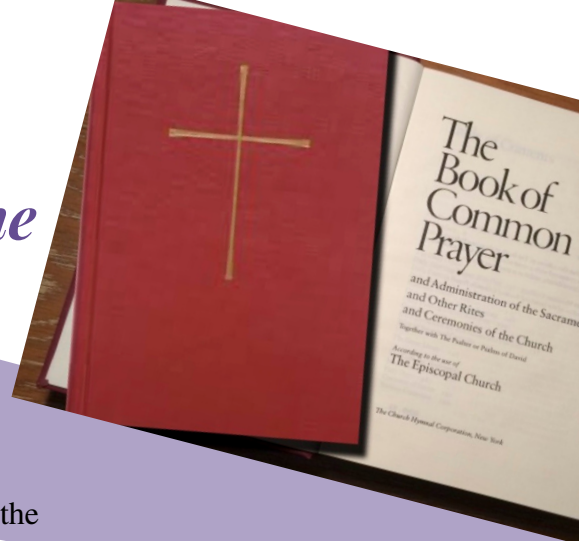
Over the years, I'm sure many of us have heard "Easter is early this year" or "this is late for Easter" or some such phrase. Why is that? Christmas is always on December 25, different days but always the same date. St. Valentine's is always February 14. *So why doesn't Easter fall on the same date each year?* In 2018, Easter fell on April 1, this year of 2022 Easter falls on April 17, in 2063, Easter will be on April 15, in the year 2070 Easter will be Sunday, March 30 and in 2084 Easter Sunday will occur on March 26.

For the answer to the Easter date question, we must travel back in time to the year 325, where the Church Counsel decided that Easter would always fall on a Sunday. Other church feast days follow the calendar so the feast date remains constant but the actual day changes.

Easter follows the lunar solar calendar. To explain how this works, our Book of Common Prayer on page 880 explains the rules for finding the date of Easter Sunday. Easter Sunday is always the Sunday after the full moon that occurs on or after the spring equinox on March 21, a date which is fixed in accordance with ancient ecclesiastical computation, and which does not always correspond to the astronomical equinox. This full moon may happen on any date between March 21 and April 18. So Easter cannot be earlier than March 22 nor be later than April 25. So Easter is neither late nor is it early, it is when it's supposed to be.

In order to determine Easter you need another two points of reference to complete the calculations. These two points are called the "Golden Number" and the "Sunday Letter" both of which are explained on page 880 of the B.C.P.

Now to avoid all these confusing terms and calculation, if you turn to pages 882 and 883 of the B.C.P. you will find a chart outlining the dates of Easter through the year 2089. Remember the dates of Easter will change but the day of Easter will always be on a Sunday.



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Youth Spotlight

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BY ELIZABETH PFEIFER

*ASSISTANT TO THE RECTOR
FOR YOUTH MINISTRY*

Spring is here and EYC is having a fantastic one! Our group had a wonderful month of March meetings and, as we look to the end of the school year, we have great activities planned as we conclude our programming year.

Youth Group started the Lenten season by hosting our parish's first large-scale event in almost two years!

The Pancake Supper in 2020 was the last event we had on campus before covid, and we were thrilled to bring it back for 2022. Our group had a blast in the kitchen making pancakes, cooking bacon, and even doing the dishes. We were so thankful to gather with our parish family!

EYC did a bit more baking a few weeks later when we studied the Lenten tradition of pretzels at youth group. Students split into smaller groups and made a no-rise pretzel recipe. While the pretzels baked, we discussed the connection of pretzels to prayer (have you ever noticed the shape looks like folded arms across a chest?) and how, legend has it, the recipe for pretzels came from the need for a Lenten snack that followed fasting laws.

In between our cooking projects, we played games, discussed Jesus' temptation in the desert, dove deep into God's call to Moses, shared highs/low, and laughed with our group.

EYC is excited about the remainder of spring calendar and the last few gatherings we have planned. We invite all 6th-12th graders (and their friends) to join us from 5:00-6:30pm, we would love to have your student join us! Please note meeting times below.

- **EYC will meet as usual at the church on April 3rd and 10th from 5:00-6:30pm.**
- **NO EYC on April 17th (Easter).**

Join us for our last two EYC meetings of the school year on April 24th and May 1st from 5:00-6:30pm.

Note: Youth group meetings are **BACK IN THE YOUTH ROOM!** 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.





Pancake Supper EYC chefs



Middle School EYC baking Lenten pretzels



Children's Ministry

childrensministry@saintmargarets.net

BY CATHERINE CHINTALA

ASSISTANT TO THE RECTOR
FOR CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

In March we continued our New Testament study with a unit on Jesus Feeding 5,000 from Matthew 14:13-21. During our classes we studied the story in a variety of ways – by doing activities, crafts, and games. We wrapped up our study with a special guest speaker on March 27th: parishioner Keith Adams, Executive Director of Common Heart! He talked to our students about how Common Heart feeds our neighbors in need, and students brought in donations of non-perishable foods.



On March 6th we celebrated a very special Holy Communion at the 8:45am service, where we recognized
Layla Kindel,
Charlotte McConaughy,
Connor McConaughy, and
James Whalen

for the completion of Holy Communion Classes!



Elizabeth and I are having so much fun with our students at Club 4-5! This month we enjoyed a delicious pizza lunch and created original art with watercolor paints based on the Gospel reading of Satan tempting Jesus. We have 2 gatherings left in the school year: we will meet Sunday, April 10th and May 1st from 12:15-1:30pm and all 4th and 5th graders (and friends!) are welcome.



Sunday, April 3rd is the final Sunday School class of the school year!

Moving forward, look for a kid's craft table at the StM Café from 10:00 - 10:45. The kids can enjoy a treat and do a craft while their parents get coffee.

Sunday School could not happen without our dedicated team of volunteer teachers! A HUGE thank you to the teachers that invested in the lives of the children at Saint Margaret's.

We are working to provide fellowship opportunities for families outside of Sunday services. We have a few upcoming Mom's Groups that are a great way to connect with other moms while the kids play together! These informal groups are a fun way to spend time with church friends and make some new ones too! All moms with babies through elementary-aged kids are invited to attend.

- 4/2 at 1pm at the play area at Blakeney
- 4/30 and 5/14 at 9:30am at the church playground

**Keri Collins
Carolyn Dunand
Dawn Fell
Page Hinton
Aaron Parker
Jamie Peters
Erin Stephens
Michelle Stephens
Sarah Whalen
& Christine Wilkins**

VBS Registration is open!

Join us on **June 27-30** from 9am-noon where we learn that *Jesus' power pulls us through!*

Students 4 years of age (as of 6/27/2022) through rising 5th grade are invited to join us for a fun week of fellowship, music, games, crafts, and activities! **Click here to register.**

We need adult volunteers to help make this event a success! Not available all four mornings? That's okay – we have volunteer spots even if you can only commit a day or two! Middle and high school volunteers are welcome too!

Please contact Catherine if you are interested in volunteering:

childrensministry@saintmargarets.net

I hope to see you and your family soon at our fellowship events!

*Blessings,
Catherine*

Plan to join us:

On Saturday, April 9th we will host a **Journey to Jerusalem** event from 10am-12pm. This family formation event will be a fun opportunity for fellowship and a chance to learn more about Palm Sunday traditions and even what life was like in Jesus' time!

JOURNEY TO JERUSALEM

Saturday, April 9th 10am - 12pm

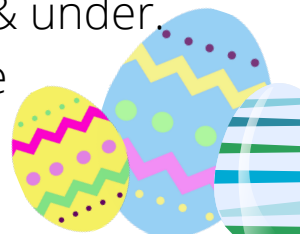
Please join us for a morning of fellowship and fun as we learn about Palm Sunday and Holy Week. Crafts, food, and faith-filled activities will guide your path to Easter. Interactive stations geared towards those 5th grade and under are sure to delight!

StM

Annual Easter Egg Hunt



On **Saturday, April 16th at 10am** we will host our annual Easter Egg Hunt for children 10 & under. Bring your basket and get ready to smile at this StM tradition!





Outreach & Parish Connection

BY TRACI SCOTT

ASSISTANT TO THE RECTOR FOR OUTREACH & PARISH CONNECTION

connection@saintmargarets.net

Join us!

StM Café:

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

All parishioners 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.



In March, Fr. Todd told the story of little Ella, a 3-year-old student in our preschool program here at St. Margaret's. A few weeks ago, Ella brought an envelope into class with some coins in it and a note from her mother written on the outside. She gave it to her teacher, Ms. Kathy Ballard, who is a St. Margaret's parishioner. The note said: *"Ella has been saving some of her money since Christmas and wanted to donate it to the church to help others."* Ms. Kathy, knowing what a special gesture this was, scheduled some time on Fr. Todd's calendar and Ella was able to present her donation to him directly.

We deposited Ella's gift into the Outreach account and it is now helping to provide meals to our elderly neighbors in need.

So many parishioners and staff members were deeply touched by the kind and generous heart of this beautiful 3-year-old. She has clearly learned from her parents, family and teachers how important it is to love our neighbors.

Even a small gift or gesture can make a huge impact!

Thank you Ella!



Love Jesus. Love your neighbor. Bless the world.

Outreach & Parish Connection continued



Special thanks to our Vestry for their help in making March's CKF a success. The Vestry (and Colin Laughlin) cooked 65 meals. 7 cars handled delivery to 30+ homes.

Our next Community Kitchen Fellowship ministry date is the day before Easter, April 16th. What a perfect day to bless our neighbors with the love of Jesus!

Fill our Red Wagon! We invite donations of non-perishable food to our ongoing outreach for Loaves & Fishes of Union County as well as our Little Free Pantry in the back parking lot. Donations may be left in the labeled bins at the back door by the playground or the barrel or wagon in the narthex. You may also shop our Amazon Wish List and have it shipped directly to the church.

Thank you to all who generously donated toys to the collection for local Afghan refugee children! The toys are currently being distributed and we hope to share pictures very soon.

Our March blood drive was a big success! We had 11 whole blood donors; 2 double red blood cell and 4 platelet donors

Giving Garden update: a new committee has formed to plant and maintain our Giving Garden this spring and summer. We are so grateful for Ian Caterina, Tina Sagartz, Ann Haarhoff, Catherine Washington, Christina Kindel and Penny & Claire Feldser.

Thank you all for giving your time and talents to bring fresh produce to our neighbors! And a big thank you to Jeff Culver for fixing our garden gate! The plants will go in on April 22nd. Take a walk down to the garden sometime after that to see what we have growing (and please take some rosemary...we have plenty!). Watch for a sign-up coming in May to help us deliver the produce to Common Heart each week throughout the summer.



Take
Note!

Many thanks to our **Knots of Love Ministry** for all the beautiful work they do. They are to thank for the many tangible ways we share our prayers and love with the parish family & beyond.

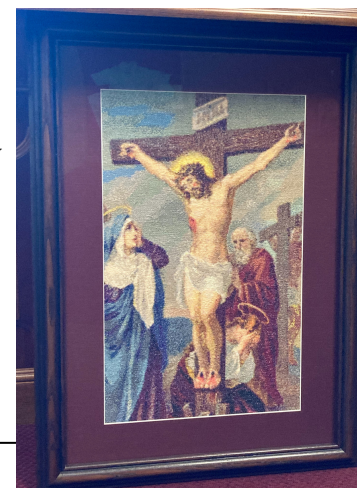
From crocheted prayer squares to knitted prayer

shawls, thoughtful quilts and senior scarves, we are truly

grateful for this ministry that touches so many. Recently, the ministry brought a special gift to Fr. Todd in honor of this Lenten season.

A framed & matted cross stitch of the crucifixion of our Lord.

Crafted during covid quarantine by our very talented parishioner Joni Tommasulo. *Thank you Joni for this lovely gift to StM!*



Do you not have one hour to give?

We are in need of people to sit in prayer in our sacred space as we journey from Maundy Thursday, 4/14 to Good Friday, 4/15. Volunteers will sit vigil with our reserved sacrament from after the Maundy Thursday worship service ends until our Good Friday service begins at noon. We need a minimum of two people per hour.

Please watch:

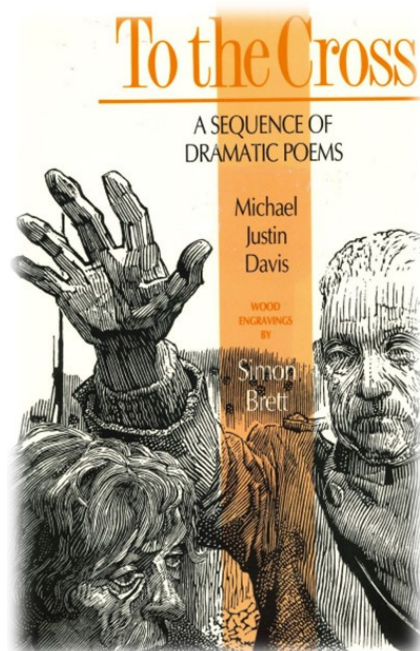
A SPECIAL VIDEO PRESENTATION TO AIR HOLY SATURDAY

18 actors from our StM parish family portray characters from this dramatic collection of poems. Segments were prerecorded to bring you another source of reflection to add to your Lenten Journey and Easter experience.

Special thanks to *Deacon Ludwig & Carolyn Wallner* for bringing this idea to St. Margaret's.



Look for a special eblast on Holy Saturday with the link to watch this on our YouTube channel.



Welcome Father Jay Mills!



The Rev. Edward James Mills, III was born in Charleston, WV. Fr. Jay attended Charleston schools and graduated from West Virginia Wesleyan College (1977) and Virginia Theological Seminary (1980). He served churches in the Diocese of West Virginia (1980 – 1994) and the Diocese of East Tennessee (1994 – 2021). Fr. Jay officially started his part time role as Priest Associate at St. Margaret's on April 3rd.

Fr. Jay and his wife, Karen, recently moved to Waxhaw to be closer to their family in their years of retirement. They have two children: Jamie and Sarah and have five grandchildren between the ages of 18 months and 7 years.

Fr. Jay will spend much of his time assisting Fr. Todd with the ongoing pastoral needs of the parish.

Be on the lookout for future newsletter articles from Fr. Jay in upcoming editions of Maggie's Cross.



from our JUNIOR WARDEN

Hugh Laughlin

I don't know about many of you, but for some, springtime means spring cleaning. We spent some time earlier this month to prepare our House for the Easter services, and have cleaned our upholstered pews and kneelers in the church.

This month we are also proceeding with our engineering assessment of our stone and mortar issues that are noticeable. We have contracted with an engineering firm out of Charlotte to help properly assess the potential water damage that is going on behind the mortar. This will allow us to have a proper request for proposals allowing firms that are able to, assist in the corrective actions needed. Having a proper engineering assessment of the issues will allow each of the proposals to specifically address the items discovered, and not have any disparity between competing bids. We felt this was a prudent action to ensure that we are able to compare the proposals for the corrective actions.

The Buildings and Grounds Committee also recognizes the inflationary impacts on our contractors. In as much we recently met with our landscaping and cleaning service providers to discuss any potential impacts on the services they are currently providing. This allows for us to further our relationship with these providers and ensure there are no surprises if there are increased costs associated with the services they are providing to the church.

We are continuing to attend to some of the identified electrical needs throughout the church. I'm hopeful that we have now addressed all the exterior lighting issues that popped up through the winter months. We'll turn our attention to some of the identified interior needs for lighting.

God Bless.
Hugh C. Laughlin



from our SENIOR WARDEN

Brian Scott

I love Spring! I love seeing everything in bloom (but not the coating of pollen on my car), participating in the season of Lent, and especially our Easter celebration. I've also enjoyed seeing everyone's faces again! Even though we've begun to feel a sense of normalcy with masks being optional, we all understand people are still suffering and in need. We had evidence of this recently with a gentleman standing up during our service asking for help. It was a bit of a shock, but I thought Fr. Todd and the congregation handled it beautifully in praying for this man who felt lost and alone. Unfortunately, given the headlines we see everyday, the questions of security come up. The Vestry has had conversations and been in prayer about this and the need to not only provide a safe and secure worship space but also be an inviting and welcoming place for those in need. We hope to finalize our plans in the next few weeks. The Vestry also had the opportunity to participate in our Community Kitchen Fellowship (CKF) in March. We had a great time cooking meals and packaging the food for our drivers to distribute to those in need around the Waxhaw area. What a great way to have a fun Saturday morning, but, more importantly, help those in our community who are in need! We've also enjoyed chatting with everyone at the "StM Cafe" in the connector hall in between services. It's been so great to catch up with existing members, as well as those that are new to our parish.

Hope to see you there and enjoy some coffee and fellowship!

-Brian





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+

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Deacon

The Rev. Ludwig Wallner

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2022 Vestry

Jessica Parker

Chad Hinton

Brian Scott

Kathyann Dugan

Hugh Laughlin

Simon Haaroff

Paula Holbein

Colin Miles

Charlie Winsman

David Feldser, Treasurer


April

- 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:

4/2	Men's Group Breakfast meeting, 8:30 am
4/2	Eucharistic visitor training & chalice training
4/9	Daughters of the King monthly meeting
4/9	Journey to Jerusalem - FAMILY EVENT, 10 am
4/10	PALM SUNDAY
4/14	Maundy Thursday, service at 7 pm
4/15	GOOD FRIDAY, service at noon
4/16	Annual Easter Egg Hunt, 10 am 
4/16	EASTER VIGIL, 8 pm *with incense
4/17	EASTER SUNDAY: Services at 8:45 am & *11:15 am
4/18-19	Church Offices Closed
4/18-22	Spring Break. StM Preschool & UCPS closed
4/26	Vestry Business Meeting

*Almighty God, who through your only-begotten Son
Jesus Christ overcame death and opened to us the gate
of everlasting life: Grant that we, who celebrate with
joy the day of the Lord's resurrection, may be raised
from the death of sin by your life-giving Spirit; through
Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you
and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.
Amen.*