

MAGGIE'S CROSS



From the Rector

BY FATHER TODD R. DILL+

Worship. Pray, Serve and Evangelize!

It is so good to be back at Saint Margaret's! My time away on sabbatical was a time of rest, travel, and rejuvenation, and I cannot thank the people of this parish enough for allowing me this time away for a season of refreshment. I was able to reconnect with family members and dear friends that I hadn't seen in years, and to walk part of the Camino trail in Portugal. It was a real gift, and I thank each of you for your help in making my sabbatical possible.

This time away also gave me a chance to reflect on our parish and how we spend our time and energy together, in our shared ministry and in our gathered activities. The world has changed so rapidly over the past few years, and many organizations, both sacred and secular, are looking for fresh ways forward for their institution. Saint Margaret's is no different. While I was

away, the vestry did a lot of research on the security of our campus, and much of what they learned and decided upon will be found in the Senior Warden's article in this newsletter. I commend it to you for your reading. Our leadership has also been spending time evaluating all aspects of our activities at Saint Margaret's, including our worship schedule, classes, outreach, lay volunteers, etc., to ensure we are doing our utmost to use our resources for the entire community's maximum benefit. In the coming weeks you will begin to hear more about our plans for 2023 and beyond.

All of this is to say, both your vestry and I have spent significant time trying to refocus our attention and energy on what is most important to our community as we strive together to follow Jesus Christ. All our time and all our prayers have pointed us to the reality that God is calling us to not just follow Jesus, but to become His disciples. With this hope in mind, and through much discernment and prayer, your vestry and I want our parish to be a mission center where we focus our efforts on building disciples of Jesus in four very intentional ways:

Worship-Every disciple of Jesus should be engaged in the weekly and regular practice of corporate worship.

Pray-Disciples of Jesus have active and deep lives of prayer, both in their homes and in public.

Serve-Jesus commands His disciples to serve the poor, most specifically widows, orphans, and the marginalized.

Evangelize-All baptized persons are called to a life of witness, by word and by deed. At Saint Margaret's, we are going to endeavor to equip our members with the tools and confidence to do just that.

In a world that is changing so rapidly, the way forward at Saint Margaret's is to embrace the ancient disciplines of the church that have formed disciples for over two millennia. The world is so different than it was in A.D. 30, yet what has sustained God's people in their common life has been the proven traditions of worship, prayer, service, and the sharing of the Good News of Jesus. These spiritual practices have had profound effects on billions of people around the globe and have changed not just the lives of those within the Christian community but have transformed the world. If we fully embrace these habits in our lives, it is my expectation that we will see extraordinary things happen at our church.

Your priest,

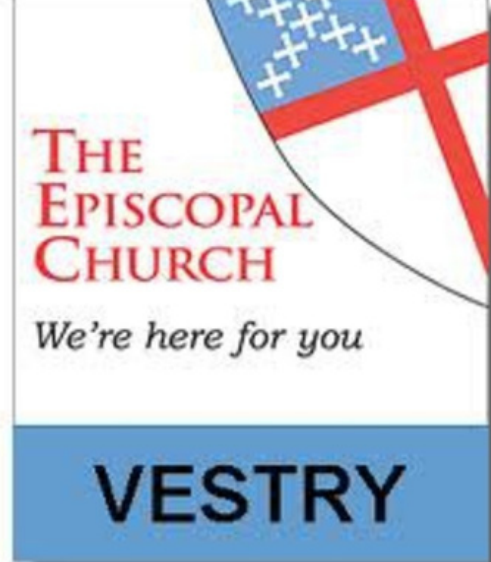
-Fr. Todd+



dill@saintmargarets.net



SAFETY UPDATE



Greetings to you all and hope you are enjoying our fall season! I wanted to provide a follow up to the parish on our activity surrounding the security evaluation the Vestry has been conducting this year.

As I mentioned in the August newsletter, a committee within the Vestry has been hard at work reviewing our safety protocols by surveying area churches on their current procedures, hosting the Union County Sheriff's Department and other security experts in an assessment of our property, and reaching out to internal ministries and stakeholders to develop a comprehensive plan.

Based on this feedback and recommendations, we have implemented new measures in the areas of access to the building and evaluated more efficient alarm/security systems including camera placement. In addition to the access recommendations made by the experts we've spoken with, it was also realized that we are the only church based on similar size within our local community that does not employ a police presence during our worship times. The experts agree that not only does this provide a strong deterrent but that it is also an extremely valuable resource to have in the case of a medical emergency.

The Vestry has struggled with this for some time in that, we want to provide a welcoming environment for those attending worship, but also need to realize the cultural circumstances we currently find ourselves in. Upon much deliberation and prayer, **the Vestry has approved contracting with local police to staff personnel during our worship times. Beginning in December, we plan to have that presence for our Saturday and Sunday morning services.**

It's unfortunate these plans need to be implemented at all, but please understand we are focused on realizing our call to be an inviting and welcoming community of faith, and at the same time, balancing that with providing a safe and secure place for everyone who comes to St. Margaret's.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at (704) 219-5513 or briantscott@me.com.

Thank you for your understanding and may God bless this beloved community!



Brian Scott,
Senior Warden
briantscott@me.com



A stylized clock face with black tick marks and hands. The text 'It's TIME!' is written in large blue letters across the center of the clock.

It's TIME!

Many thanks to our 118 pledgers to date.

We are looking to get to 245.

**Can
you
help
us
get
there?**

COMMITMENT SUNDAY is 11/13.

Look for your pledge card in the pews or
[click this link](#) to pledge electronically.



Youth Spotlight

BY ELIZABETH PFEIFER

ASSISTANT TO THE RECTOR FOR YOUTH MINISTRY
pfeifer@saintmargarets.net

Our StM youth group had a wonderful October and is looking forward to our weekly meetings continuing now through Thanksgiving.

We had a very busy October and managed to celebrate St. Francis of Assisi by baking homemade treats for our dogs and cats, played several rounds of capture the flag, continued to discuss how we show Jesus' light to the world (our fall theme), had ice cream with friends, participated in Compline, and more!

Our middle school students spent a beautiful fall Saturday at Bethelwoods Camp in York, SC. Our group was challenged with several team-building exercises meant to develop communication and problem solving followed by archery and canoeing! Our current group of students never stops moving and so they also made their own fun with several games of basketball, volleyball, and capture the flag. We came back to the church for a sleepover and spent a few hours playing hide-n-seek and classic sleepover games like Twister and Apples to Apples before finishing up with Compline. The next morning, we all worshipped together at the 8:45am service. It was a spectacular day spent laughing and enjoying time with friends.

We would love to have your student join us at a meeting soon!

All 6th-12th graders (and their friends) are welcome at our gatherings. EYC will meet for the first three weeks of November: Nov 6, Nov 13, and Nov 20 from 5:00-6:30pm with dinner 6:30-7:00pm. There will be no EYC on Nov 27th due to the Thanksgiving holiday. When joining us for youth group, please enter from Crane Rd. and use the double glass doors by the playground.

Stay up-to-date with youth group gatherings by signing up for our EYC text updates: text stm youth1 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 MINISTRIES

childrensministry@saintmargarets.net



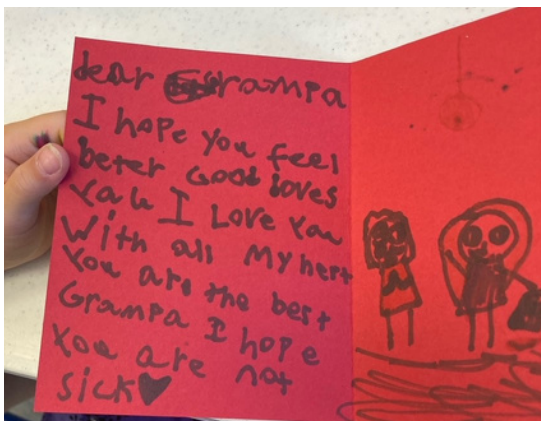
Happy fall y'all!

We've been having a great month in Children's Ministry and the fall has been busy with lots of fun & formation!

We have had so much fun each **Wednesday evening after dinner for a casual formation** gathering. We have been reading classic Bible stories with a new twist in Lindsay Hardin Freeman's book *The Spy on Noah's Ark and Other Bible Stories from the Inside Out*. We read the stories of Noah's Ark, Daniel in the Lion's Den, Jonah and the Whale, and Jesus Feeds 5,000. Lots of games, crafts, activities, and prayer rounded out our time together.

A group of students and parents have been meeting for **Holy Communion classes** each Sunday in October. We are so excited to celebrate these students and families on All Saints' Day on November 6th at the 8:45am service!

Our **Sunday School classes** have been using the *Love First* curriculum, and students have been learning about loving God, our neighbors, and ourselves. In October students learned about showing love and encouragement to others through card making, and learning about the wonderful Card Ministry group here at Saint Margaret's. *I want to send a big thank you to Mary Rushing for teaching a card making class to our students!*



In November we will be learning about loving our neighbor and helping those in need with Keith Adams. On November 6th the Sunday School students will learn about the important work that Common Heart does in our community, and they will package donations into food bags for children in need. It's not too late to support our community and our Sunday School students! **Click the link here** for more information and to see what items are still needed.

I hope you are having a happy and healthy fall, and that you can take a moment to enjoy your family and the beauty of this wonderful season!

Blessings,
Catherine





Outreach

BY TRACI SCOTT

ASSISTANT TO THE RECTOR FOR OUTREACH & PARISH CONNECTION

connection@saintmargarets.net



DON'T THROW AWAY YOUR HALLOWEEN CANDY!

Donate it to our Troops!

We are excited to again partner with NC Packs 4 Patriots to collect and ship candy to our U.S. Military deployed in combat areas. The troops love the candy for themselves, but also to give out to the children in the communities they patrol. All types of candy are acceptable (including chocolate). We will also be collecting individually-packaged toothbrushes, dental floss and toothpaste to send along with all the candy.

Please find collection bins at StM in the Connector Hall or outside the rear church doors by the playground or come to the **drive through drop off** on Saturday, 11/5 from 10:30 - 1:30 at St. Margaret's. **All candy donations due by November 13th.**

For more information: the NC Packs 4 Patriots Facebook page is:
<https://www.facebook.com/NCP4P/>

It's time for Operation Christmas Child! Boxes and instructions are available in the Connector Hall. You can take them, fill them up with gifts and return them to St. Margaret's by November 13. Visit <https://www.samaritanspurse.org/operation-christmas-child/pack-a-shoe-box/to> see how to pack a box or how to donate online. If no boxes are left, you can always use a regular shoe box.

LAST Shelter meal of 2022: Tuesday, November 22nd

More volunteers are needed to help cook at the church or serve at the Shelter. 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, baking or serving:
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0f4eaba7283-2022>

Thanksgiving meals for our neighbors

The Great Turkey Countdown is back and Common Heart is delivering over 1,500 Thanksgiving meals to our Union County neighbors in need.



There are multiple ways for you and your family to help!

To help with baking desserts or transporting the food from Common Heart to StM:
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0f4eaba7283-delivery>

Donate funds for this massive effort or volunteer to help at Common Heart:
<https://commonheart.org/great-turkey-countdown/>

HELP NEEDED: Our Giving Garden was a huge success this summer with lots of fresh, healthy produce given to Common Heart for distribution in our community. But now we need to do a little maintenance as we shut it down for the winter. Lots of weeding to be done and pulling up some dead plants. Instead of having a garden clean-up day, we'd like to see who is willing to help and schedule a time that works for you. Please email Traci at connection@saintmargarets.net if you can help.



Parish Connection

connection@saintmargarets.net

Join St. Margaret's Episcopal Church Women (ECW) for a **free movie series** designed to open the eyes of our hearts to people whose abilities, age, ethnicity, class, and social status may differ from our own.

Our second gathering will be on November 11th.

- Dates: The 2nd Friday each month thru May 12, 2023
- Time: 9:00 AM – Noon (Movies start promptly at 9:15 AM)
- Location: St. Margaret's Youth Room

RSVP here for the movie(s) you plan to attend:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0F4EABA7283-ecwmovie>

Not exclusively for ECW members. Guests and men are welcome!

Schedule of movies:

<https://files.constantcontact.com/94b1917b001/ae306f2e-1715-44b0-a67b-c2d5ef2b8664.pdf?rdr=true>



Join us for StM 101 Class on November 13 & 20

Are you new to St. Margaret's or never been able to attend 101?

The next 2-part session of our newcomers class will take place on November 13 & 20 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.



November Calendar



- **Saturday Worship: Rite II, 5:00 pm**
- **Sunday Worship: Rite II, 8:45 am**
- **Sunday Worship: Rite II, 11:00 am**

 [CLICK HERE for our YouTube channel](#) **SERMONS** in library!



calendar notes:

11/6	Rector's Roundtable, 10 - 10:45 am
11/11	Monthly Movie Morning, 9:30 am
11/13	Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes due back StM 101 class 1 of 2 Saint Margaret's Day Commitment Sunday Club 4/5
11/15	Vestry Business meeting
11/18-19	NC Diocese Convention
11/19	Common Heart Thanksgiving Outreach Community Kitchen Fellowship Thanksgiving Deliveries Knots of Love Monthly Meeting
11/20	StM 101 class 2 of 2 Fall in Fellowship & Prayer lunch
11/22	Shelter Meal Cook & Serve Day
11/23	Church Office closes at noon Thanksgiving Eucharist, 5:30 pm
11/24	HAPPY THANKSGIVING
11/25	Church Office closed

save the date

12/3	Saint Nicholas Festival & pancake breakfast, 10 am
12/4	Lessons & Carols, 4 pm
12/10	Advent Retreat Day

*Almighty and gracious Father, we give you thanks
for the fruits of the earth in their season and
for the labors of those who harvest them.*

*Make us, we pray, faithful stewards of your great bounty, for the
provision of our necessities and the relief of all who are in need,*

*to the glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and
the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.*



*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 Reverend Sarah Hollar+
hollar@saintmargarets.net

Priest Associate

The Reverend Fr. Jay Mills+
mills@saintmargarets.net

Deacon

The Rev. Ludwig Wallner

Organist & Director of Music

Gavin D. Craig
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 Outreach
& Parish Connection**

Traci Scott
connection@saintmargarets.net

2022 Vestry

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