

MAGGIE'S CROSS



From the Rector

BY FATHER TODD R. DILL+

Preparing Ourselves for Lent

I was looking at my calendar last week and had the realization that Lent is almost upon us. Now I know instinctively that Lent is near, and I certainly understand that Lent is the season that follows the current season of Epiphany, but the closeness of the of the start of Lent had somehow eluded me. Ash Wednesday will be celebrated on February 22nd at noon and 7pm with the imposition of ashes and the offering of the Blessed Sacrament. As you organize your month of February, I do hope that you and your family will make plans to join us for one of these sacred liturgies. I know that life can get hectic, but it is my prayer that we all might clear our calendars and join one another in worship to contemplate the great gifts of this liturgical season.

So why is Lent so important for us? Why does the Church Universal offer

this season to us? As I have mentioned so many times, if you want to know what the Episcopal Church believes about something, all one must do is pick up the Bible and the Book of Common Prayer. The Divine Liturgy for Ash Wednesday offers us deep insight with its invitation to each of us:

I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy Word. And, to make a right beginning of repentance, and as a mark of our mortal nature, let us now kneel before the Lord, our maker and redeemer.

Prayer. Fasting. Self-denial. Reading and contemplating Scripture, as well as grappling with our own mortality. The Church offers us the season of Lent to take on these spiritual disciplines so that we might draw closer to Jesus and re-center our lives on Him. There are so many activities and ways we can spend our time each day, and the busyness of our lives can often be a barrier to a truly Christ-centered life. The spiritual practices which are encouraged during this season are disciplines that have been used for centuries to calm the mind and center the heart, in order that one might connect deeper to Jesus. They are activities that can quiet our souls, and perhaps, allow us to hear in new ways the still, small voice of God calling to each of us.

You see, God often whispers to us, and Lent offers us an intentional season where we might stop, listen, and search for that deep whisper of God calling out to each of His faithful children.

People think I'm crazy when I say this, but Lent is my favorite time of the year. I encourage you over the next few weeks, to make plans for a full Lenten journey. Set aside time for the liturgies and take on meaningful spiritual practices that will bring you closer to our Lord. Please, don't let the pace of the culture drown out the voice of your Father calling to you. He loves you and wants to be close to you. Now is the time to ready and prepare yourself for the season ahead. If you do your prayers, journey through the liturgies, and listen for God every day, I believe Easter will feel different for you, and the Passion of our Lord will be revealed to you in new and powerful ways.

Please know that I am praying for you, and I do hope that you are praying for me. And as we pray daily for each other, may we draw closer to our Lord Jesus.

Your priest,

-Fr. Todd+

dill@saintmargarets.net



Resources for Lent



Looking for a Lenten Devotional book?

Here are some of our Rector's picks:

- **Episcopal Relief and Development**

Episcopal Relief & Development (ERD) is providing a [daily devotion](#) beginning Ash Wednesday, February 22. [Click here for link.](#)

The ERD offerings meditate on the commandment to love our neighbor and to consider the meaning of this fundamental instruction in our daily lives. Each Sunday begins with lectionary readings and an embedded video designed to introduce the theme of the week.

The booklet can be printed and/or our parishioners can sign up to receive the devotion by email.

- **Forward Day by Day**

Parishioners can sign up for a daily reflection [by clicking here.](#)

- **Devotions for Lent** [click here](#)

Lent 2023

ASH WEDNESDAY: February 22

PALM SUNDAY: April 2

HOLY WEEK: April 3 - 8

Easter SUNDAY: April 9

Prayer Time

Join Father Todd in prayer:

- **1st Monday of the month:**

9:30 in the nave/parish hall

- **2nd Thursday of the month:**

1:30 pm in the Prayer Room

Notes from our Director of Music & Organist

BY GAVIN D. CRAIG

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Composer Highlight:

Fela Sowande & Adolphus Hailstork



Fela Sowande was born in Abeokuta, Nigeria, in 1905, the son of an Anglican priest. He received musical training early, and as a youth, he was the assistant organist at the cathedral in Lagos. He pursued musical training in organ in London, studies he funded through playing piano in nightclubs. After teaching for a time in Nigeria, he came to the United States in the 1960s, eventually achieving tenure as a professor of musicology at Kent State.

Sowande's blending of his native and adopted cultures is evident in his "Prayer (Oba a ba ke)",

composed in 1958. The piece is a fantasy, a set of variations, on a hymn of his native Yoruba people. About this melody, Sowande writes, "The mind of the Yoruba Christian is far from his drum-rhythms as he sings [...] "The King (of Heaven) whom we should cherish, we do not cherish. The Savior (of mankind) whom we should serve, we do not serve; Jesus whom we should worship, He is the very one the world derides and abuses; Lord of the Rainbow, forgive us our offences; for the sake of Jesus, grant us pardon."

The work uses traditional counterpoint in some places, Edwardian harmonies elsewhere, African call-and-response in others, with jazz harmonies of the 1930's used throughout. The work masterfully blends the traditional and modern, the African and European, finding unity in the simple yet plaintive melody that occurs throughout the piece.

SPECIAL NOTE: Fela Sowande's "Prayer (Oba a ba ke)" will be played as the Prelude on Sunday, February 26, the First Sunday in Lent.



Adolphus Hailstork, III, born in 1941, was raised in Albany, where he sang as a choirboy at the Episcopal cathedral. His musical career was focused on composition, and his training included top luminaries of twentieth-century composition, including opera composer Mark Fax and French luminary Nadia Boulanger, and he has a recognized genius for symphonic composition. He earned his Ph.D. at Michigan State University in 1971 and began a university teaching career which culminated in a long tenure at Old Dominion University, at which he is now Eminent Scholar and professor emeritus.

Similar to Sowande, Hailstork's work blends the personal and the universal, the contemporary and the traditional. His output is replete with programmatic references to and material from the historical and contemporary African-American experience. His music is both erudite and appealing, and his sacred music is suffused with the spirituality of his Episcopalian upbringing, as in various choral works incorporating the Psalms from the *Book of Common Prayer*.

His organ works likewise are rooted in the English tradition of composition. While mostly drawn from distinctly African-American themes such as "Balm in Gilead", "Oh, Freedom", or "Wade in the Water", he also has set in his characteristic style "O come, O come, Emmanuel" and other universally beloved hymns. His organ composition, while largely orthodox, to my ear draws from the Hammond jazz style, requiring more expression and improvisation from the performer than simple score reading. That being said, his "Kum Ba Yah" for organ is decidedly simple in design and execution. This quite prelude elaborates on the melody in a style reminiscent of both jazz standards and eighteenth-century German hymn settings. The accompaniment is similarly colorful yet restrained in method, resulting in a treatment of a favorite folk tune that would be at home alongside many similar English works of the late nineteenth or early twentieth centuries.

SPECIAL NOTE: Adolphus Hailstork's "Kum Ba Yah" will be played as the Prelude on Sunday, February 5, the Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany.



Youth Spotlight

BY ELIZABETH PFEIFER

ASSISTANT TO THE RECTOR FOR YOUTH MINISTRY

pfeifer@saintmargarets.net

We are in the season after the 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, youth group is spending several weeks wondering what the stories of Jesus are revealing to us. Each week, we use three “wondering” questions to guide our conversations: wonder what do you think this passage reveals about Jesus, wonder what part of the passage YOU think is most important, and wonder what questions come up for you from this passage?

We have read about John the Baptist baptizing Jesus, Jesus preaching with authority and driving an evil spirit out of someone; Jesus interacting with the Pharisees and disciples about how what is in our heart matters; and John the Baptist needing reassurance that Jesus was who he said he was.

Out of our readings and conversations, a vast array of questions have risen: *who wrote the Bible, what does God look like, why is there evil in the world, what color hair did Jesus have, why did people listen to Jesus*, and more. Our February meetings will spend more time diving into these questions (and any new ones!) with activities and discussions.

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

EYC will gather most Sundays in February! Join us on February 5th, 19th, and 26th from 5:00-6:30pm with dinner 6:30-7:00pm. We will not gather on February 12th due to the Super Bowl. When coming to youth group, please enter through the double back doors, near the playground, when coming to youth group. All 6th-12th graders, and their friends, are welcome.



Save the Date:

Our EYC beach retreat for all 6th-12th graders is May 19th-21st at Oak Island. More info out in spring 2023.

WE WONDER

WHAT THIS REVEALS ABOUT JESUS?

WHAT YOU THINK IS THE MOST
IMPORTANT PART?

WHAT QUESTIONS COME UP FOR YOU?





Children's Ministry

childrensministry@saintmargarets.net

BY JAMIE PETERS

ASSISTANT TO THE RECTOR FOR CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

2023 is off to a great start! What a joy it has been to see so many new and returning faces in our Sunday School classrooms this past month.

Club 4-5 met on January 8th for our first meeting of the year with a pizza lunch and fellowship. It brought us a chance to gather together and catch up on what each other had been doing over the Christmas break. With it being the first weekend after Epiphany, we commemorated it by going on a scavenger hunt around the church, complete with hidden clues and Bible verses that lead students through the familiar Magi story.

Sunday School classes have resumed at our NEW TIME of 9:30-10:15am. In January we started our new Love God unit in the Love First curriculum where students have been learning about being examples of God's love and how God's love is always with them. Students referred to the familiar "Feed My Sheep" parable and reflected on things we do as a Parish to "feed" God's people. Our older students also spent some time discussing how prayer can be a useful resource to find comfort and feel supported by God in the midst of difficulties. They made prayer beads as a tool to use in their lives.

As we enter February, we will wrap up our Love God unit and prepare to enter Lent. Mark your calendars for a few upcoming dates in Children's Ministry, and keep a lookout for emails with additional details:

- Feb 5: Children's Craft Table at the Parish Breakfast from 9:30-10:15am
- Feb 12, March 12, April 2 & 30: Club 4-5 from 11:45am-1:00pm *NEW TIME*
- Feb. 26, March 12 & 19: Holy Communion Classes from 9:30-10:15am
- March 26th: Holy Communion Celebration at the 10:30am service
- April 9th: Easter Egg Hunt at 9:30am
- June 19th-22nd: Vacation Bible School

Need to sign up for the Spring Holy Communion Classes?

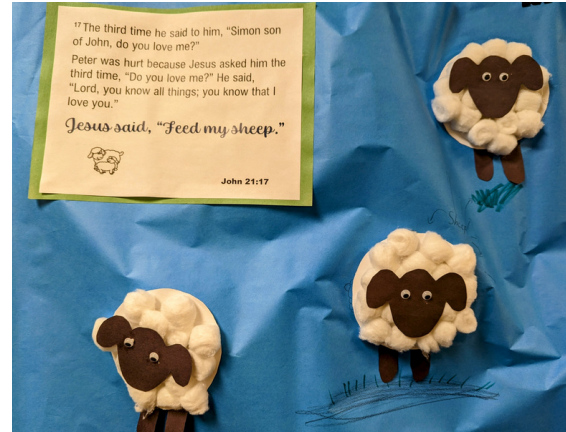
Students ages 7 and up are invited to attend classes to learn about Holy Communion. See the dates and times above for classes and the celebration. Please contact Jamie (childrensministry@saintmargarets.net) with any questions and or [click here to sign up](#).

Save the date! VBS is coming **June 19-22** and we are so excited to gather for an awesome summer experience where we will explore what it means to shine Jesus' light in everyday life! VBS is open to students 4 years of age (as of 8/31/2023) to rising 5th grade. Stay tuned for details and registration info!

Questions or if you are interested in volunteering, contact Jamie at childrensministry@saintmargarets.net.

I hope everyone continues to have a wonderful start to the year and stay healthy!

Blessings,
Jamie





Parish Connection & Outreach

BY TRACI SCOTT

ASSISTANT TO THE RECTOR FOR OUTREACH & PARISH CONNECTION
connection@saintmargarets.net

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

The next 2-part session of our newcomers class is set for
February 19 & 26

9:30am - 10:15am

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@saintmargaret



Welcome new members:

- Jamie, Jeffrey, Emma, Adalyn & Sawyer Larmondra
- Susan Ralston
- Kate, Chloe, Emma & Parker Hays

Interested in officially joining St. Margaret's to be included in our parish records? Please contact Traci for details.

REMINDER:

MONTHLY FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST for
ALL AGES in lieu of Sunday School:

Sunday, February 5

9:30- 10:15

*Join us in the parish hall for fellowship AND
pancakes, fruit, coffee, breakfast casseroles &
a parish favorite...bacon!



MOVIE SERIES CONTINUES

February 10 with "The Hate U Give."

This series is designed to open the eyes of our hearts to people whose abilities, age, ethnicity, class and social status may differ from our own. We'll meet in the Youth Room from 9am-12pm. Questions, contact Kathy Couture at kcouture28105@gmail.com

RSVP here for the movie(s) you plan to attend: [CLICK HERE](#)

Schedule of movies: [CLICK HERE](#)



Saturday, Feb. 11
2 pm - 4 pm

All ladies of the parish (age 4 and up) are invited to this special event put on by the ECW. A way to celebrate the love in our lives, eat delicious food and gather for fellowship & door prizes. Dress as you wish, hats encouraged. A great event to bring your daughter to. \$10 per person.

[CLICK HERE](#) to RSVP or contact the church office at:
parishadmin@saintmargarets.net to sign up.
Deadline to sign up is Monday, 2/6.

OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES

MEAL DELIVERY

Our monthly food delivery ministry, **Community Kitchen Fellowship**, will be making and delivering a hot meal on **Saturday, February 18th**.

We need more drivers to deliver the meals to homes in the Waxhaw area at 11:00am.

Great opportunity for the children and youth of our parish to help!



If you can help on February 18th, please click below links to: **DELIVER** and/or to **COOK or BAKE**

Want to know more about the Kairos Prison Ministry?

In preparation for their upcoming 4-day “walk” at Kershaw Correctional Institution in May, the group will be holding their training meetings at St. Margaret’s. If you’ve always wanted to learn more about this ministry, this is a great opportunity to see it in action. There are also monthly “reunions” at Kershaw which involve less of a time commitment, but are still quite rewarding.

Please reach out to Brian Scott at briantscott@me.com or David Rourke at runssub5@yahoo.com by February 11th to learn more.



Join the St. Margaret’s team at the **Common Heart Hunger Walk** on Sunday, March 5th! Did you know that Common Heart’s 10 food pantries are a lifeline for our hungry neighbors? In 2022, Common Heart served nearly 14,000 individuals an average of 5 times. You can join this small revolution of kindness by walking with us and making a donation. Every \$25 feeds a local family for one week. Walk with our team in Indian Trail or help us raise funds to support the work of Common Heart in our community.

Register or donate here: stmargarets.commonheart hungerwalk.org

The annual “**Souper Bowl of Caring**” in Union County is underway to support the Community Shelter of Union County. All proceeds to stay local and are directed toward the Shelter’s mission to provide emergency shelter, food and rehousing. Please consider supporting the important work of the Shelter this year by **donating here**.

Parishioner & founder of Common Heart, Keith Adams presents Bridges out of Poverty workshop during Adult Sunday School





A View from the Vestry

BY KATHYANN DUGAN
SENIOR WARDEN

Greetings from your St Margaret's Vestry!

The St Margaret's Vestry is made up of nine members, in good standing, of our St Margaret's Parish family. Each member serves three years. This January, three of our members completed their three years of service. We would like to express our sincere gratitude to **Brian Scott, Jessica Parker** and **Chad Hinton** for a job well done!

For the past two years, as a member, I have observed a group of people, all different but working as a team and having at least two things in common - the love of God and concern and care of St Margaret's - both the people and the physical church.

In January, you, the members of St Margaret's, elected three new vestry members. We welcome **Emily Nelson, Tom Washington** and **Josh Ward** to our ranks! It is already apparent that it will be another great year!

If you have not yet served on the St Margaret's Vestry, please give it some prayerful thought for next year. I think you will find it very rewarding.

Yours in Christ,

Kathyann

Brian Scott



Jessica Parker



Chad Hinton



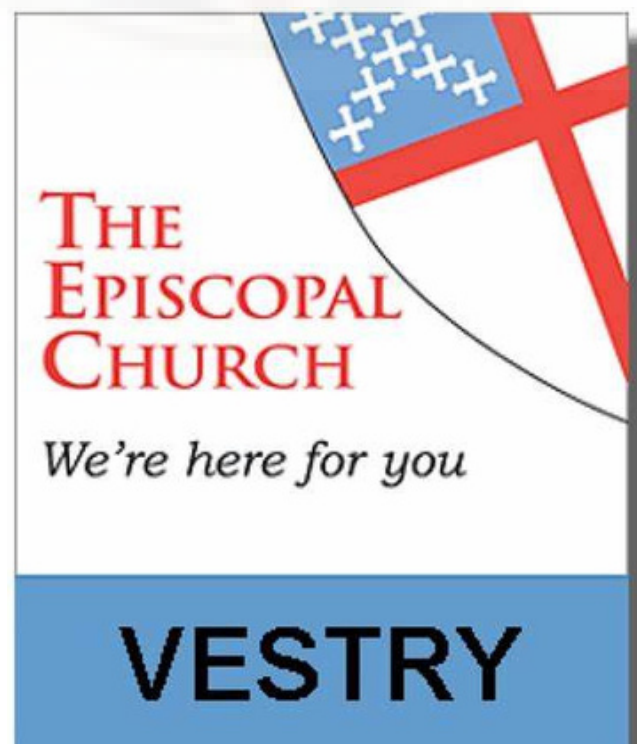
Tom Washington



Emily Nelson



Josh Ward





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

Rector

The Reverend r. Todd R. Dill+
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Priest Associate

The Reverend Sarah Hollar+
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Priest Associate

The Reverend Fr. Jay Mills+
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Deacon

The Rev. Ludwig Wallner

Organist & Director of Music

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Assistant to the Rector for Children's Ministry

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Assistant to the Rector for Outreach
& Parish Connection

Traci Scott
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2023 Vestry

Kathyann Dugan
Hugh Laughlin
Simon Haaroff
Paula Holbein
Colin Miles
Charlie Winsman
Josh Ward
Emily Nelson
Tom Washington
David Feldser, *Treasurer*

February Calendar

- 2/4 CPR Training
- 2/5 Monthly Fellowship Breakfast, 9:30 - 10:15 am
- 2/5 Costa Rica Mission Trip Meeting, 11:45 in the Parish Hall
- 2/10 ECW Movie Series
- 2/11 ECW Valetines Tea, 2:00 - 4:00 pm
- 2/18 Knots of Love meeting
- 2/18 Community Kitchen Fellowship
- 2/21 Vestry Business Meeting
- 2/21 Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, 5:30 pm
- 2/22 **ASH WEDNESDAY**



WEDNESDAY NIGHT LENTEN SERIES

four Wednesdays in March
Food, Fellowship & Formation

March 1
March 8
March 15
March 22

dinner served: 5:30 - 6 pm
programming: 6:15-7pm
Compline: 7-7:15pm



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