

# MAGGIE'S CROSS



## From the Rector

BY FATHER TODD R. DILL+

### Seeking the Beauty of God

Given the realities of having two surgeries within the past two months, I've had more time than usual for contemplation. When one is forced to lay on your back for three days at a time, staring at the ceiling, you have plenty of time to think! One thing I discovered (while gazing at my dusty ceiling fan) was the revelation on how I focus my energies on any given day. What I began to discover was that I spend an incredible amount of my time with more than one thing going on at the same time. When I walk, I usually listen to podcasts along the way. When I am home in the evening, the television is on in the background, whether I am watching it or not. I realized so much of my

time is filled with a lot of stuff, and so much distraction, and what I embraced as multitasking was just another way of rationalizing a life overwhelmed with activities and mental clutter.

With this new insight, I decided to try and make some simple changes to my life. I have spent less time doing, and more time seeking; more specifically seeking the beauty of God. The Church has long known that God reveals Himself to us in so many ways, not the least of which is through beauty. I do love when Scripture gives us guidance on how to experience God, and Psalm 27 speaks so wonderfully to this truth:

*One thing I ask from the Lord,  
this only do I seek:  
that I may dwell in the house of  
the Lord  
all the days of my life,  
to gaze on the beauty of the Lord  
and to seek him in his temple.*

God's beauty is all around us, and if we take time to look, we will see it everywhere.

I have always been so grateful for the people of Saint Margaret's who have come before us, and through their toil and sacrificial efforts, provided the beautiful worship space that we enjoy today.

During my recent walks, I have chosen not to listen to podcasts or news updates, but the beauty of Brahms, Bach, and yes, Mahler. Yesterday, with ever-improving vision, I saw the stunning brilliance of a perfect blue sky, and listened to the sounds of young birds singing as the spring season begins to blossom. There is so much to see and hear, and I am making the intentional effort to take more of my time and focus on experiencing God's wonders in the world, and to be grateful that He reveals Himself through the beauty that abounds and surrounds us. What an awesome and amazing gift this is!

And here is a little secret I learned along the way; God's beauty is so abundant and so extravagant everywhere, that if we but look, it is easy to find. And so beloved, I encourage you to spend some of your time and energy seeking out the beautiful things of God. If you spend some time looking and listening, I think you might experience something awesome!

-Fr. Todd+

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# Notes from our Director of Music & Organist

BY GAVIN D. CRAIG    [music@saintmargarets.net](mailto:music@saintmargarets.net)



## *A New Addition to our Music Program*

One of the great joys of a church music program is the acquisition of a new instrument, and I am pleased to announce that we have gained a fantastic harpsichord for St. Margaret's. This instrument was made possible by a generous donation from Mrs. Regina Dill in memory of her father, Mr. James Ott. It is a double, an instrument with two keyboards, built in the shop of Frank Hubbard, an American pioneer in the revival of authentic harpsichord construction, and it reproduces a 1769 harpsichord by celebrated Parisian builder Pascal Taskin. This instrument will serve to beautify our worship and open opportunities for engagement with the wider Charlotte artistic community.

Although it predates the piano, the harpsichord is a distinctly different instrument. As the piano makes its sound via a hammer striking its strings, the strings of the harpsichord sound from plucking. The instrument as we know it had developed by the sixteenth century, with pronounced regional variation in construction and tone. Our instrument inherits the tradition of French builders, following Flemish pioneers, who sought a powerful and versatile sound, matched by instruments with ornate and beautiful decorations, often including flowers, bright paints, patterns, and gilding.

The harpsichord was the quintessential keyboard instrument of the late Renaissance through early Classical periods. It was used in homes, in concerts, in dances, and in churches. It accompanied other instruments as well as having its own greatly varied repertoire. Much of the most popular piano music was written to be played on harpsichord, such as the works of J. S. Bach, the early works of Haydn and Mozart, and even Beethoven's Moonlight Sonata was first published for either piano or harpsichord. Throughout the eighteenth century, the harpsichord was gradually eclipsed by the new pianoforte. However, since the middle of the twentieth, the harpsichord was gradually revived as the musical community came to appreciate the music of earlier times. Today, there are many harpsichord makers skilled in the techniques perfected centuries ago, as well as harpsichordists playing this formerly lost instrument and the celebrated repertoire written for it.

Our new instrument has two manuals (keyboards) with three sets of strings. The upper manual has a softer and more intimate sound to contrast with the fuller tone of the lower one. The lower manual can also pluck its main strings with leather, producing a soft haunting tone exclusive to the French builders, or it can add a set of higher strings for more clarity and play with both manuals for a full and joyous tone. The instrument has another special effect in which the strings can be dampened, producing a sound very much like a lute. It is painted in the colors popular during the height of the French baroque, with a green exterior and a bold red inner lid, highlighted in 23-karat gold.

My hope is that this instrument will be used often in worship, both as a solo instrument and in more authentically accompanying choral and instrumental music. Additionally, I would like to see it avail us of opportunities for concert offerings of diverse music, again both ensembles and fine soloists. And I hope this instrument will remain a focus of pride in our parish and in our shared music making.

**This instrument will be blessed and first used in worship on Sunday, April 9, Easter Sunday, both at the 8:15 Eucharist and for an extended prelude at the 10:30.**

*"One of the great joys of a church music program is the acquisition of a new instrument, and I am pleased to announce that we have gained a fantastic harpsichord for St. Margaret's."*

*-Gavin Craig*

*Thank You!* Please join me in thanking Regina for her generous and important donation, and I look forward to sharing its beauty with you all as we celebrate together Our Lord's Resurrection.







# Youth Spotlight

BY ELIZABETH PFEIFER

ASSISTANT TO THE RECTOR FOR YOUTH MINISTRY



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**Spring is here and EYC is having a spectacular 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 spent March talking about ways to get closer to God. But, first, we had to answer that very challenging question of: what does God look like? We discussed how God doesn't have a physical body and is not limited to one place or to our human understanding of a "being." But, because our language is limited in this understanding, we tend to put our human understanding (and therefore limits) on what God might look like. Each student was challenged with creating an image (person, animal, words, swirls, etc.) of what they think of when they think of God!

After we discussed what God might look like, youth group spent several weeks on how we talk to God (aka pray). We made elementary-school style prayer fortune tellers to prompt us to pray, we prayed in color with drawings or playdough, we walked a labyrinth, and finally we discussed prayer through worship when did compline together.

In between our big discussions, we played capture the flag, hide-n-seek, blind volleyball, brought our team spirit for an EYC Game night, and more.

**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 with dinner 6:30-7:00pm.**

**We would love to have your student join us!**



**EYC will meet as usual at the church on April 2nd from 5:00-6:30pm with dinner 6:30-7:00pm.**

- NO EYC on April 9th (Easter).
- EYC off-site for dinner (TBD location) on April 16th from 5-6:30pm.
- EYC as usual at the church on April 23rd, 30th, and May 7th from 5:00-6:30pm with dinner 6:30-7:00pm.



# Children's Ministry

childrensministry@saintmargarets.net

**BY JAMIE PETERS**

ASSISTANT TO THE RECTOR FOR CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES



It has been nice to welcome some warmer spring weather and as your family waits for Easter, I pray that you will be able to come together and focus on the real reason we celebrate this most joyous, wonderful time of year.

**Club 4-5** had their third meeting of the year on March 12th and we continued our study of Lent, particularly traditions that have been passed down. Students discussed that for many, fasting and prayer was one of those traditions. They learned that because of this, a monk created the first pretzel which became a Lenten treat. Students made their own "folded arms" pretzels out of clay to remind them of the importance of prayer and even snacked on some warm, soft pretzels!



We will continue **Sunday School classes from 9:30 to 10:15am**. This past month we had more fun at the Children's Craft Table at the Parish Breakfast making Holy Trinity Shamrocks. In Sunday School, students learned about why Alleluia is not said during Lent and they "Boxed Up" their own Alleluias to be opened on Easter Day. Students also discovered symbols typically seen during this time, like palm leaves and an empty tomb, and made their own Easter Story Snack Mix bags.



I would like to congratulate the following students and their families who completed the Holy Communion classes and received the Sacrament on March 26th: Taylor Grace Caterina, Aria Kindel, Serena Kindel, and Michael David Trawick

In April, we will have our last full month of Sunday School classes and welcome warmer weather. Mark your calendars for a few upcoming dates in Children's Ministry, and keep a lookout for emails with additional details:



- April 2 Palm Sunday: Children's Craft Table at the Parish Breakfast from 9:30-10:15am
- April 2 & April 30: Club 4-5 from 11:45am-1:00pm
- **April 9th on Easter Sunday: Easter Egg Hunt at 9:30am**
- June 19th-22nd: Vacation Bible School

**Spots are going fast! Sign up for VBS today!**

We will explore what it means to shine Jesus' light in everyday life and have an amazing week of fun and fellowship.

VBS is June 19-22 (9am-Noon) and is

open to students 4 years of age (as of 8/31/2023) to rising 5th grade. Questions or if you/your youth is interested in volunteering, contact Jamie at [childrensministry@saintmargarets.net](mailto:childrensministry@saintmargarets.net).

**[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)**

**Questions or if you are interested in volunteering, contact Jamie at [childrensministry@saintmargarets.net](mailto:childrensministry@saintmargarets.net).**

*Blessings,*

*Jamie*







# Parish Connection

BY TRACI SCOTT



ASSISTANT TO THE RECTOR FOR OUTREACH & PARISH CONNECTION

[connection@saintmargarets.net](mailto:connection@saintmargarets.net)



## Join us for StM 101 Class

Are you new to St. Margaret's or never been able to attend 101? This 2-part session of our newcomers class will take place April 23 & 30. 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 meet Traci Scott by the Welcome Center in the Narthex at 9:30am following the 8:15 service.

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## MOVIE SERIES CONTINUES

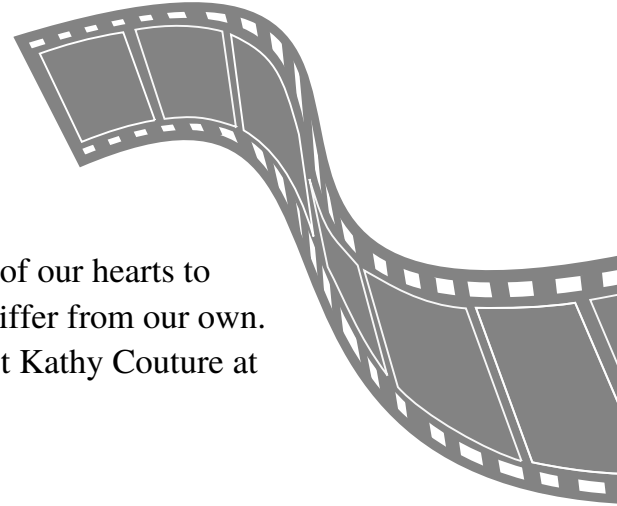
### April 14: *The Butler*

Only 3 movies remaining! 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](mailto:kcouture28105@gmail.com)

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

Schedule of movies: [CLICK HERE](#)

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*Interested in officially joining  
St. Margaret's to be included  
in our parish records?*

*Please contact Traci for details at  
[connection@saintmargarets.net](mailto:connection@saintmargarets.net)*

## THANK YOU!

Thank you to all who joined us for our  
**MONTHLY FELLOWSHIP BREAKFASTS**  
and to the dedicated kitchen volunteers who plan,  
prep, cook & serve our parish family.

*Be on the look out for more  
parish breakfasts & fellowship events  
to come.*



# Outreach



OPPORTUNITIES THIS SPRING



**Help needed with a teacher appreciation project at South Providence School in Waxhaw.** On 5/1, St. Margaret's Outreach will provide a snack bar for the teachers and staff at South Providence and we need a few volunteers to help with the logistics. Help needed with planning, shopping and set-up. Please email Traci if you'd like to learn more at [connection@saintmargarets.net](mailto:connection@saintmargarets.net)



**Want to help us assemble the Easter gift baskets for our neighbors?** On Thursday, 4/13 at 11am, we'll meet at the church to get them ready for delivery on Saturday. **Can you help?** If so, email Traci at [connection@saintmargarets.net](mailto:connection@saintmargarets.net) to let us know you'll be there.

**A HUGE thank you to all who donated to our gift baskets!** What a special way our parish has come together to spread a little love during this Easter season.



**Blood drive at St. Margaret's on 4/30 9am-1pm**

OneBlood will be on-site at St. Margaret's with 2 buses: one for traditional blood donations and the other for platelets. 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.

#### **DONOR SIGNUP LINK – WHOLE BLOOD**

[https://donor.oneblood.org/donor/schedules/drive\\_schedule/1296392](https://donor.oneblood.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/1296392)

#### **DONOR SIGNUP LINK – PLATELETS**

[https://donor.oneblood.org/donor/schedules/drive\\_schedule/1334995](https://donor.oneblood.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/1334995)



**Bridges Out of Poverty workshop being offered on 4/29.**

In January, Common Heart Executive Director, Keith Adams, introduced us to the Bridges Out of Poverty curriculum which helps to create better, more empowering, relationships between people with different life experiences. Keith will be leading the full-day Bridges workshop on Saturday, April 29th 8:45am-4:30pm at South Piedmont Community College in Monroe.

Cost is \$100 and includes lunch, snacks, Bridges Out of Poverty book and training materials. Click here for more information or to register for the Bridges Out of Poverty workshop.

<https://files.constantcontact.com/bfd897f8001/70b69d77-0bd5-44f5-bf9b-6d2abb2bf866.pdf>

#### **Cookies for Kairos is BACK!**

We are finally able to once again bake homemade cookies for our Kairos prison ministry group that is going into the Kershaw Correctional Facility May 9-12. Watch for the return of the cookie board in the Connector Hall and get ready to start baking!





# StM Snapshots



*Holy Communion Celebration Day*



*EYC*



*Father Todd walked to support the efforts of Common Heart*



*Team StM earned 2nd place for fundraising for Common Heart's Hunger Walk in Indian Trail.*





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+**  
dill@saintmargarets.net

#### 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 Outreach  
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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*



## April Calendar

- 4/2 Palm Sunday & Fellowship Breakfast
- 4/3 Monday of Holy Week Worship Service, 7 pm
- 4/4 Tuesday of Holy Week Worship Service, 7 pm
- 4/5 Wednesday of Holy Week Worship Service, 11 am
- 4/6 Maundy Thursday Service, 7 pm
- 4/6-7 Overnight Prayer Vigil
- 4/7 Good Friday Service, 12 noon
- 4/8 Easter Vigil, 8pm *\*with incense*
- 4/9 Easter Day, services at 8:15 am & \*10:30 am \*with incense**
- 4/10 Church Office Closed
- 4/10-13 Preschool/UCPS Spring Break
- 4/14 ECW Movie Series
- 4/15 DOK monthly meeting
- 4/15 Knots of Love meeting
- 4/18 Vestry Business Meeting, 7pm
- 4/30 Blood Drive

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