

MAGGIE'S CROSS



From the Rector

BY FATHER TODD R. DILL+

Praying for and Prayed for!

I really need your prayers. Whenever someone asks me if there is anything they can do for me, I usually ask for them to pray for me and for my family. There is nothing that I covet more, and I hope you know that as I ask for your constant prayers, I also set aside time to pray for you and your family and for the needs of this church. Nothing good ever begins without prayer, so a significant amount of my day consists of praying for the faithful members of this parish and for the needs of the world.

This is one of the reasons that the church calls us to be a people who gather. We gather for worship, we gather to pray, and we gather to support one another. Sometimes life is just hard, and one of the great gifts of the Church is that we are unapologetic about our need to be together, in the same place, at the same time. From the very first days, the followers of Jesus assembled with one another to love, support, and pray for each other, and to worship the Risen Lord. I write this today because I recently read a survey

which reports that only 15-20% of Christians in the West attend worship regularly. As you might imagine, this percentage is much lower than it has ever been in our country, and the pandemic has only accelerated these trends. Given our busy lives, and the myriad of choices that we all have on Sunday mornings, it has become increasingly evident that more and more people are choosing other activities on Sunday mornings. This new reality begs the question that the Church must help answer: *Is it really that big of a deal if I am not present for Sunday Mass?*

The short answer is yes. Your presence is needed because you are vitally important for the worship of this community. Not because Saint Margaret's needs higher attendance numbers, and not because we need a bigger budget. Your presence is needed because when we join for worship, we pray for each other, and we are prayed for by others. We stand as a community and proclaim our faith, and we kneel together, begging for God's forgiveness. We approach the altar side by side, realizing that none of us are worthy, yet each is still invited to receive this most Blessed Sacrament. When we stumble in our faith, we are surrounded by fellow followers of Jesus that will pick us up and support us until we can stand on the firm foundation of faith once again. When life becomes a struggle, even if no one else knows what you are going through, there is

*"O magnify the Lord with me,
And let us exalt His name
together."
Psalm 34*

someone in your pew who is praying with and for you. You need to be here with us because this church community is diminished when you are absent. We gather, worship, and pray together not solely out of obedience, but more importantly out of necessity. We are all part of one body, and you are a member of that body, with your Spirit given gifts.

As we enter the summer months, remember that the church will be open for worship every Sunday. I will continue to pray for you, and I hope that you will pray for me. I cannot wait to see you this Sunday, and I so look forward to being blessed by your prayers and your presence.

*O magnify the Lord with me,
And let us exalt His name together.
(Psalm 34)*

Your priest,

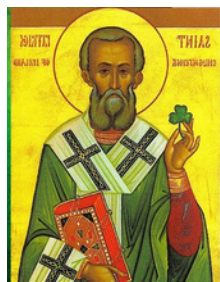
-Fr. Todd+

dill@saintmargarets.net



Notes from our Director of Music & Organist

BY GAVIN D. CRAIG



Armor into Poetry: St. Patrick's Breastplate



music@saintmargarets.net

Every time I've attended an ordination, installation, or any other service with clergy at liberty to select the hymns, there is one hymn invariably sung: "I bind unto myself today," also known as St. Patrick's Breastplate." Aside from the association with the Holy Trinity and a beloved saint, it is no doubt a favorite due to the stately and solemn tune by Irish composer Charles Stanford, paired with a text begging to be sung loudly and boldly. However, the term "breastplate" carries a more than connotative meaning, and the structure of this hymn is part of a long and familiar heritage in Celtic spirituality.

A lorica, or breastplate, is a genre of prayer from the Celtic monastic tradition. Through poetic recitations similar to a litany, the supplicant seeks God's protection. Sections of the prayer may relate at length God's characteristics, threats against the believer, or aspects of creation such as nature or the body - calling to mind the multiple parts in a suit of armor. Aside from "St. Patrick's Breastplate," another well-known prayer in this genre is in our hymnal as "Be thou my vision." Though our poetic translation is beautiful, even the words we know and love pale in comparison to the original sixteen stanzas, which call for God to be, among other things: vision, meditation, and speech; shield and sword, dignity and delight.

Though attributed as early as the fourth century, the earliest written sources for loricās come four or five centuries later. Legends say that St. Patrick recited this prayer as a missionary under threat from a pagan army, and that God disguised him as a deer to aid his escape. Though we have no firm evidence either way as to authorship, we know St. Patrick was a man of fervent prayer and strong faith, qualities reflected in the text.

The prayer opens with invocations of the Trinity, the life of Christ, and the communion of saints. It continues with an invocation of the natural world, and then poetically calls on God's attributes, including his eye, ear, and hand - again, characteristically anatomical references.

Christ with me,
Christ before me,
Christ behind me,
CHRIST IN ME. CHRIST OVER ME.
Christ to right of me,
CHRIST TO LEFT OF ME,
CHRIST IN LYING DOWN. CHRIST IN SITTING.
Christ in rising up, Christ in the heart
of every person who may think of me,
Christ in the mouth of every
person who may speak of me,
CHRIST IN EVERY EYE,
WHICH MAY LOOK ON ME!
CHRIST IN EVERY EAR. WHICH MAY HEAR ME!

- st. patrick's breastplate -

The next section, often omitted from hymnals, lists those things he seeks protection from: demons, vices, injury, spells, poison - warfare is on the writer's mind. Before closing with another call to the Trinity, the penultimate section of the prayer utilizes another common trope in loricās, namely the invocation of physical directions: "Christ before me, Christ behind me, Christ beneath me, Christ above me, Christ at my right, Christ at my left." As with "Be thou my vision," the classic translation in our hymnal leaves out much of the richness of the original, which is worth reading on Wikipedia.

The breastplate tradition firmly places us in the physical world, confessing the reality of God's presence and his readiness to assist us when we call upon him. If you are unfamiliar with this great hymn, I invite you to join in singing it at our service of Choral Evensong observing the Feast of the Trinity on Sunday, June 4 at 4:00pm. And I know anyone familiar with it will jump at the chance to sing boldly this and other favorite hymns at this beautiful service! So mark your calendars as we end our day with "Christ before us, Christ beside us."



Youth Spotlight

BY ELIZABETH PFEIFER

ASSISTANT TO THE RECTOR FOR YOUTH MINISTRY

pfeifer@saintmargarets.net



EYC finished up a wonderful year with our final meeting of the school year on May 7th and our annual beach retreat May 19th-21st. We had the most incredible youth group year with lots of learning, laughter, spiritual growth, resuming our weekly dinners, and hopefully a new friend or two!

We covered a lot of topics but our two main series for the year were: discussing what it means to “be the light” and how characteristics of Jesus such as him being intentional, conscientious, loving, and compassionate show us what “being the light” looks like. Then, to start off 2023, we spent several weeks looking at the ‘ordinary time’ stories of Jesus such as Jesus’ baptism, his miracles and teachings, and his interactions with disciples. We also had seasonal activities like a pumpkin gut scooping contest, activities for Advent and Lent, celebrating St. Francis of Assisi by baking homemade made pet treats, and several weeks celebrating Easter and how Jesus appeared to his disciples on that very first Easter. We had a lot of questions and not quite as many answers, but we learned quite a bit and each student was challenged to think about their own relationship with God.

Sunday nights over the summer won’t be the same without our weekly gatherings but we hope you have a fun, restful summer and we’ll see you on **August 27th for our fall kick off!**

Over the summer there will be periodic activities for the youth of St. Margaret’s: volunteer opportunities, grabbing food together, Carowinds, and more. Keep an eye on the bulletin, weekly parish e-mail announcements, and social media channels as information will be communicated through those outlets. Unless otherwise stated, rising 6th graders are welcome to join for all summer events. You can also sign up for EYC text updates by texting “stm youth1” to 43506 and reply “yes” to opt in.



Michael Culpeper, Appalachian

Lydia Ferguson, NC State

Ashlyn Goodwin, University of Delaware

Alexa Platé, NC State

Brian Plihcik, SCAD

Landen Shaafer, Appalachian

Rex Smith, South Carolina

Kip Sullivan, UNC- Chapel Hill

Jack Sullivan, Miami University (Ohio)

Hayden Ward, NC State

Graduate recognition is on Sun, June 4th at the 10:30am service.



Prayer For Young Persons

God our Father, you see your children growing up in an unsteady and confusing world: Show them that your ways give more life than the ways of the world, and that following you is better than chasing after selfish goals. Help them to take failure, not as a measure of their worth, but as a chance for a new start. Give them strength to hold their faith in you, and to keep alive their joy in your creation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

EYC Beach Trip

May 2023
Oak Island, NC



A record number of 38 youth traveled with Elizabeth Pfeifer and our dedicated EYC volunteers to Oak Island (May 19-21) for the Annual EYC Spring Beach Retreat.



Children's Ministry

childrensministry@saintmargarets.net

BY JAMIE PETERS

ASSISTANT TO THE RECTOR FOR CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES



It is hard to believe the school year is at an end and summer is here! I know a lot of us are starting to dream of days by the pool and having cookouts with family and friends. While the long summer days are upon us, let us remember to take time for God!

Sunday School classes officially wrapped up for the school year in May where students made their reminders of how they could take time this summer to Love Self, Love Neighbor, and Love God. Those have been the key areas that we have focused on this past year with our Love First curriculum. **Parents, thank you for sharing your precious children with us this past school year!**

Many thanks to the following ladies for their time, love, and dedication to the Children's Ministry as Sunday School teachers this year: *Catherine Chintala, Carolyn Dunand, Keri Collins, Laura Gregorovic, Page Hinton, Jenny Marlier, Crystal Sepulveda, Michelle Stephens, Kim Trawick, Sarah Whalen, and Christine Wilkins.*

Be sure to mark your calendars for these upcoming dates in Children's Ministry this summer:

- June 12th: VBS Workday with decorating from 10am-2pm (11am VBS Volunteer Training) *Only 1 training required
- June 13th: VBS Workday with decorating from 10am-2pm (1pm VBS Volunteer Training) *Only 1 training required
- June 17th: Playground Family Meet Up at Dogwood Park at 9:30am
- June 19th-22nd: Vacation Bible School from 9am-Noon
- July 15th: Playground Family Meet Up at the StM Playground at 9:30am
- August 19th: Playground Family Meet Up at the Blakeney Playground at 9:30am

Vacation Bible School will run Monday, June 19 - Thursday, June 22

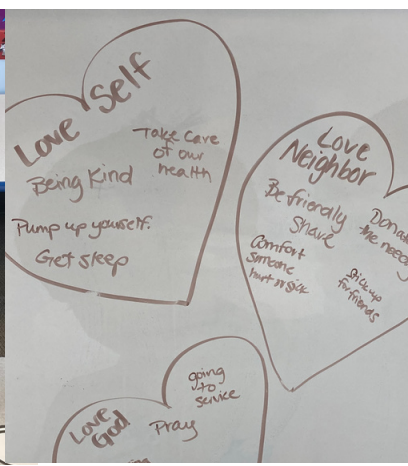


Thank you so much for the amazing response to VBS registration. We are so excited to explore what it means to shine Jesus' light in everyday life and have an amazing week of fun and fellowship. Be on the lookout for ways you can contribute to the success of VBS!

Have any questions? Please contact me at childrensministry@saintmargarets.net.

I hope you all have a happy, healthy, and fun summer!

Jamie





Parish Connection

connection@saintmargarets.net

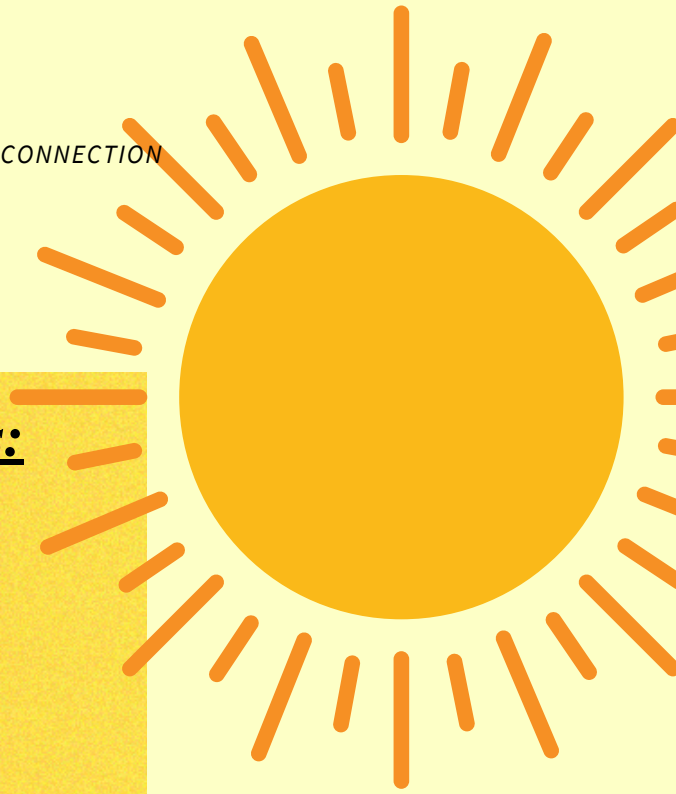
BY TRACI SCOTT

ASSISTANT TO THE RECTOR FOR OUTREACH & PARISH CONNECTION



Welcome new members:

Tara McLellan
Geneva Gilstrap
James & Carol Land
Rick & Page Ciordia
James & Ann Calandro



We have created a great menu of events this summer for parishioners to get to know each other better and discover new connections. There is something for everyone and we hope you'll join us

as often as you can. [Click here](#) to see the full flyer.

An RSVP is not required but appreciated so that we can plan for food, know who to look for at off-site locations and send updates with any last-minute changes. [RSVP by clicking here](#)



*Note: we have a new Sign Up Genius account with no more ads.
Please remember that we will never ask for your credit card via Sign Up Genius.*

Parish 40th Anniversary Celebration BBQ (Parish Hall)	June 4 after 10:30 svc
Playground Meet & Greet for Families (Dogwood Park)	June 10 at 9:30am
Brew Crew for Men (Parish Hall)	June 13 at 9:00am
Happy Hour for Men (DB's Tavern)	June 15 at 5:30pm
Community Kitchen Fellowship meal prep/delivery*	June 17 at 9am/11am
Holy Hikers for All Parishioners (Lower McAlpine Greenway)	June 17 at 9:30am
Pizza Pop-Up Social for All (Hawthorne's Pizza)	June 23 at 6:00pm
StMom's Group (Parish Hall) childcare available with RSVP	June 24 at 12:00pm



40th Anniversary BBQ Picnic

Sunday, June 4th at 11:45am
Parish Hall

Church will provide BBQ pork, beans,
slaw, chips, cookies & drinks.





StM SUMMER SESSIONS

Playground Meet & Greet

June 10 at Dogwood Park

hosted by Jamie Peters

Let the kids play while parents take some time to get to know each other better.

Brew Crew for Men

June 13 at 9:00am in the Parish Hall

Men of the Parish are invited to join Fr. Jay for coffee, breakfast snacks and conversation.

Happy Hour for Men

June 15 at 5:30pm at DB's Tavern

Men of the Parish are invited to meet at DB's for some fun and fellowship.

Look for Brian Scott on-site.

Holy Hikers

June 17 at 9:30am

led by Mick & Jenny Marlier

All are invited to hike the Lower McAlpine Greenway. Kids are welcome too!

Park in the lot to the left of Pike's Nursery in Ballantyne. The path entrance has an archway over it.

Pizza Pop-Up for all

June 23 at 6:00pm at Hawthorne's Pizza (8410 Rea Rd.)

Join your fellow parishioners on the patio for some fellowship while we enjoy some great local pizza.

**Each person will pay for their own food & drinks.*

Special invitation for mothers

Whether you are a young mom or a more "seasoned" mom, we invite you to join us on **Saturday, June 24th at 12:00pm** for the first gathering of our StMom's Group.

Surviving motherhood is hard and this group is forming to support the moms of our parish. The goal is to strengthen relationships, grow together in our faith and support one another through sharing & prayer. Join us to visit, share a meal and make a plan for future gatherings Lunch is \$10 and childcare will be provided if you RSVP. Please [CLICK HERE](#) to pay for lunch and let us know if you need childcare.

Outreach

BY TRACI SCOTT

ASSISTANT TO THE RECTOR FOR OUTREACH & PARISH CONNECTION



Community Kitchen Fellowship

Join StM's Community Kitchen Fellowship, *known as CKF*, for our monthly meal delivery on Saturday, June 17th.

Each month, this ministry of StM cooks & delivers over 60 meals to our Waxhaw neighbors in need. Please join us to help with this special ministry. Kids are welcome.



We need more help cooking in the kitchen at 9am. **CLICK HERE to help.** One more delivery driver is needed at 11am. **CLICK HERE to sign up.**





June Calendar

- 6/3-4 Troop 101 Annual BBQ fundraiser on the StM campus
- 6/4 Graduate Recognition Sunday at 10:30 service
- 6/4 Parish BBQ, *after the 10:30 service in the Parish Hall*
- 6/4 Evensong, 4:00 pm
- 6/10 Meeting for prospective DOK members, 10:00 am
- 6/10 Playground Meet & Greet for families at Dogwood Park. 9:30 am
- 6/12-13 VBS Volunteer Training & Workdays, 10:00 am
- 6/13 Brew Crew for Men - StM Parish Hall, 9:00 am
- 6/15 Happy Hour for Men (DB's Tavern) at 5:30pm
- 6/17 Community Kitchen Fellowship meal prep & delivery, 9:00 am/11:00 pm
- 6/17 Holy Hikers for All Parishioners (Lower McAlpine Greenway) 9:30am
- 6/19-22 VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**
- 6/23 Pizza Pop-Up Social for All (Hawthorne's Pizza) at 6:00pm
- 6/24 StMom's Group (Parish Hall) childcare available with RSVP, 12:00pm
- 6/27 Vestry Business Meeting, 7:00 pm
- 6/28-29 Clergy Conference in Winston Salem



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

KNOTS OF LOVE



Do you know we have a prayer shawl ministry?

Saint Margaret's is blessed with an active Knots of Love Ministry that regularly meets and creates beautiful prayer shawls for those who need comfort.

Shawls have been made for centuries to wrap, enfold, comfort, cover, give solace, hug, shelter and beautify.

A Knots of Love shawl is an outward and visible sign of God's loving embrace and parish prayers.

If you are interested in a prayer shawl for someone that could use some uplifting, please contact the church office.



*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+
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 Platé
preschool@saintmargarets.net

Assistant to the Rector for Finance & Accounting

Kathy Marakoff
finance@saintmargarets.net

Assistant to the Rector for Children's Ministry

Jamie Peters
childrensministry@saintmargarets.net

Assistant to the Rector for Outreach
& Parish Connection

Traci Scott
connection@saintmargarets.net

2023 Vestry

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