

MAGGIE'S CROSS



From the Rector

BY FATHER TODD R. DILL+

Keeping the Thing the Thing!

I know the title of this article probably seems a little strange, and it is. But this is a phrase that has recently come to me repeatedly, and I can't get it out of my head. Every time I put a meeting on my schedule, I hear in my headkeep the thing the thing. When I get ready to decide what to preach, I hear... keep the thing the thing. Thinking about a new ministry? Keep the thing the thing! What is this thing? And how in the world do I keep it?

The longer an organization exists, the harder it can become for that organization to keep its focus on its purpose, and churches are no different. There are so many ideas and hopes within our parish community, and it can be so easy to schedule an increasing number of activities that fill up the church calendar and our communal lives. The challenge is to keep intently centered on the reason for the church. **Why did God call us together, and what does Jesus want us, His disciples, to do?**

The very last words of the Gospel of Matthew give us that answer:

"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." (Mt 28: 19-20)

Jesus calls us together so that you and I will go into the world, proclaim Him as risen from the dead, and baptize all people while we obey His commands. That's it. That's the thing. That's what you and I are to spend our time and energy trying to faithfully do. It seems so simple, yet if we are being honest with ourselves, how much effort do we really give? I've noticed that within our own denomination, we spend so much time, energy, and resources on a variety of issues, but very little effort on proclaiming Christ in our culture. Those individual issues might be all wonderful causes, but they're not the thing! If the church is not primarily about spreading the good news; if it does not bring new people to the faith, then we have lost our way.

"Jesus calls us together so that you and I will go into the world, proclaim Him as risen from the dead, and baptize all people while we obey His commands. That's it. That's the thing."

I share all of this to say, at Saint Margaret's, we are going to keep the thing the thing. Following Jesus and proclaiming His kingdom will be our overwhelming focus, and everything we do will be measured in how it allows us to love Jesus more deeply and follow Him more faithfully.

This is not to say that causes are in and of themselves bad, but the primary function of the Church is to proclaim Jesus with our words and actions. It's keeping the thing the thing. You are going to hear this phrase a lot in the coming weeks and months, and you'll probably get tired of it. But it will help us keep focused on that which Jesus calls us to do.

We will go. We will make disciples. We will baptize. And we will obey the commands of Jesus.

We will keep the thing the thing.

-Fr. Todd+

dill@saintmargarets.net





Notes from our Director of Music & Organist

BY GAVIN D. CRAIG

music@saintmargarets.net

CHORAL MUSIC: A Living Tradition

Throughout the past two millennia, choral singing has been an indispensable part of Christian worship. Through music, members of the choir serve an essential role in the sacred liturgy, grow themselves in, and further the art of, church music, and provide an essential gift to others in the Church.

In the first years of Christianity, worship mimicked that of the Jewish Temple, in which Psalms were sung by trained priests. This grew into the body of plainchant, a beautiful tradition which was passed on by means of singing schools called “schola cantorum”. In fact, the development of this tradition is itself the story of Western music, laying foundations for any music we hear today. The singing of the choir represented the praises of the people, offering them with a beauty that was both a holy aspiration of a perfect offering to God, and an edifying reminder to the people of his own beauty.

The Protestant Reformation challenged these ancient models of music. The ideal of vernacular worship required some departure from the received tradition, just as novel theological concepts were spread through hymnody. As the Western Church splintered, national musical idioms began to emerge. The Lutheran Germans developed traditions of elaborate, sometimes dramatic, cantatas to convey biblical stories and expound on popular hymns, while the Anglicans gradually built up a repertoire built on scriptural texts and refined beauty of composition. In a time of patronage, music became a celebrated art, sponsored by ecclesial and political elites for the enrichment of the whole national society.

Our current model of choral worship is a relatively recent invention. The industrial revolution had a profound role on music in general, most notably with the rise of the middle class, who now sought to use music for a hobby for personal enrichment. This brought about the concept of an amateur musician, someone who engages in music out of a love for the craft. In the nineteenth century, the Church found a natural home for those who combined this love with their devotion to God. The last several generations of Christian musicians have voluntarily dedicated their time and energies in finding lessons in music making and blessing others through their work. In this way, choral music perhaps most truly becomes a “work of the people.”

I consider it a point of pride to join St. Margaret's in carrying on this ancient tradition of choral singing. If music is an important part of how you or your family live our faith, I invite you to join us in our choral ministries. Our Adult Choir rehearses each week on Wednesdays, 7:00-8:30pm, and is open to everyone, high school age and up. Children's Choir is appropriate for children reading at a second grade level or higher and also rehearses each Wednesday after school, singing approximately monthly. Both ensembles lead worship at the 10:30am Eucharist as scheduled. Our choirs are a great way for music lovers to serve the Church and deepen their faith and skills as they serve an important role in our community's worship. Reach out to me if you would like to find your place in this grand story of choral music!

Fall '23 rehearsals start:

- CHILDREN'S CHOIR: Wed, August 31 at 4:30
- ADULT CHOIR Wed, August 17 at 7pm





Youth Spotlight

BY ELIZABETH PFEIFER

ASSISTANT TO THE RECTOR FOR YOUTH MINISTRY

pfeifer@saintmargarets.net



EYC High School Dinner on Wed, Aug 16th!

Our EYC high school students, rising 9th-12th, are invited to dinner on Wed, August 16th. Meet at DeSano's in Waverly at 6:00pm. We'll share some large pizzas and then grab Haagen Dazs. Youth can be picked up near Haagen Dazs at 7:30pm. Please bring \$5 cash to contribute to the cost of pizza; the church will cover any additional costs and your ice cream.

*RSVP to Elizabeth (email or call/text 704-451-2968)
always appreciated but not necessary.*

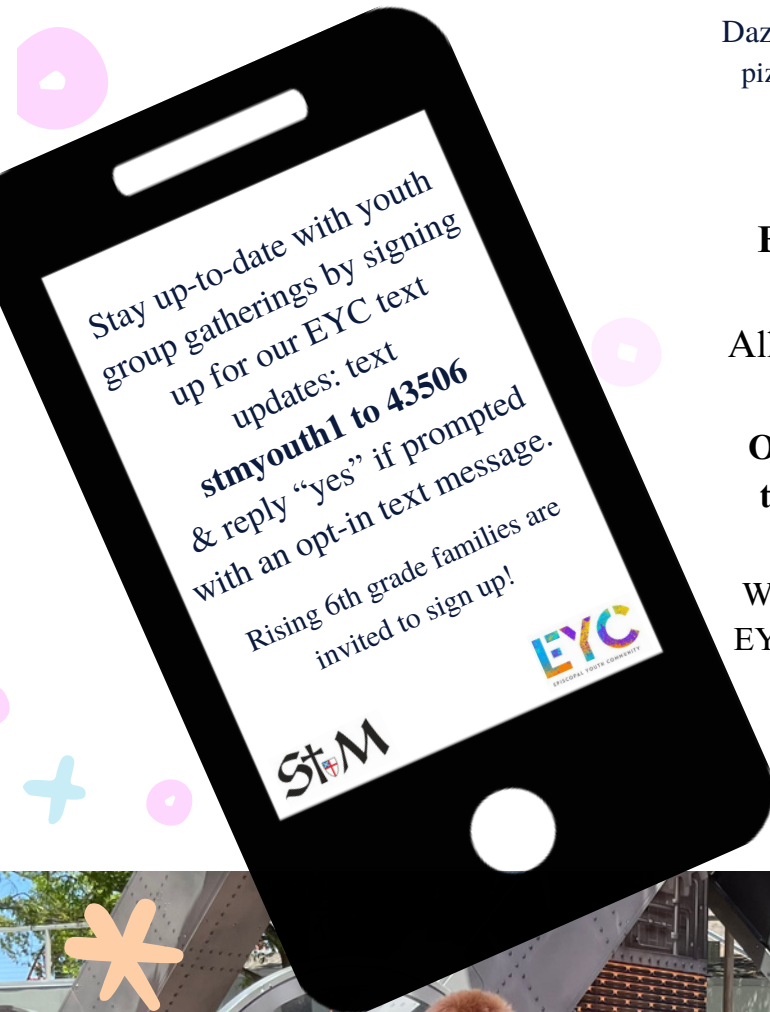
EYC will have our Fall 2023 Kick Off on August 27th from 5:00-6:30pm (no dinner served).

All 6th-12th graders are invited to our first meeting of the school year.

Our 6th graders are invited to a welcome gathering on the 27th at 4:30pm in the Parish Hall (older siblings welcome as well!).

We will welcome our group and go over what to expect at EYC for our newest members. Youth will then stay for our EYC kick off following the meeting.

Dinner is not served at our EYC Kick Off and parents may leave after dropping their student off.



Costa Rica Mission Trip 2023

In July, a team of 24 traveled to San Jose, Costa Rica to participate in a mission trip through our companion Diocese, the Diocese of Costa Rica. This was Saint Margaret's fifth trip to Costa Rica and it was wonderful to see our brothers and sisters in Christ after a four year hiatus!

The team spent their week at one of the two daycare/schools in San Jose that are run by the Diocese. They installed new ceilings in two classrooms, built and installed planters that will grow fresh herbs and small vegetables to be used in the school cafeteria, and painted a large area as you enter the school. Each morning we were greeted by a different group of students and were able to play games like musical chairs or an over-under balloon race. Games, smiles, and laughter transcend language barriers and the time spent with students in the morning, or playing a pick up game of soccer, was a highlight for many of our team members.

We spent our evenings eating delicious dinners prepared by the Diocesan kitchen staff, playing cards, getting to know one another, and we closed each day with Compline. Bishop Orlando Gomez was able to join us at the school most days and we had Eucharist with him on Thursday at the Diocesan house.

The team spent their weekend in Arenal and took in a lot of sights in the two days they were in the area! The team went ziplining and then smaller groups took off for additional activities such as hiking, river tubing, ATV-ing up the volcano, or resting at the hotel! It was a rainy weekend and the Arenal volcano was hidden for most of the time but gave the team a fantastic send off on Sunday morning as they headed home.

Thank you to our St. Margaret's family who prayed for us, bought Autobell car wash gift cards, ate pancakes, and supported our team in many other ways! The trip was incredible, and our group is grateful for the support we received as we served alongside of our brothers and sisters in Christ.



Fr. Todd with Bishop Gomez

*"Thank you to our
St. Margaret's family
who prayed for us,
bought Autobell car
wash gift cards, ate
pancakes, and
supported our team in
many other ways!"*





Children's Ministry

BY JAMIE PETERS

ASSISTANT TO THE RECTOR FOR CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

childrensministry@saintmargarets.net

“Train up a child in the way that he should go; when he is old he will not depart from it.”

It may be hard to believe with the sun shining bright, but it's almost back-to-school time! As I have started to plan for the upcoming Sunday School year, I have found myself looking at a piece of scripture in my office: **Proverbs 22:6** says, *“Train up a child in the way that he should go; when he is old he will not depart from it.”*

Sunday mornings for many young families can be a blur of chaos as you try to feed, clothe, and get everyone out of the house on time for church. My family included is not immune to this wonderful Sunday morning rush. To me personally, peace only comes when I am finally settled in the pews and can allow myself for a moment to breathe.

I came across an article published online on ***BuildingFaith.org*** by **Karen DeBoer**, who has written children's faith curriculum, where she wrote a letter to parents thanking them for bringing their children to church. She acknowledges in the article that she knows it's not easy. She even refers to it as “survival in the sanctuary.” For those of you who have been there, you know what she is referring to. The constant worry of “is my child making too much noise?” or “is my child too wiggly?” **Is it all worth the effort?**

Yes. Yes, it is worth the effort. One way children learn is by observing and you are giving them one of the greatest gifts by involving them in worship on Sunday mornings. Another way is to model by example. There will be plenty of adult offerings this upcoming fall during formation time where you can model active participation for your child(ren) while they attend Sunday School, if they are of age, or have fun being cared for by our amazing nursery caregivers.

Parenting is hard work. When we first started attending church regularly with our children, my husband Tyler and I were nervous, but Father Todd makes it clear that children are welcome and encouraged to be a part of the service each Sunday. Saint Margaret's welcomes the wiggles and giggles in the sanctuary. Bring your littles and let them hear the Gospel and come to the table for the Eucharist if they are baptized or a blessing.

To quote Karen from her article, *“Children learn by observing. But they learn even more by participating. So keep coming. Keep trying. We're glad you're here.”*

If you wish to read the article by Karen DeBoer, here is the link: **[Dear Parents: Thank You for Bringing Your Children to Church \(buildfaith.org\)](https://www.buildfaith.org/dear-parents-thank-you-for-bringing-your-children-to-church)**

“Father Todd makes it clear that children are welcome and encouraged to be a part of the service each Sunday. Saint Margaret's welcomes the wiggles and giggles in the sanctuary. Bring your littles and let them hear the Gospel and come to the table for the Eucharist if they are baptized or a blessing.”

Children's Ministry continued

childrensministry@saintmargarets.net

We are excited to offer Sunday School this year for children 4 years of age through 6th grade each Sunday starting on September 10th from 9:30 to 10:15am.

Our curriculum this year will continue with the Love First Project-Year 2, and students will engage in a variety of activities, read Bible stories, and do service projects.

Our lessons will

reflect Saint Margaret's Church mission: Love Jesus. Love your neighbor. Bless the World.

love first.

[CLICK THIS LINK](#) to register your child(ren) for Sunday School. This helps us greatly with planning activities and resources.

We are looking for volunteers to help teach classes and support this important ministry.

All volunteers will receive training and will teach in pairs 1-2 times per month.

All supplies and lesson plans will be provided, so our teachers can focus on the fun and meaningful part...

teaching our kids!



Mark your calendars for these upcoming dates:

- **August 6th:** Parish Breakfast with Children's Craft Table *at 9:30am*
- **August 19th:** Playground Family Meet Up at the StM Playground at 9:30am
- **August 27th:** Red Door Welcome & Blessing of the Backpacks at the 8:15am and 10:30am services
- **September 3rd:** Parish Breakfast with Children's Craft Table *at 9:30am*
- **September 10th:** Sunday School starts *9:30-10:15am*
- **September 10th:** Club 4-5 *11:45am-1:00pm*



Saint Margaret's Episcopal Church
Blessing of the Backpacks!

**JOIN US ON SUNDAY, AUGUST 27TH AS WE
BLESS BACKPACKS, BRIEFCASES, AND
WORKBAGS FOR STUDENTS OF ALL AGES!**

**BLESSINGS WILL BE DURING THE
8:15AM AND 10:30AM SERVICES.**





Parish Connection

connection@saintmargarets.net

BY TRACI SCOTT

ASSISTANT TO THE RECTOR
FOR OUTREACH & PARISH CONNECTION

Pizza Pop-Up Social for All (Desano's in Waverly)	Aug 4 at 6:00pm
Parish Breakfast (Parish Hall)	Aug 6 - 9:15am-10:15am
Holy Hikers for All Parishioners (Nesbit Park)	Aug 12 at 9:30am
Newcomer Lunch (Parish Hall)	Aug 13 after 10:30am svc
Brew Crew for Men (Parish Hall)	Aug 15 at 9:00am
Happy Hour for Men (DB's Tavern)	Aug 17 at 5:30pm
Playground Meet & Greet for Families (Blakeney playground)	Aug 19 at 9:30am
Community Kitchen Fellowship meal prep/delivery*	Aug 19 at 9am/11am
StMom's Group (Parish Hall) childcare available with RSVP	Aug 26 at 12:00pm

AUGUST

Our Summer Sessions have been a success in bringing parishioners together to forge new relationships!

We hope you'll join us in August for the remaining events on our schedule.

Sign-ups are appreciated for planning, but not required: [CLICK HERE to sign up.](#)



Pizza Pop-Up for all

Friday, Aug 4 from 6:00-7:30pm at DeSano's Pizza in Waverly (7315 Waverly Walk Ave) Order your food & drinks inside and then join us on the covered patio.



Holy Hikers

Saturday, Aug 12 at 9:30am led by David Rourke

All are invited to explore the trails with us at Nesbit Park in Waxhaw. Kids are welcome too! Gather at the beginning of the Twelve Mile Creek Greenway in Nesbit Park (1304 H.C. Nesbit Park Dr, Waxhaw)



Newcomer Meet & Greet

Sunday August 13th between services (9:30-10:15am)

Coffee and conversation in the Parish Hall.

Whether you're new to StM or just want to meet some of the new faces in our congregation, you're welcome to join us.



Brew Crew for Men

Aug 15 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

Aug 17 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.



Playground Meet & Greet

Aug 19 at 9:30am at the StM playground. Hosted by Jamie Peters.

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



Special invitation for mothers: whether you are a young mom or a more "seasoned" mom, we invite you to join us on Saturday, August 26 at 12:00pm for the second 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 \$12. **Please [CLICK HERE to register & pay for lunch.](#)**



StM MONTHLY FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST

REMINDER:

MONTHLY FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST
SUNDAY, AUGUST 6TH

9:30- 10:15

**JOIN US IN THE PARISH HALL FOR FELLOWSHIP &
PANCAKES, FRUIT, COFFEE & THE PARISH
FAVORITE...BACON!**

SUGGESTED DONATION \$5 PER PERSON/\$20 PER FAMILY

INTERESTED IN HELPING?

NO KITCHEN EXPERIENCE IS NECESSARY.

MEN & WOMEN ARE ENCOURAGED TO VOLUNTEER.

[CLICK THIS LINK](#) to volunteer for an upcoming month.





BY TRACI SCOTT

ASSISTANT TO THE RECTOR FOR OUTREACH & PARISH CONNECTION

Desserts are needed for our next monthly CKF meal on Saturday August 19th. If you are able to help bake for this, please [CLICK HERE](#) to sign up. Harold & Sina Reid recently hosted lunch in their home for the neighbors that they have been delivering our monthly CKF meals to for several years. Sina says they had a lovely meal, shared stories and even played a fun game of bingo! This is what loving your neighbor is all about.

The annual Back2School Bash is happening on August 13th in Indian Trail. This annual event is meant to provide Union County students with needed school supplies, as well as new socks and shoes. The goal is to serve 1,500 students this year and we encourage StM parishioners to support their effort either by donating funds or volunteering. We will not be doing a school supply collection at StM this year so, this is a great way for you to support local students in need. You can find out more information here: <https://unioncountyb2sb.org/>

Common Heart Bridges Out of Poverty workshop on August 19th. Bridges is the framework for everything they do at Common Heart. This training provides an understanding of the hidden rules for individuals in poverty, middle class, and wealth, with the goal of providing avenues of success for all. This is a great follow-up & expansion to the classes that Keith Adams taught at StM this past winter. See it here by [CLICK THIS LINK](#) for more information and insight on this program.

Thank you parishioners for re-stocking the toiletry pantry at South Providence School so that students can get the personal items they need. Thank you Anna & Emily Chintala for delivering the items!

BLOOD DRIVE

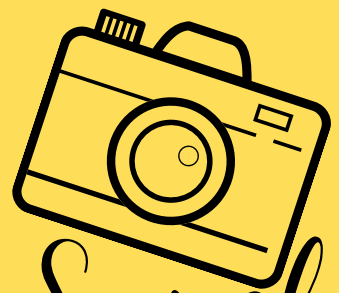
Sunday, August 27th
[DONOR SIGNUP LINK HERE](#)

**whole blood or double red blood cell appointments
can be made with the link above.*



Mary Brown and Flat Maggie enjoyed the beach this summer!

StM Summer Snapshots



Costa Rica Mission work



Costa Rica Mission work



Costa Rica Mission Team dinner at the Diocesan House



StMom's Summer Session Playgroup



August Calendar

- 8/4 Pizza Pop-Up Social for All at Desano's in Waverly, 6:00 pm
- 8/6 Parish Breakfast (Parish Hall), 9:15 am – 10:15 am
- 8/12 Holy Hikers for All at Nesbit Park, 9:30 am
- 8/12 DOK summer luncheon meeting
- 8/13 Newcomer Meet & Greet, following the 8:45 service
- 8/15 Brew Crew for Men in the Parish Hall, 9:00 am
- 8/15 Feast Day of the Blessed Mary, 5:30pm
- 8/17 Happy Hour for Men at DB's Tavern, 5:30 pm
- 8/19 Playground Meet & Greet for Families at StM playground, 9:30 am
- 8/19 CKF: Community Kitchen Fellowship meal prep & deliver day
- 8/26 StMom's Group (Parish Hall), 12:00 pm

8/27 RED DOOR WELCOME:

- Fall Christian Formation KICK OFF DAY
- Blessing of the Backpacks
- EYC kick off, 5-6:30
- Blood Drive



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

SAVE THE DATE: Campus Clean Up Day, Saturday, 9/9



All hands on deck needed at StM on Sat, Sept. 9th for a

Campus Clean Up Day.

We have a variety of projects that will be assigned to groups to complete that day. We are specifically looking for people who have trucks, power washers, and chainsaws they can operate to help with specific needs. We're planning to work from 9:30 am to 4 pm and will offer coffee, snacks and lunch. Please come for all or some of the time. Please mark your calendars now and & [CLICK THIS LINK](#) for more details on how you can help.

Can't make it to help that day?

Please [DONATE HERE](#) with this QR code. This financial support will allow for outside vendors to be hired to help complete these needed jobs: painting inside walls, power washing needs around the campus, tree removal-small construction projects, memorial garden maintenance, playground cleaning & upgrading, interior repairs & deep cleaning.



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
Josh Ward
Emily Nelson
Tom Washington
David Feldser, Treasurer