

MAGGIE'S CROSS



From the Rector

BY FATHER TODD R. DILL+

Let's not miss this moment!

Every so often, one gets a moment of clarity when you are reminded of how blessed your life is. It can be a simple blessing; the sound of a healthy child laughing in delight, the wag of the tail of a dog, or perhaps the smell of a cup of coffee in the morning as you awake and give thanks for the beginning of a new day. At other times, it's a revelation of something bigger, something amazing, that can make you stop and realize what wonderful gifts God has blessed you with.

This past Sunday, I experienced one of these epiphanies. At the 10:30 service, when I asked the children and youth to join me up front in the worship space for the blessing of the backpacks, I could not imagine the throng of young people that was to come forward. As I turned and watched everyone rise from their pews, I was overcome with pure joy as our young people approached the altar

Later that night, at the first fall gathering of our youth group, I walked in and saw 77 young people gathered. Elizabeth and our faithful volunteers were beginning a new academic year with these students, and the excitement in the room was incredible to see. As I went home that night and said my evening prayers, I gave thanks to our Lord for all the moments of the day. From the smell of my morning coffee to the grand excitement and reverence of the liturgy, to the sight of our youth group, I was reminded how blessed life is at Saint Margaret's.

I share all of this with you because I do not want us to miss this moment. It can be so easy for us to take things for granted, and I don't want this moment to pass us by without acknowledging the wonderful blessings of this parish. We are blessed with faithful people who engage in reverent, Jesus-centered worship. Our young families are diligent in bringing up their young ones in the faith, teaching their children the stories of Jesus. Our youth program is overflowing, due in large part to the faithful leadership of Elizabeth and her tireless team of volunteers as well as the continuing commitment of the parents of our parish. I am so thankful for all of you, and for the manifold blessings of the entire Saint Margaret's parish family.

Given these blessings, I want us each to consider our response. I want to challenge each one of us to not let this moment pass us by without contemplating what we might do to help this parish family continue to flourish. First, let us give thanks. Second, let us increase our efforts to not just maintain the good happening in this parish, but to give more support and more effort to our spiritual life together. What we know is that being a disciple of Jesus is to pursue life, and this journey with Jesus is the most important endeavor we will ever embark on. Let us pray for God to continue the good things begun at this parish. Let us commit more deeply to regular worship together. Let us be generous with our unique spiritual gifts, our financial support of our shared ministry, and our practice of prayer, that we might continue to help build the Kingdom of Jesus on earth, as it is in heaven.

Almighty God, look mercifully upon the world which thou hast redeemed by the blood of thy dear Son, and incline the hearts of many to dedicate themselves to the sacred ministry of thy Church; through the same thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (1928 BCP)

-Fr. Todd+

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Notes from our Director of Music & Organist

BY GAVIN D. CRAIG

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Hildegard of Bingen, Patroness of Music

Hildegard of Bingen was canonized as a saint and Doctor of the Church by Pope Benedict XVI on May 10, 2012. This was the culmination of a long recognition of her extraordinary monastic life in the twelfth century. As a scholar, musician, and saint, she reached a level of lasting fame and accomplishment that drives her continued veneration today.

Born in Germany at the end of the eleventh century, Hildegard entered monastic life at a young age. Throughout her life, she experienced frequent visions which bestowed moral teachings and revelations about the nature of God and the universe. These visions, as well as her dedication to the science of the age, gained her great renown among all classes of people. Her studies of the natural world and of medicine brought about early herbal and anatomical insights, while also being well-versed in the theories of "humors" and contemporary superstitions. She exchanged letters with popes, emperors, and saints, as an advisor as well as occasionally a political adversary. Around 1150, she left the abbey she joined as a child, and later led, and started a new abbey in Bingen, where her fame and influence increased.

Hildegard's knowledge and curiosity applied equally to the study of music. She was prolific not only as a poet of new religious texts, but also as a composer of music for those texts. Her poems evoke the natural world and are deeply emotional in tenor, while her music is wildly progressive. The music resembles Gregorian chant only in that it had a single unaccompanied melody with free rhythm. Hildegard cast aside the rules for melodic writing which dominated at the time, requiring an astonishingly large vocal range and involving runs of up to 50 notes on a syllable, calling to mind the unintelligibility of her visions. Hildegard is among the earliest known composers, writing at the end of the historical norm of composers being anonymous. Though her music came to be a niche curiosity of the medieval era, she continues to have a lasting place in music history.

In recent decades, Hildegard has been championed by strikingly diverse groups. She has endured as a model of personal holiness and of the union of the intellect and the orthodox Christian faith. Yet she also attracted the interest of the new age movement due to her mysticism and unorthodox science. And her bold place in history, as a recognized female polymath during the medieval era, made her a favorite figure among advocates for women's rights. Whatever one's perspective, Hildegard endures as a compelling figure and richly continues to earn the admiration of many.

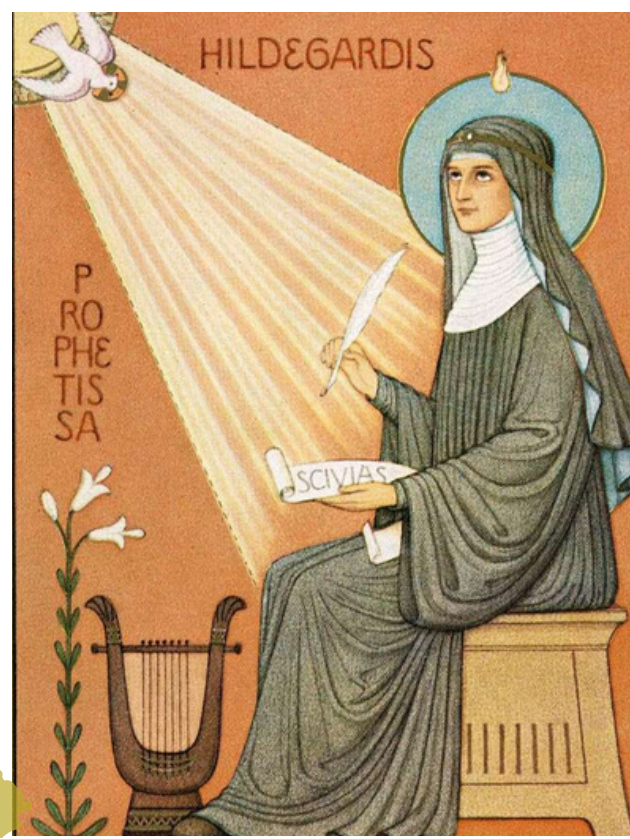
We will observe the feast of St. Hildegard of Bingen on Sunday, September 17, with a service of Choral Evensong at 4:00pm. *The Parish Choir will lead music by modern female composers, as well as a motet with a text by Hildegard's contemporary, St. Bernard of Clairvaux. Refreshments will follow in the connector hallway.*

Join us in celebrating this great saint and patroness of music with a beautiful service of prayer, scripture, and song!



*O Eternal God,
now may it please you
to burn in love
so that we become the limbs
fashioned in the love you felt
when you begot your Son
at the first dawn
before all creation.*

*And consider this need which falls upon us,
take it from us for the sake of your Son,
and lead us to the joy of your salvation.*





Youth Spotlight

BY ELIZABETH PFEIFER

ASSISTANT TO THE RECTOR FOR YOUTH MINISTRY

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EYC has record breaking start!

EYC had our Fall 2023 Kick Off on August 27th. We had a record-breaking 77 students attend our kick off and we were we thrilled to see so many students: those we know well and those new to our group that we will get to know!

At our gathering, we introduced our 6th graders and new members to EYC and our love of silly games, icebreakers, God, candy, and a decent amount of laughter and a fair amount of noise. If your youth was not able to make it to our first meeting, we hope they will join us at one of our next gatherings.



In addition to our field games and get-to-know you icebreakers, EYC will spend our first few meetings discussing what it means to be a disciple. Our guiding verse this semester is Jesus' call to his disciples to "Go and make disciples of all nations" at the end Matthew (28:19) but before we can do that, we have to know what it means to be a disciple.

EYC will meet on the following Sundays for the remainder of September: 10th, 17th, and 24th. EYC meets from 5:00-6:30pm with dinner 6:30-7:00pm. All 6th-12th graders, and friends, are welcome!

Stay up-to-date with youth group gatherings by signing up for our EYC text updates: text **stmyouth1 to 43506** & reply "yes" if prompted with an opt-in text message.

Rising 6th grade families are invited to sign up!



Retreat Save the Date:

Our EYC Fall Retreat will be Sat-Sun, Oct 21-22 at Bethelwoods Camp in York, SC. This retreat will be for all 6th-12th graders and we will stay overnight at camp. More information out in late September.



Children's Ministry

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BY JAMIE PETERS

ASSISTANT TO THE RECTOR FOR CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

What a wonderful sight it was to see so many at our annual Blessing of the Backpacks on Sunday, August 27th! At both services, blessings were given to students of all ages, along with our commissioning and blessing of Sunday School teachers, EYC volunteers, and StM Preschool teachers.

The new school year is upon us and have you registered for Sunday School yet?

We are currently building our classroom rosters and stocking our supply closets so please help us to adequately prep by registering your child(ren). Registration is helpful to the church office as it allows for us to accurately assign classrooms, buy supplies, and gives parents the opportunity to alert the Children's Ministry staff to any pertinent information on your child and any special accommodations needed. **Click here to register for Sunday School**

Sunday School is offered weekly from 9:30-10:15am for children 4 years of age through 6th grade starting on September 10th. We have an exciting year of programming planned, and we would love to welcome your child(ren) each Sunday morning! Our lessons will continue with Year 2 of the Love First Project curriculum, and we will continue to focus on what it means to love God, love one another, and love ourselves.

Have you also heard the buzz about the nursery? There are NEW fall hours! The nursery is now open for our littlest parishioners from **8am to noon each Sunday** morning with two professional caregivers.

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

- **September 3rd: Parish Breakfast with Children's Craft Table at 9:15am**
- **September 10th: Sunday School starts 9:30-10:15am**
- **September 10th: Club 4-5 11:45am-1:00pm**
- **October 1st: Parish Breakfast with Children's Craft Table at 9:15am**
- **October 8th: Club 4-5 11:45am-1:00pm**
- **Oct. 8th, 15th, & 22nd: Fall Holy Communion Classes (*Registration Coming Soon*) 9:30-10:15am**
- **October 29th: Holy Communion Celebration at 10:30am service**

I am looking forward to an exciting fall together as we continue to grow in Christ and serve Him.
Blessings, Jamie





Parish Connection

BY TRACI SCOTT

ASSISTANT TO THE RECTOR
FOR OUTREACH & PARISH CONNECTION

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StM Foyer Groups are back! Want to get to know your fellow parishioners and build relationships in a small group setting? Sign up for a Foyer Group! These are groups of 6-8 parishioners that get together to share food, fun and conversation each month. Hosting duties rotate and you can meet in each other's homes, restaurants, have a picnic, etc. The idea is to bring people together for Christian fellowship outside of our normal worship service. Foyers will meet October through May. If you are already in a Foyer Group, you are free to continue with that group this year.

[CLICK HERE for more details.](#) Deadline to sign up is September 24th.

Click here to sign up: <https://stm.breezechms.com/form/foyer>

Questions, please contact Traci at connection@saintmargarets.net

Our monthly free movie series is returning for season 2!

This year, the focus will be on homelessness. Understanding the complexity of the problem, its causes and solutions is an issue we cannot afford to ignore.

Dates: The 2nd Friday each month from October 13, 2023 – May 10, 2024

Time: 9:00am – Noon (Movies start promptly at 9:15)

Location: St. Margaret's Youth Room (please park in the rear of the building)

Guests are welcome! **RSVP here** for the movie(s) you plan to attend.

Full schedule of movies: <https://files.constantcontact.com/94b1917b001/3a344cb6-1f1f-4e27-9fe0-dd36480cfe8f.pdf>

Our "Summer Sessions" were a big hit and we loved having ways to stay connected during the summer months.

The men's **Brew Crew** will continue to meet on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 9:15am (9/19, 10/17, 11/21, 12/19) and our **StMom's** Group will continue to meet on Saturdays this fall (dates TBA).

Please also check out our full calendar on our weekly announcements and in the Sunday bulletin for more opportunities to engage in the life of our parish.

Fall Fellowship Night on Fri, September 8th

Join Father Todd and the StM Staff at the Waxhaw Tap House tomorrow, Friday, Sept 8th, from 6:00-8:00pm for a fall fellowship night and Buy Your Priest a Beer Night (it's a real thing, we promise!). Families are welcome! You are welcome to grab a takeout or food truck dinner and join your parish family on the rear covered patio as we toast to a great fall season. Waxhaw Tap House serves non-alcoholic beverages, beer, and wine.



Welcome new members:

Alex & Jenn Thomas and daughter Natalie



StM MONTHLY FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST

REMINDER:

MONTHLY FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 3RD

9:15- 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.



Outreach

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BY TRACI SCOTT

ASSISTANT TO THE RECTOR FOR OUTREACH & PARISH CONNECTION

THANK YOU to all who donated to the welcome back gift bags for the teachers and staff at South Providence School. A special thank you to Christine Wilkins, Stacey Swanson, Beth Klepar & Susan Norwood for assembling and delivering all of the goodies! The teachers were so appreciative of the support and encouragement they feel from our parish and community.

Monthly Meal Delivery

One more driver needed on Saturday, September 16th at 11:00am to help deliver meals to our Waxhaw neighbors in need. It will only take you about 1 hour to deliver to 4 homes in the Waxhaw area. If you need a partner to ride with, please let us know.

We also need one more person to help prep the meal as well as someone to shop for the groceries (you'll be reimbursed.).

Questions, please email Traci at connection@saintmargarets.net

Sign up to help using these links:

DELIVERY: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0f4eaba7283-delivery#/>

COOKING or SHOPPING: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0f4eaba7283-cooking#/>

Shelter meal on Tuesday, September 26th

Throughout the year, St. Margaret's volunteers prepare and serve meals at the Community Shelter of Union County together. Our next date is coming up on September 26th. We'll cook in the StM kitchen at 1pm and serve at the Shelter in Monroe at 5:30pm. We need a few more volunteers to shop for groceries and to help cook.

If you are able to help, please sign up here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0f4eaba7283-2023#/>

Questions, please contact Karen Schaphorst at karen@schaphorst.com or Traci at connection@saintmargarets.net





Commissioning of Teachers, 8/27/23 10:30 service

September Calendar

- 9/3 Camino de Santiago/Spain Trip Interest Meeting with Father Todd after the 8:15 service in the Youth Room
- 9/3 Monthly Parish Breakfast, 9:15 – 10:15 in the parish hall
- 9/4 Church Office closed for Labor Day
- 9/8 Social gathering at Waxhaw Tap House, 6:00 pm
- 9/9 DOK Meeting, 9:00 am in the church
- 9/9 StM Campus Clean Up Day, 9:00 am – 4:00 pm
- 9/11 Prayer Group with Father Todd, 9:30 am
- 9/14 Prayer Group with Father Todd, 11:30 am
- 9/14 Feast Day of the Holy Cross, Mass at 5:30 pm
- 9/15 FUNERAL for Richard Marczyk, 11:00 am
- 9/16 CKF: Meal Cooking & Delivery, 9:00 am & 11:00 am
- 9/16 FUNERAL for James Land, 1:30 pm
- 9/17 Evensong, 4:00 pm - followed by refreshments in the Connector Hall
- 9/19 Brew Crew men's coffee, 9:15 in the Parish Hall
- 9/29 Feast of St. Michael, Mass at 5:30 pm



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



TEAM UP to CLEAN UP

9/9/23



CHURCH WORKDAY

Campus Clean Up Day is Saturday, 9/9.
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.

[CLICK THIS LINK](#)

for more details on how you can help.

Can't make it to physically help?... consider supporting our efforts with your donation.

You can **[DONATE HERE](#)** now.

This financial support will allow for outside vendors to be hired to help complete jobs that need attention.



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 Outreach & Parish Connection

Traci Scott
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2023 Vestry

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