

MAGGIE'S CROSS



From Our Rector **Mustard Seed Faith**

One of the things I love most about our parish is its faithfulness in attendance at worship. In the fifteen years I have been rector, it warms my heart to see families together, week after week, coming together in community to worship the Risen Lord. Our worship is reverent, intentional, and centered on God, and I am so thankful that so many prioritize our Sunday gatherings of thanksgiving. There is nothing more important than centering our lives on Jesus, and the primary way Christians do this is through meaningful and regular Sunday worship.

Sustaining this commitment can be so very difficult. Life gets busier, and our schedules can become so full of so many activities. Sports, plays, vacations, band performances, etc.-the list can go on and on. Each activity is important, and it is worth our time and energy to take part in these various commitments. Additionally, the pace of life seems so frantic that every now and then we just need a

break and a day of rest. There really is nothing wrong with that. But I want to encourage you during all the hurriedness and craziness; as you make decisions on how you spend your time, endeavor to come to church just a little bit more. A little bit more can make a huge difference in your life!

Matthew recorded a conversation Jesus had with His disciples in which He said, "Truly I tell you, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you." A little faith, a bit more commitment, and yes, more time in worship, can have a huge impact on you and your family. When one commits to more regular worship, the words of Jesus, and His Blessed Sacrament infect our hearts and cleanse our souls. The regular bonding of us to Him at His Holy Altar cannot be captured on livestream, nor can it be experienced on the golf course. Like any relationship, it is only through regular and intentional quality time together that bonds are forged and affections are deepened. If one wants a closer relationship with Jesus, then one of the primary ways to that closeness is through the commitment of time and energy to the relationship.

We are quickly approaching the season of Advent, which marks the beginning of the Church year. Perhaps this might

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be a time where you and your family strive to come to church just a little more often. Instead of once a month, perhaps you might come twice. If you come twice a month, maybe you attend worship every week for the season of Advent. I believe that if you try this for a season, you might be surprised at what you experience. Christmas Day will be different, and the centering of one's life on Jesus becomes deeper.

So, I want to encourage all of us. A little bit of faith can make a huge impact. Small changes in our decisions can have a profound effect on us and those around us. There is nothing more important in our lives than our relationship with our Savior. Draw closer to Him in worship, and see the wonders that await you.

Your priest,

Fr. Todd

dill@saintmargarets.net





Youth Spotlight

pfeifer@saintmargarets.net

BY ELIZABETH PFEIFER

ASSISTANT TO THE RECTOR FOR YOUTH MINISTRY



Our StM youth group had a wonderful October and we are looking forward to our weekly meetings continuing now through Thanksgiving. We had a very busy October and squeezed every drop of fun out of this five-weekend month. We played field games, discussed the impact a disciple can have on the world through their words and actions, played team Catchphrase, heard from a Panthers player who lives his faith out loud, had an inaugural fire in our newly built firepit, made Disciple Superhero capes, and more!

Our group spent a beautiful fall weekend at Bethelwoods Camp in York, SC. Our group was challenged to learn names and work together with several team-building exercises designed to develop communication and problem solving followed by archery and canoeing! The group spent the remainder of the day playing pick-up football or basketball, lots of volleyball, and made their own fun by a campfire, playing games, dancing, and more. We introduced our newest members to Compline and Morning Prayer and gave thanks over and over again for a picture-perfect fall day.

We would love to have your student join us at a meeting soon! All 6th-12th graders (and their friends) are welcome at our gatherings. EYC will meet for the first three weeks of November: Nov 5, Nov 12, and Nov 19 from 5:00-6:30pm with dinner 6:30-7:00pm. There will be no EYC on Nov 26th due to the Thanksgiving holiday. When joining us for youth group, please enter from Crane Rd. and use the double glass doors by the playground.



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.

StM



EYC Fall Retreat, Bethelwoods Camp in York, SC.



ST. MARGARET'S
EYC MISSION TRIP
SUMMER 2024

**SUN-SAT,
JUNE 16-22**

We will be serving in the
Gatlinburg/Pigeon Forge
area of Tennessee.

Trip is open to students
currently in 8th-12th grade.
Est cost is \$500. More info
out in January 2024.

MORE INFO:
[HTTPS://WWW.TEAMEFFORT.ORG/
GATLINBURG-TN](https://www.teameffort.org/gatlinburg-tn)

**SAVE
THE
DATE**



Children's Ministry

BY JAMIE PETERS

ASSISTANT TO THE RECTOR FOR CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

childrensministry@saintmargarets.net

love first

It is hard to believe that November is already here. May this be a month to remind us all to be thankful for the many positive things and blessings in our lives and pray for those in need. Our children's Sunday School wrapped up their first **Love First** unit of the year this past month with Love Self. The children learned a lot about self-love and love from their family and friends. We spent time learning about Moses, specifically the *Call of Moses*, and having some fun with crafts. This month we will turn our attention to being thankful.

This past month the StM's Children's Sunday School also helped with a food drive for the Common Heart Great Turkey Countdown. Thank you to Keith Adams, parishioner and Executive Director of Common Heart, for speaking with our students about the organization and how this particular drive does amazing work in the community. We were able to collect hundreds of pounds of food and donate to help support the community in need.

Our 4th and 5th graders enjoyed another great Club 4-5 meeting in October. We painted pumpkins and discussed how we can shine our light in the world, just like Jesus! We would love to welcome some more 4th and 5th graders to this awesome group, so mark your calendars for our next meeting on Nov. 12th, from 11:45am - 1:00pm.

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

- **November 5th:** *Parish Breakfast with Children's Craft Table at 9:15am*
- **November 12th:** *Club, 4-5 11:45am-1:00pm*
- **December 2nd:** *Annual Saint Nicholas Festival, 4:30-6:30pm *Dinner will be offered.*
- **December 3rd:** *Parish Breakfast with Children's Craft Table at 9:15am*
- **December 10th:** *Club 4-5, 11:45am-1:00pm*
- **December 24th:** *Children's Christmas Pageant at the 5pm service*



Congratulations to the following students and their families who completed our fall Holy Communion classes and received the Sacrament on October 29th: *Mara Isabelle Giuffre, Noah Clark Giuffre, Emily Caitlin Reidway, Kaylie Harper Reidway, and Liam Michael Reidway.*



May your days be filled with love, happiness & laughter.

Blessings,
Jamie



SAINT MARGARET'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH



INVITES YOU TO
SAVE THE DATE
FOR OUR ANNUAL

Saint Nicholas Festival

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2ND
4:30PM-6:30PM



DINNER WILL BE OFFERED

More details to follow





Parish Connection

connection@saintmargarets.net

BY TRACI SCOTT

ASSISTANT TO THE RECTOR
FOR OUTREACH & PARISH CONNECTION



MONTHLY MOVIE SERIES



Join us for the next movie in our monthly series, *"Same Kind of Different as Me"* on Friday, November 10th from 9am-12pm in the Youth Room. Please park in the rear of the building. Guests are welcome! **RSVP here** for the movie(s) you plan to attend. **CLICK HERE** for a full schedule of movies.

"Same Kind of Different as Me" is an inspirational true story about international art dealer Ron Hall who volunteers at a homeless shelter in order to save his struggling marriage to Deborah. Later, she asks him to befriend a vagrant man whom she believes has a special destiny to fulfill. Jon Voight, Greg Kinnear, and Renee Zellweger co-star in this drama directed by Michael Carney.

SAINT MARGARET'S DAY

Want to help with our Saint Margaret's Day lunch on Sunday, November 19th?

We'll be marking our patron Saint with a parish-wide lunch after the 10:30 service and we could use some help with set-up and clean-up. We will be serving a catered meal. If you're available, please contact Traci at [**connection@saintmargarets.net**](mailto:connection@saintmargarets.net).



stained glass window in St. Margaret's Chapel in Edinburgh Castle.

St. Margaret of Scotland was born in 1047 when her family was in exile in Hungary; by birth she was an English princess. Her family returned to England when Margaret was ten years old. When Margaret was about twenty, her family set sail to return to Hungary in an attempt to escape the Norman invasion. Enroute a storm forced their ship to the coast of Scotland where they sought refuge from King Malcolm III. Margaret and King Malcolm married in 1070 and were parents of 8 children.

Margaret had a "civilizing influence" on Malcolm. She worked to bring the Church of Scotland in line with the Church of Rome; she took seriously Scripture's call to feed widows and orphans and Christ's command to wash the feet of the poor; she rose at midnight to attend worship and was rigorous in fasting; and she was an intercessor for English exiles who had been forced into slavery. Margaret died on November 6, 1093, three days after Malcolm and her son Edward had been killed in battle. She was canonized in 1250 by Pope Innocent IV for her personal holiness, charity, faithfulness and religious reform.

DID YOU KNOW?

The flower pot that stands on the front sidewalk of StM is an English "chimney top" to represent the connection with our English heritage and a symbol of the fire of God that burns within our hearts and homes. The top is also in the shape of a Queen's crown...a nod to our patron saint.



Outreach

connection@saintmargarets.net



Donate your leftover Halloween candy to our troops!

We are excited to again partner with *NC Packs 4 Patriots* to collect and ship candy to our U.S. Military deployed in combat areas. The troops love the candy for themselves, but also to give out to the children in the communities they patrol. All types of candy are acceptable (including chocolate). We will also be collecting individually-packages toothbrushes, dental floss and toothpaste to send along with all that candy. There are collection boxes at StM in the Connector Hall by the restrooms where you can drop it off. Deadline is Sunday, November 12th.

Questions? Contact Penny Feldser at pennylopen@gmail.com



Common Heart's Great Turkey Countdown is back! November 18th

They plan to deliver 1,500 turkey meals in Union County again. They put on a fabulous event, but need lots of help to get it all done! \$40 provides one family with a frozen turkey and all the fixins. They also need roughly 350 drivers to deliver all of the meals on November 18th. Visit their site for ways you can help or donate: <https://commonheart.org/great-turkey-countdown/>

Shelter meal on Tuesday, November 28th

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 November 28th. We'll cook in the StM kitchen at 1pm and serve at the Shelter in Monroe at 5:30pm. We need two more volunteers to shop for groceries and to help serve at the Shelter. 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

Our Angel Tree sign-up will be released in mid-November!

Gifts will likely be due back to the church the first Sunday in December. It's a quick turnaround, but let's pull together to make Christmas a little brighter for 100 Union County neighbors! *Watch for the sign-up in a few weeks.*

Casting our net

StM
Stewardship
2024

UPDATE:

STEWARDSHIP 2024 CAMPAIGN

approximate results as of 10/31/23

2024 Pledging Units to date	197
Amount Pledged to date	\$740,000
2024 Pledge Goal	\$925,000
Amount Needed to Reach Goal	\$185,000
% Remaining	20%



StM Fall Scenes

StM Fall Scenes





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+
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
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Assistant to the Rector for Children's Ministry

Jamie Peters
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Assistant to the Rector for Outreach
& Parish Connection

Traci Scott
connection@saintmargarets.net

2023 Vestry

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

November Calendar



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

- 11/5 Daylight Savings Time ends
- 11/5 Monthly Parish Breakfast, 9:15am – 10:15am in the Parish Hall
- 11/5 All Saints Sunday/Baptism Day
- 11/10 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED
- 11/12 Club 4-5, 11:45am -1:00pm
- 11/16 Saint Margaret's Day
- 11/19 St. Margaret's Day lunch celebration, 11:45-1:00pm
- 11/22 Morning activities cancelled & Church Office closes at noon
- 11/22 Thanksgiving Eve Service, 5:30pm
- 11/23-24 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

Looking ahead...

- 12/2 Annual St. Nicholas Festival, 4:30pm – 6:30pm
- 12/3 First Sunday of Advent
- 12/10 Lessons & Carols, 4pm



Masonry repairs to the exterior of our church, and school wing will continue throughout the month of November.

This project will refurbish the facade of our building to sustain the beautiful and welcoming face of StM.

We thank you for your patience in this effort as you may see workers, lifts & ladders on our campus.



Christmas 2023

Sunday, 12/24
9am

*Advent 4 morning service
&*

5pm, 8pm, 11pm
Christmas Eve Services

Monday, 12/25
11am
Christmas Day Service