

MAGGIE'S CROSS



From Our Rector

I Ask Your Prayers

As we begin this next year together, I ask you prayers for the needs of this parish. If you were able to attend our most recent annual meeting, Saint Margaret's is at a very crucial juncture. We have survived the pandemic lockdowns, have a very committed group of followers of Jesus, and our church is on stable ground. But Saint Margaret's is not called to survive, we are called to go and build the Kingdom of God. The task before us is to look forward and discern what Jesus is calling us to do now, in this place, to follow Jesus and to do His will. With that in mind, I ask your prayers as the Body of Christ, so that, as a church family, we might position ourselves to hear the voice of God and to follow him.

-I ask your prayers of thanksgiving. Spend time thanking God for all the wonderful things He has done for you and for Saint Margaret's.

-I ask your prayers for those on our parish prayer list. Even if you don't know their needs, God does. Pray for them by name.

-I ask your prayers for our church to continue to grow. Pray for boldness and confidence for the members of this church to invite others into our community.

-I ask your prayers for the varied ministries of this church. What does Jesus want us to keep doing? What things do we give up? What new ministries are we called to?

-I ask your prayers for a vision for our land. We have been blessed with this beautiful and abundant resource. How do we honor God with the blessings we have been entrusted with?

-I ask you prayers for our columbarium and its planned expansion. Pray for generous hearts to bring this vision to fruition.

-I ask your prayers for me. Self-serving I know, but as your priest, I need and covet your prayers.

If you pray at home, and if we pray together, I believe incredible things will continue to happen at this church. God has never let us down. Pray with all your heart, mind, soul, and body, and then let us be prepared to follow Jesus where He will lead. I can't wait to see where that will be!

Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Phil 6:6-7

Your priest,

Fr. Todd



dill@saintmargarets.net

SAINT MARGARET'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Winter 2024 ADULT FORMATION

Sunday Mornings 9:30-10:15 in the Parish Hall

February:

Feb. 4 *Monthly Parish Breakfast*

Feb. 11 Rev. Sarah's class in the Parish Hall
Keith Adams and the follow up to Bridges out of Poverty
We will offer a 4-session course entitled:
Moving beyond Rescuing and Judging, session 1 of 4

Feb. 18 Rev. Sarah's class in the Parish Hall
Keith Adams and the follow up to Bridges out of Poverty
Moving beyond Rescuing and Judging, session 2 of 4

Feb. 25 Rev. Sarah's class in the Parish Hall
Keith Adams and the follow up to Bridges out of Poverty
Moving beyond Rescuing and Judging, session 3 of 4

March

Mar. 3 *Monthly Parish Breakfast*

Mar. 10 Option 1 - Rev. Sarah's class in the Parish Hall
Keith Adams and the follow up to Bridges out of Poverty
Moving beyond Rescuing and Judging, session 4 of 4
Option 2 - Conversations & Community - geared for folks in their 30's & 40's
*in the Youth Room.

Mar. 17, 24 Rev. Sarah's class in the Parish Hall
Apr. 14, 21, 28 Beth Hunt & Rev. Sarah present: *Keeping the 4th Vow of our Baptismal Covenant*: Will you seek to serve all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself? A start- "How to Disagree Gently with Someone You Care About" is a series designed to help us remember how to talk about difficult things and resolve conflicts without damaging the relationships that are important to a rich and fulfilling life and to living our faith authentically.
May 5

Please join us!

View from the Vestry

Meet our new Wardens

THE
EPISCOPAL
CHURCH

We're here for you

VESTRY



Emily Nelson

Senior Warden

emilyhuntnelson@gmail.com

Hello, my name is Emily Nelson and I am happy to serve St. Margaret's this year as your Senior Warden. Our family has been at St. Margaret's for the last 10 years. We raised our children here and Erin and I are now empty nesters! We have two college students; one will finish this spring at Florida State University and one is in Savannah at SCAD studying art. Thanks to St. Margaret's we endured the difficult teen years with the love and support of the St. Margaret's youth program!

I am grateful for the St. Margaret's community and I look forward to getting to know our amazing families better. Please feel free to introduce yourself if we haven't met. Please reach out if you have any questions! My goal for 2024 and St. Margaret's is to welcome more families that are looking for a church home and I would love to have each of us take the opportunity to invite a neighbor or friend to worship with us. Let us welcome all people through our red doors with love and acceptance!

"In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven" Matthew 5:16



Tom Washington

Junior Warden

vatechtommy@gmail.com

"I am excited to have been selected to be your Junior Warden in 2024 and am eager to continue the strong work we did the past 3 years under Hugh Laughlin's leadership!"

A few things we are working on and plan to get moving in 2024:

1. We are preparing to receive bids in February for cleaning services in an attempt to improve the overall cleanliness of our spaces.
2. Our building and grounds team plans to walk internal and external spaces every 6 weeks to be even more proactive in 2024.
3. Roofing - looking into the potential for warranty repairs (to avoid future problems and reduce our costs)
4. Gutters - looking to install gutter guards (and/or screens) to avoid clogging gutters every year.
5. Continue to work to get items completed that were identified in 2023 and we were unable to accomplish.
6. Our team welcomes ANY input from anyone in the congregation; the more eyes the better; my box in the office or my e-mail/phone.





Music

BY GAVIN CRAIG

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC AND ORGANIST

music@saintmargarets.net

The Musical Legacy of the Wesleys

The 1964 first edition of *Lesser Feasts and Fasts* included the March 3 commemoration of John and Charles Wesley, the founders of Methodism. Despite their movement's later split from the Church of England, the Wesleys wished to supplement, not replace, the work of the church, championing evangelism and spiritual growth alongside the church's liturgy and discipline. Accordingly, in recent decades much has been accomplished towards building stronger ties between their heritage and ours. In addition to their link to Anglicanism, the Wesley family deserves recognition due to their contributions to our own church music. Not only the monumental hymns of Charles, but also the church music of his sons and grandson are worthy of closer attention.

Charles Wesley might be considered the most impactful hymnographer of our modern canon. He wrote over six thousand hymns, nineteen of which are in our hymnal. Some of the most popular hymns were written by him, such as "Hark! the herald-angels sing", "Christ the Lord is risen today", and "Love divine, all loves excelling". His hymns are noted as much for their doctrinal depth as their emotional expression. Two of his sons went on to become noted organists, though Samuel Wesley eclipsed his elder brother, Charles, Jr.

Samuel was hailed as a boy as the "English Mozart" by the eminent William Boyce. He excelled as a performer, teacher, and conductor, and published the first English edition of J. S. Bach's *Well-Tempered Clavier*. Samuel earned the consternation of his parents through multiple relationships with unwed women as well as a conversion to Catholicism. Though he never attained to a church position, he wrote voluminously for orchestra, organ, and choir. His music is simultaneously conservative in construction, contemporaneous in style, and progressive in content, while maintaining a brilliant coherence.

Samuel Sebastian Wesley was named after his father and after Bach, and rose to the promise of his name. He was raised as a boy chorister, and starting at the age of 22, held various posts as organist at various cathedrals, including Hereford, Winchester, and Gloucester. He wrote during a time of some neglect of choral music, one Easter morning having to recruit his butler as the lone bass. Yet his choral anthems, such as "Thou wilt keep him" and "Lead me, Lord", are among the finest of his time and have survived in common use. Similarly, he wrote many popular hymn tunes, including the tune of "The Church's one foundation." He was also an influential voice in the design of pipe organs, and designed the modern pedalboard used today.

On Sunday, March 3, at 4:00pm, we will hold a service of Choral Evensong for the Third Sunday of Lent. The best contributions of these men will form the bulk of the music for the evening, led by the Adult Choir. Join us as we sanctify our Lenten evening with the music contributed to our tradition by the Wesley family.

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Youth Spotlight

BY ELIZABETH PFEIFER

pfeifer@saintmargarets.net

ASSISTANT TO THE RECTOR FOR YOUTH MINISTRY



During the month of January, our youth group discussions centered around *“who is Jesus?”* We read stories of Jesus as an infant or young person and considered what the interactions show us about how people knew from the beginning that Jesus was the son of God. From there, we wondered what those interactions showed us about the ministry of Jesus that was to come.

We studied the visit of the Magi, King Herod’s not so great reaction to the news of a newborn King, the Holy Spirit guiding Simeon and Anna to be at the temple to meet baby Jesus, the Holy Family escaping to Egypt, and a Biblical “Home Alone” moment when Jesus is separated from his parents after the festival of the Passover. These readings, and the discussions that followed, highlighted how those who interacted with Jesus, even as a young person, knew his role. They knew he was the one the prophets had foretold (Matthew 2) and that the Holy Spirit had promised (Luke 2).

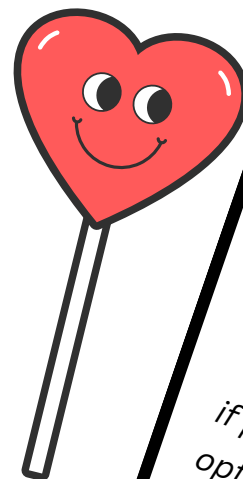
We always make time for fun and games around our discussions and have reached the season of anxiously awaiting longer days so we can get back outside during our game time! Elizabeth extended the Christmas season with using remaining candy canes as prizes for trivia, ice breakers, and games!



EYC will gather most Sundays in February! Join us on February 4th, 18th, and 25th from 5:00-6:30pm with dinner 6:30-7:00pm.

We will not gather on February 11th due to the Super Bowl.

When coming to youth group, please enter through the double back doors, near the playground. All 6th-12th graders, and their friends, are welcome.



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



Friends and neighbors welcome!



BEFORE WE FAST, WE FEAST!

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

Tues, February 13th from 5:30-6:30pm

St. Margaret's Episcopal Church

Waxhaw, NC



All the plain, blueberry and chocolate chip pancakes you can eat.
Plus bacon. Always with the bacon at St. Margaret's.

This supper, traditionally hosted the day before Ash Wednesday as a way to use up rich, tasty ingredients before the fasting season of Lent, is hosted and run by the youth group and always full of delicious pancakes and bacon.



We look forward to seeing you.



Children's Ministry

childrensministry@saintmargarets.net

BY JAMIE PETERS

ASSISTANT TO THE RECTOR FOR CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

It is hard to believe that we are already in the second month of 2024! I pray that everyone has had a wonderful start to the New Year and that everyone in your family is happy and healthy.

On Sunday, January 7th we celebrated the **Feast of the Epiphany**. The Church has a custom of blessing homes on the Feast of the Epiphany (January 6) and the weeks following. A traditional way of doing this is to use chalk blessed during the liturgy for the Feast of the Epiphany and write the following above the home's entryway: 20 + C + M + B + 24. The letters C, M, B have two meanings. They are the initials of the traditional names of the three magi: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar. They also abbreviate the Latin words *Christus mansionem benedicat*, "May Christ bless the house." The "+" signs represent the cross and 2024 is the year.

Sunday School classes resumed on January 14th, and we have started our new unit of "Love Neighbor" in the Love First curriculum. Students have been learning about the Bible story of Abraham and the Three Strangers while discussing the importance of hospitality and love towards our neighbors.

Club 4-5 met on January 14th for a pizza lunch and fellowship. We chatted about the Epiphany story and how the three magi used the star to guide them to Jesus. Using stars as our guide, students then create a star banner where they chose 5 key words (kindness, mercy, forgiveness, etc.) that they wanted to focus on for 2024. Written on the stars and hung up in a place where it can be seen daily, we hope that these "guiding stars" can help guide our students this year.

As we enter February, we will be wrapping up our current unit of Love First and begin talking about Lent.

Have a fabulous February,

Jamie



Mark your calendars for a few upcoming dates in Children's Ministry, and keep a lookout for emails with additional details:

Feb. 11, March 10, April 14 & May 5

Club 4-5

11:45am-1:00pm

February 18, 25 & March 10th

Spring Holy Communion Classes

9:30-10:15am

March 17th

Holy Communion Class Celebration

at 10:30am service

April 7th

Easter Egg Hunt

at 9:30am

June 24th-27th

Vacation Bible School

2024 House Blessings



***“Chalking the door”** is a way to celebrate and physically mark the occasion of the Epiphany and God’s blessing of our lives and home. With time the chalk will fade. As it does, we let the meaning of the written symbols sink into the depths of our hearts and be manifest in our words and actions.*



Thank you for sharing how you CHALKED your entry for 2024!





Parish Connection

BY TRACI SCOTT

ASSISTANT TO THE RECTOR
FOR OUTREACH & PARISH CONNECTION

connection@saintmargarets.net



Ladies Valentine's Tea set for February 3rd.



Moms, Daughters, Grandmothers,
Aunts & Friends:

All ladies age 4 and up, are invited to join us for a special afternoon of fancy food, delicious tea, a Valentines craft and a faith-filled discussion. Dress as you wish; hats encouraged!

[RSVP by clicking this link.](#)

Saturday, February 3rd

2:00 pm-4:00 pm in the Parish Hall



MONTHLY MOVIE SERIES

Join us for our monthly movie series on the **2nd Friday of each month at 9 am** in the Youth Room.

This year, **the focus is on homelessness**. The movies were selected to increase awareness of attendees in the hopes that they will make a positive shift in their attitudes and intentions towards homelessness.

Understanding the complexity of the problem and the conditions leading to homelessness are the first steps in addressing and solving the problem.

The next movie is ***Princess of the Row*** on February 9th. 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.

Welcome new members:

- Bill & Judy Dubay
- Victoria Evans & Kevin Buckley
- David & Suzanne Curtin
- Jared, Melinda & Avery Shelley



Princess of the Row is a film about two people's story: Bo and his 12-year old daughter Alicia. There was a time when Beaumont 'Bo' Willis was a man with dignity who had a family; but now he's a veteran struggling with a myriad of issues: PTSD, a traumatic brain injury, and homelessness. Alicia, who's in the foster care system, wants nothing more than to be with the father she loves. This month's movie is a compellingly candid father-daughter drama that explores homelessness, poverty, mental illness, and the foster care system with a respectable amount of authenticity and unshrinking optimism.



Community Kitchen Fellowship

Thank you to all of our amazing volunteers that make our monthly meal deliveries possible! We had some new faces cooking and delivering in January which is so exciting. We make and deliver about 65 meals to our neighbors in Waxhaw on the 3rd Saturday of the month. Join us to shop, cook, bake or deliver sometime in 2024.

Questions, contact Traci at connection@saintmargarets.net

[CLICK HERE](#) to sign up for cooking, baking, shopping:

[CLICK HERE](#) to sign up for delivery.



Shelter meal: March 4th (note date change)

Every other month, we cook at St. Margaret's and then serve the meals that evening at the Community Shelter in Monroe. We had to change from our regular date in March to Monday, March 4th. Can you help us cook at 1pm at the church or serve at 5:30pm at the Shelter? **[CLICK HERE](#)**

StM Outreach funds at work!

StM purchased **5 new bikes** for the Community Shelter of Union County's **Step It Up Program**. They provide clients that are working or starting a new job and do not have transportation with a bike. Without the bikes, clients walk miles a day for work as public transportation is tough in Union County. The bikes also increase the range of employment opportunities for the clients as a bike really expands the radius of available employers. Two of the bikes we purchased went to clients on the same day that the Shelter received them!



Save the Date

Walk with us! Common Heart's annual Hunger Walk is coming up on Sunday, March 3rd at 2pm at Crooked Creek Park in Indian Trail. StM is putting together a team to walk that day captained by Rosemary Nelson.

The goal is to raise awareness about hunger in our community and raise funds to support Common Heart's food pantry programs. Use the link below to sign up to join our team and spread the word to your friends and family. Please register and/or donate today! **[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)**



Toiletry collection

It's time to re-stock the toiletry pantry at South Providence School in Waxhaw where middle and high school students are able to take home needed items. Items can be brought to StM and dropped in the collection bin outside the restrooms or you may shop the **[Amazon list](#)** and have the items shipped to StM. **Drop off deadline is Sunday, March 17th.**

Items needed: *antiperspirant, body lotion, toothbrushes, snack bars and bags, paper plates, napkins and plastic utensils.*





2023 Annual Meeting Re-Cap

notes from David Feldser, *Treasurer*

Considerations for 2024

Based on the results of the 2024 Stewardship Campaign, StM will most likely see a decline in total revenue in 2024. In a world where expenses are consistently rising, a drop in revenue is a concern. We remain committed to our mission as a church and are full of hope for continued growth in attendance and membership, which will yield an increase in giving in the years to come.

Projections for Operating Loss in 2024 are about \$63,000. While our Vestry and staff would rather not project this type of deficit, we are encouraged by the fact that our mortgage on the building will be paid off in just two years, adding back about \$60k in expense.

Balance Sheet

St. Margaret's continues to have a strong balance sheet with adequate cash reserves. As of 11/30/2023, the church has \$154,988 of cash in bank accounts. Also as of 11/30, the church has \$572,333 in its brokerage account, \$341,745 in securities and \$230,588 in cash. The mortgage balance on the church building is \$88,315 as of 12/31/23. We have about 2 years left until the mortgage is paid to zero.

For a complete 2023 Annual Report [please click here.](#)

Click Here



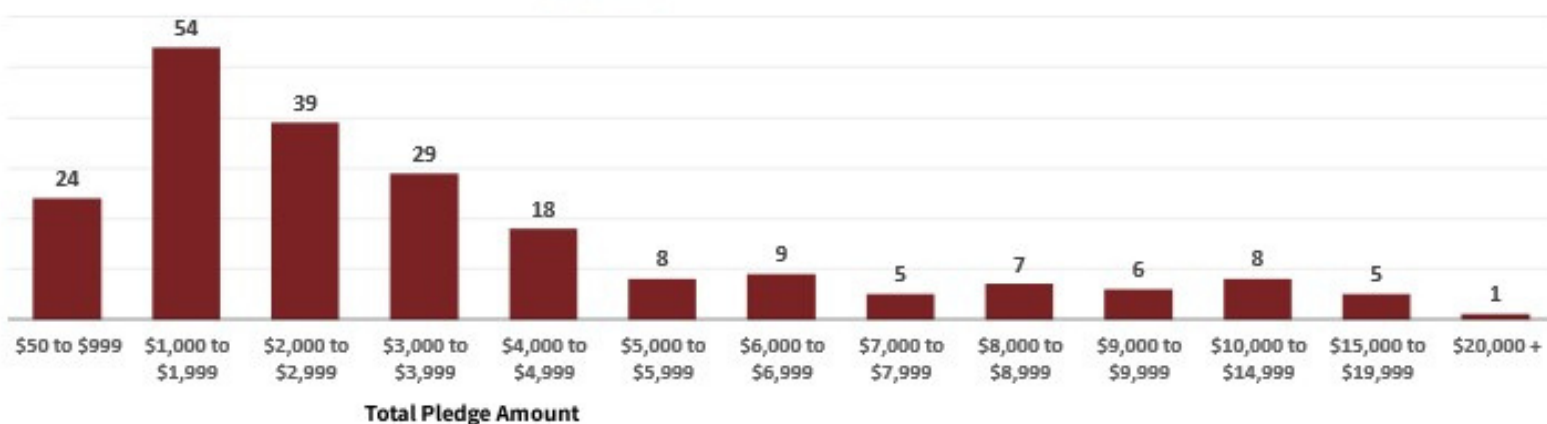
2023 Annual Meeting Re-cap

notes from David Feldser, *Treasurer*

Stewardship Data

	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
# Pledges	214	213	223	203	228
Amount	\$809,000	\$850,800	\$811,005	\$818,068	\$769,899
Average	\$3,780	\$3,994	\$3,637	\$4,030	\$3,377

2024 Number of Pledges by \$ Amount



Revenue & Expense '23 vs. '22

November Year to date

	Total Year to Date		Variance	
	2023	2022	Level Difference	Percent Difference
1 Plate	\$ 123,516	\$ 143,968	\$ (20,452)	-14%
2 Pledge	\$ 770,361	\$ 750,002	\$ 20,359	3%
3 Total Offerings	\$ 893,878	\$ 893,971	\$ (93)	0%
4 Other	\$ 10,981	\$ 10,781	\$ 200	2%
5 Total Revenue	\$ 904,858	\$ 904,752	\$ 106	0%
6 Total Expenses	\$ 953,002	\$ 879,159	\$ 73,843	8%
7 Net R&E	\$ (48,144)	\$ 25,594	\$ (73,738)	

For a complete 2023 Annual Report please [click here](#).





What is a Daughter of the King?

- StM's DOK Chapter is **46 members** strong!
- The emblem of the Order is a modified **Greek Fleury cross** which all members wear either as a pin or around their necks on a chain. This cross is an outward and visible sign that is a reminder of their commitment to Christ and His Church.
- A Daughter pledges herself to a life-long program of **prayer, service and evangelism**. She receives support in this commitment from a worldwide community of like-minded women.
- All Daughters undertake a **Rule of Life**. The Rule of Life incorporates a Rule of Prayer and a Rule of Service. They pray daily for unity in Christ's Church, the spread of Christ's Kingdom and for the St Margaret's clergy, staff and the parish family. They also pray for those who have asked to be on our parish prayer list.

StM Daughters:

- Deliver the altar flowers to White Oak Manor.
- Purchased and installed three new benches for the StM Columbarium Garden.
- Assist in receptions held for Bishop's visits, music programs and all funerals.
- Coordinate & host the StM Lenten Retreat & Advent Retreat.



The Service of Admission for our new Daughters of the King was held at the 10:30 service on January 21, followed by a reception. *Featured in this photo are: Back row L-R: Kathleen Culpeper, Susan Norwood, Catherine Washington. Front row L-R: Leta Stewart, Nancy Clapham, Carol Land and Connie MacMinn. Missing from the picture is Anne Pflaging.*

“Empowered by the Holy Spirit, our vision as Daughters of the King is to know Jesus Christ, to make Him known to others, and to become reflections of God’s love throughout the world.”

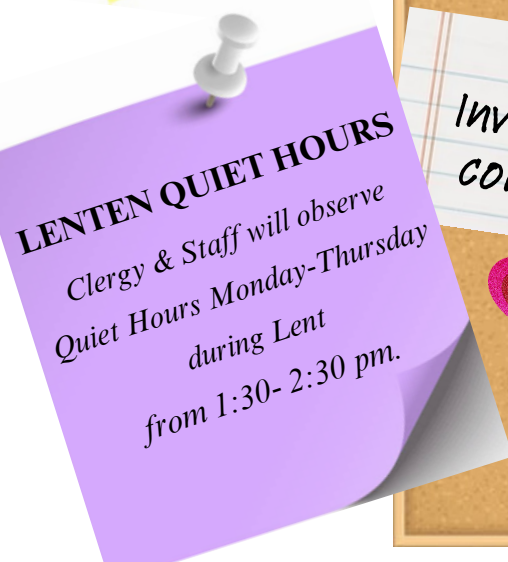


February Calendar

- 2/3 Ladies Valentine's Tea, 2 pm – 4 pm
- 2/4 Monthly Parish Breakfast, 9:15 – 10:15 am in the Parish Hall
- 2/9 Monthly Movie series, Princess of the Row: 9 am
- 2/13 Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, 5:30 – 6:30 pm
- 2/14 ASH WEDNESDAY, services at 12 noon & 7 pm



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



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

Deacon

The Rev. Ludwig Wallner

Organist & Director of Music

Gavin D. Craig
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Executive Assistant to the Rector

Joanie Cameron
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Assistant to the Rector for Youth Ministries

Elizabeth Pfeifer
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Assistant to the Rector for Preschool Ministries

Dana Platé
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Assistant to the Rector for Finance & Accounting

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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

2024 Vestry

Emily Nelson, Senior Warden
Tom Washington, Junior Warden

Paula Holbein
Philip Huff
Bill MacMinn
Jenny Marlier
Colin Miles
Amy Pharr
Josh Ward

David Feldser, Treasurer