

# MAGGIE'S CROSS



## From Our Rector

*God gave  
me one  
more day!*

I am writing this newsletter article in the middle of the afternoon on February 29th. I know I should have already finished this before now, in part because I'm the one who has set the target date that we publish our monthly newsletter on the first of each month. More importantly, I should have written this earlier so I am not pressed up against a deadline and thus do not have the time to reflect and carefully edit my words. In truth, when the printing of Maggie's Cross has been late in the past, it is usually because Joanie is waiting on me and my article. So, when I left the office to come to my house to write this today, I joked on my way out of the door, "Good thing it's leap year. God gave me one more day!"

During lunch, however, I began to wonder about my joke. One more day. A day often seems like such an insignificant amount of time, but how wonderful is it that God, today, gives us each one more day. One more day to be faithful, one more day to love, one more day to follow His Son Jesus. It strikes me that this season of Lent is in part about recognizing this extraordinary truth. We are called to confront our own mortality, finiteness, and brokenness, not in fear, but with grateful hearts acknowledging that each day is a gift, and each breath we are given is an offering of love from our Creator. It is so easy to take the gift of each day for granted, to just assume we have more time to live in this world. But, what would our lives look like if we truly did treasure each moment for the gift that it is and offer back to God our best to honor His amazing favor for us?

In the sixth chapter of the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus is teaching His disciples how to live faithfully and be God's image-bearing people in this world. He instructs about the need to pray, fast, repent, and give alms to those who are most vulnerable. Jesus teaches His disciples about His kingdom and what it looks like, and who they are called to be in this recreated divine Holy Land. And He tells His followers not to be anxious or to worry. So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we

*drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own. (Mt 6:13-34)*

Like the disciples, God has given each of us another day to pray. He's given us another day to love. He has given us another day to bless others in our lives and to bless the world. God, through the power of His Son Jesus and His indwelling Spirit, has given us all we need to be faithful. We need not worry about tomorrow or to spend our energy lamenting the past. God has given us this day to love, pray, fast, and be faithful. How amazing is that! God gave us each one more day. How will we live it?

Your priest,

*Fr. Todd*



[dill@saintmargarets.net](mailto:dill@saintmargarets.net)

# ADULT FORMATION OPPORTUNITY

## LENTEN RETREAT DAY, 3/9

## *Claiming God's 4 Divine Gifts*

Members and friends are invited to a day apart to contemplate and reflect on four gifts God bestows on each one of his beloveds. At every stage of human development, how does God intend us to employ and enjoy our one precious Life?



LIFE



LOVE



LEGACY



LIMINALITY

Do we understand the fullness of the state of Love? Is God's gift larger than we imagine?

Creating us with memory, reason, skill, wiring us with spiritual abilities, what is our intended Legacy? What are we called to pursue? What will we leave this world?

Conceived with a soul, how and when does that spirit meet, dance, grieve and rest in the greater eternal one?

What is Liminality and how and when do we experience it?

Big questions, essential questions which point to God's investment in us and help explain why he was willing to send and sacrifice his Son for us.

There will be solitude for reflection and fellowship in table discussions, at lunch and in worship. An indoor labyrinth and Stations of the Cross will be available.

Closing worship will be a Taize service of Lenten prayers and chants.

The day is designed for all interested older youth and adults. Day is hosted by the Daughters of the King. and Reverend Sarah will facilitate the day.

**SIGN UP with THIS LINK.** Deadline to register is Monday, 3/4.



***As a way of observing a Holy Lent, come rest and think on how you claim these gifts for yourself and the Glory of God. Come for a day of reflection and conversation with faith companions.***



## ADULT FORMATION OPPORTUNITY

### SUNDAY SCHOOL

3/17, 3/24, 4/14, 4/21, 4/28, 5/5

*"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.

In six Sunday sessions, we will examine:

- How to recognize the physical reaction to conflict and learn what to do with it.
- The types of questions and comments that help people disagree with one another productively. And the kind that don't.
- How to listen to understand rather than to respond. The power of the pause in tough conversations.
- How to recognize your own biases and keep them from derailing your conversations.
- Strategies for turning down the heat when a disagreement threatens to become an argument.
- How to recognize when the best thing to do is table the conversation for another time, and how to do it gently.

In these times, when we all seem ready to pounce at the slightest provocation, it's important to develop the tools necessary to respond gently and with respect, especially when our relationships are at stake.

*The series will be facilitated by Beth Hunt and Rev. Sarah. After a 33-year career as a business journalist, talent developer, and corporate trainer, Beth Hunt left journalism to become a facilitator and conflict coach.*

*The fraught times we live in drove her to pursue a master's degree in conflict analysis and resolution from the Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter School for Peace and Conflict Resolution at George Mason University. These days, she works with individuals, families, companies, schools, churches, and other organizations looking to reclaim how to disagree gently when the world around them is filled with anger and discord.*

*She is a former adjunct professor at Wake Forest University whose teaching and speaking style is engaging and inclusive. She has a good sense of humor, and her self-effacing manner helps attendees let their guard down so they can absorb what they're learning. All of her workshops include hands-on practice.*

Ending each session, we'll consider how does this discussion tie to what we know to be true to what Jesus said and did. How does what we heard help us uphold our 4th baptismal vow?

**Sundays 9:30-10:15** 3/17, 3/24, 4/14, 4/21, 4/28, 5/5

Adult  
SUNDAY SCHOOL







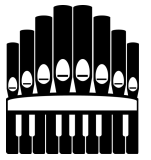
# Music

**BY GAVIN CRAIG**

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC AND ORGANIST

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# J.S. Bach and his Little Organ Book



Johann Sebastian Bach is revered as the “father” of organists. Nearly all organists today, including myself, can trace their tutelage all the way back to him. And the vitality and complexity of his music, particularly that for organ, has earned his place among the greatest musicians ever to live. The formation of future generations was foremost on his mind, working as a teacher, directing boy choirs, and producing numerous pedagogical works. One of the more intentional and famous of those works is his *Orgelbüchlein*, or Little Organ Book.

The *Orgelbüchlein* was written, as the full title says for the “*beginning organist to receive instruction as to performing a chorale [...] while achieving mastery of the pedal.*” This work was begun during Bach’s time as court organist in Weimar, his first major position. The original manuscript was a plan of 164 settings of chorales (hymn tunes) organized according to the liturgical year, though Bach only completed 46 of these. The works are short, each consisting of a simple – compared to his more elaborate organ works – presentation of the chorale melody and a distinct figuration in the accompaniment, often evoking the text of the hymn.

The work has been used as a teaching aid for intermediate organists since its publication. Bach intended the pieces as a model for improvisation, though the works have been mostly used to build core technique. For example, my first prelude ever played in church was *Christ lag in Todesbanden* from this collection. Yet the works have Bach’s characteristic subtle complexity and depth, making them just at home under the fingers of a master, showing Bach’s genius, as a teaching tool for a young organist following in his literal footsteps.

To examine the Easter section of this collection alone, we have the following works:

- *Christ lag in Todesbanden* (Christ lay in death’s bands) Set in standard 4 part harmony, but with running sixteenth notes, reflecting the surprise of the Resurrection.
- *Jesus Christus, unser Heiland, der den Tod überwand* (Jesus Christ, our Savior, who conquered death) The accompaniment is successive entries of a leaping figure, set in a jig-like triple time.
- *Christ ist erstanden* (Christ is arisen) A 3-movement partita (set of variations) of a pre-Reformation German hymn, meant to reflect the dialog between the Marys and the angel at the tomb. The last verse’s simple text, “Alleluia”, is represented by a running figure of sixteenth notes. *Erstanden ist der heil’ge Christ* (Arisen is the holy Christ) A simple presentation of the melody against challenging runs in the hands and sparse pedal.
- *Erscheinen ist der herrliche Tag* (The great day has appeared) A canon of the chorale melody between the hands and the pedal, with an energetic accompaniment.
- *Heut triumphieret Gottes Sohn* (Today God’s Son triumphed) The melody is presented simply, with a fast rising (Get it? Rising?) figure for accompaniment.

These six works, which will be the prelude of our Easter Sunday liturgies, along show the diversity of music contained in the *Orgelbüchlein*. These, as well as one of his great Preludes and Fugues, will be played to mark March 31st as the great composer’s 339th birthday.

I hope you will find these works, which have instructed countless musicians, also edify you in your celebration of Our Lord’s Resurrection. They are offered in the same spirit with which Bach dedicated his Little Organ Book: “*To the honor of the Lord most high, that my neighbor may be taught thereby.*”







# Youth Spotlight

**BY ELIZABETH PFEIFER**

ASSISTANT TO THE RECTOR FOR YOUTH MINISTRY

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*Thank you to all who came out and enjoyed pancakes on Shrove Tuesday! The youth group is so appreciative of the immense support we receive from the parish. We loved flipping pancakes for everyone and hope you enjoyed sharing a meal with your church family. We raised \$800 for our summer mission trip to Gatlinburg, TN.*

Our February programs focused on preparing for and discussing the “whys” of Lent. We read about Jesus’ time in the wilderness and the temptations he encountered. Students then created playdough dioramas of the scene. Our next meeting built on Jesus’ forty days in the wilderness with the start of Lent! We spent two weeks discussing the importance of the season of Lent, ways to mark Lent in our lives, and we learned about the historical Lenten connection that pretzels have to prayer when we made our own! There’s nothing quite like a tangible, likely a little messy, activity to allow for a lasting impression and memory of what has been studied and discussed at youth group.

We also had a “just for fun” Winter Fun Night at Sports Connection where 42 students gathered for bowling, laser tag, and a night of friendly competition and snacks. We appreciate the parents who spent the evening driving us to/from and hanging out with us at Sports Connection!

**EYC is excited about our spring schedule, and we invite all 6th-12th graders (and their friends) to join us from 5:00-6:30pm with dinner 6:30-7:00pm.**



**EYC will meet for four weeks in a row in March (3rd, 10th, 17th, and 24th) and we would love to have your student join us.**

Has it been a few months (or maybe years?) since your student has been to youth group? They are always welcome, please reach out to Elizabeth with any questions. When coming to youth group, please enter using the double back doors (near the playground). The youth room is the second room on your left as you enter from those doors.



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.







# Children's Ministry

**BY JAMIE PETERS**

ASSISTANT TO THE RECTOR FOR CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

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We are amid the Lenten season, and I pray that even with the busy schedules many of us have, that you find opportunities to pause, reflect, and rejoice in the amazing things that God is doing in your lives.

Sunday School classes wrapped up their unit of **"Love Neighbor"** by making their own handprint flower bouquets that were prayed over and delivered to neighboring Children's Ministries of Marvin A.M.E. Zion Church and Weddington Church. Students were excited to make these flowers and share them with the children of other churches to show them that we love and care for them as our neighbors.

**Club 4-5** met in February for our monthly pizza and fellowship. Students began to prepare for Lent by discussing Jesus' 40 days in the wilderness and the three temptations he faced during that time from the devil. They used their creativity to paint their own interpretations of the three temptations on canvas that are currently on display in the hallway near the Youth Room. Be sure to stop by and check out their impressive artwork!

**Vacation Bible School registration is now open!** Let's dive into a friendship with God! Kids will dive deep into an amazing undersea adventure June 24-27, 2024 from 9am to 12:30pm where they'll experience the ever-flowing, never-ending love of God. VBS is open to students 4 years of age (as of 08/31/2024) to rising 5th grade. We will have an amazing week of fun and fellowship through games, activities, crafts, and music! [Click here to register!](#) Questions or want to volunteer? Have youth that want to volunteer? Please contact Jamie at [childrensministry@saintmargarets.net](mailto:childrensministry@saintmargarets.net) so you can be contacted closer to VBS with more information.



*Mark your calendars for:*

**March 10, April 14 & May 5**

**Club 4-5**

11:45am-1:00pm

**March 10th**

**Spring Holy Communion Classes**

9:30-10:15am

**March 17th**

**Holy Communion Class Celebration**

**Class 3 of 3**

at 10:30am service

**April 7th**

**Easter Egg Hunt & Parish Breakfast**

at 9:30am

**June 24th-27th**

**Vacation Bible School**





# Parish Connection

BY TRACI SCOTT

ASSISTANT TO THE RECTOR  
FOR OUTREACH & PARISH CONNECTION


[connection@saintmargarets.net](mailto:connection@saintmargarets.net)

**THANK YOU** to all StM parishioners, friends and family who are walking and/or donated to support the



**2024 Common Heart Hunger Walk!**

**Our team alone raised \$8,800. The**

**overall event numbers aren't in yet, but we'll update you all soon. A huge thank you to Rosemary Nelson, our fearless leader, who rallied everyone to support this amazing effort!** 

## **Welcome new members:**

- Debbi Thomas
- Steve & Ginny Bradley
- Weldon & Nancy Beach



## **MONTHLY MOVIE SERIES - MARCH 8th**

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

In this month's movie, ***Leave No Trace***, Will (Ben Foster) and his teenage daughter Tom (Thomasin Harcourt) have lived off the grid for years in the forests of Portland, Oregon. When their self-sufficient existence is upended, they're forced to integrate into the world--or escape and find another way to live. Well-acted and well-written, calmly presented, and moving, this drama has a ring of truth because it was inspired by true events.

*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.*

**[RSVP here](#)** for the movie(s) you plan to attend.

**[CLICK HERE](#)** for a full schedule of movies.

Please park in the rear of the building. Guests are welcome.

# Outreach



## Community Kitchen Fellowship

We need 2 dozen cookies or brownies for our monthly meal delivery on March 16th. If you are able to help, please [CLICK HERE](#) for the sign up link.

Questions, contact Traci at [connection@saintmargarets.net](mailto:connection@saintmargarets.net)

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

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



*Calling all bakers...it's time for cookies!*

Homemade cookies are needed for our Kairos prison ministry group to take to the inmates at Kershaw Correctional Facility during their program March 19-22.

Cookies due Sunday, March 17th in the collection bin outside the restrooms.

### Sign up with this link.

Some cookie tips to adhere to prison rules:

- Suggested types are oatmeal, chocolate chip, peanut butter, molasses, ginger & sugar
- Between 2" and 2.5" in diameter and not more than 1/2" thick
- Please don't use icing, sugar or any other type of coating. Don't add any fruit or nuts.
- Bag cooled cookies in a QUART-sized Ziploc bag, ONE DOZEN to a bag.

**Pray over the cookies** as you prepare them and ask God to use these cookies as a source of His love to shine on the prisoners and staff. These will be distributed to the more than 1,400 men in the prison.

There will also be a **prayer vigil** for the full 4 days where people can sign up to pray for 1 hour. If you'd like to pray for the Kairos group March 19-22, please contact Traci at [connection@saintmargarets.net](mailto:connection@saintmargarets.net) to sign up and receive suggested prayers.

## *Toiletry collection for South Providence School*

In 2021, two Girl Scouts from our StM family started and stocked a toiletry pantry at South Providence School in Waxhaw where the middle and high school students are able to take home the items that they need. Occasionally, we re-stock the supply and it's time to do that again. Items can be brought to the church and dropped in the collection bin outside the restrooms or you may shop the [Amazon list](#) and have the items shipped to StM.

Dropoff deadline is Sunday, March 17th.

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







# March Calendar

- 3/3 Monthly Parish Fellowship Breakfast, 9:15-10:15 am in the Parish Hall
- 3/3 Common Heart Hunger Walk
- 3/3 Evensong, 4 pm
- 3/4 Prayer Time with Father Todd, 10:00 am
- 3/4 Shelter Meal Day
- 3/9 Lenten Retreat Day (registration required)
- 3/16 CKF: Community Kitchen Fellowship
- 3/16 Knots of Love monthly meeting, 10:00 am
- 3/17 Holy Communion Class Celebration
- 3/17 Cookies for Kairos due!
- 3/24 Palm Sunday
- 3/25-30 HOLY WEEK
- 3/28 Maundy Thursday, service at 7:00 pm
- 3/29 Good Friday, service at 12:00 noon
- 3/30 Easter Vigil, 8:00 pm
- 3/31 Easter Day: services at 8:15 am & 10:30 am
- 4/1 Church Office Closed



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



**REMINDER:**  
 Wednesday Evening Compline with Father Todd, 9 pm on Facebook

## Cookies For Kairos:

Homemade cookies are needed for our Kairos prison ministry group to take to the inmates at Kershaw Correctional Facility during their program March 19-22. Cookies are due by Sunday, March 17th in the collection bin outside the restrooms.



These cookies will be distributed to more than 1,400 men in the prison.

**DUE on SUNDAY, MARCH 17**



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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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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## 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**