

# MAGGIE'S CROSS



## From Our Rector

*Silver or Gold,  
I do not have...*

As I write to you this day, it is the morning of January 1st, 2025. It is the beginning of a new calendar year, new possibilities are hoped for, and new blessings await us all. On the church calendar this is the Feast Day of the Holy Name, in which the Church universal reminds us of the centrality and power of the name of Jesus. It is through His name alone that we find life, healing, and comfort, and my hope for each of us in this new year is that we will be sustained by the power of Jesus, that we will be led deeper into His presence, and that in all our trials and all our blessings we will seek Jesus and Him alone.

In the third chapter of Acts of the Apostles, Peter is asked by a beggar who was lame from birth for money. Having none to give Peter says to the man, *Silver or gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk.* The man thought he needed money to survive, but what he truly needed was true

healing in the Name of Jesus. The power of Jesus, and the invocation of His Name, was evident in the first century, and the church has borne witness to this His power ever since. One thousand years later, Saint Bernard of Clairvaux, a Cistercian monk, mystic, and abbot of the abbey in Clairvaux wrote about the power and beauty in Jesus' most Holy Name,

*The sweet Name of Jesus produces in us holy thoughts, fills the soul with noble sentiments, strengthens virtue, begets good works, and nourishes pure affections. All spiritual food leaves the soul dry, if it contain not that penetrating oil, the Name Jesus. When you take your pen, write the Name Jesus: if you write books, let the Name of Jesus be contained in them, else they will possess no charm or attraction for me; you may speak, or you may reply, but if the Name of Jesus sounds not from your lips, you are without unction and without charm. Jesus is honey in our mouth, light in our eyes, a flame in our heart. This name is the cure for all diseases of the soul. Are you troubled? think but of Jesus, speak but the Name of Jesus, the clouds disperse, and peace descends anew from heaven. Have you fallen into sin? so that you fear death? invoke the Name of Jesus, and you will soon feel life returning. No obduracy*

*of the soul, no weakness, no coldness of heart can resist this holy Name; there is no heart which will not soften and open in tears at this holy name. Are you surrounded by sorrow and danger? invoke the Name of Jesus, and your fears will vanish.*

*To think of Jesus is to think of the great, infinite God Who, having given us His life as an example, has also bestowed the necessary understanding, energy and assistance to enable us to follow and imitate Him, in our thoughts, inclinations, words and actions. If the Name of Jesus reaches the depths of our heart, it leaves heavenly virtue there. We say, therefore, with our great master, St. Paul the Apostle: If any man love not our Lord Jesus Christ, let him be anathema.*

Beloved of Saint Margaret's, in this new year of possibilities and blessings, let us not seek silver or gold, but Jesus. Let His name be upon our lips and His presence in our hearts, that we might follow Him and be made more into His likeness.

In the Name of Jesus,

Fr. Todd+  
dill@saintmargarets.net



# 2025

New Years, is that time when we are all encouraged to think, wonder, ponder the previous year and what will come in the new year. It is a time for celebrating. It is a time of evaluating. It is a time to think about trying something new. There are a few new things to be tried here at St. Margaret's.

Have you tried:

- Adult Formation on Sunday Morning 9:30am
- Wednesday Morning Bible Study 10am
- Holy Eucharist with Anointing Wednesday 11am
- Men's Group (more info. coming soon)
- Youth Group 5pm Most Sundays
- Children's Formation on Sunday 9:30am
- Outreach Opportunities:  
Common Heart Food Pantry  
Community Kitchen Meals & More!
- Chat with Fr. Matt  
Tuesdays & Thursday 10am & 1pm



The new year is a wonderful time to start a new spiritual habit. We would love to see you at one of our offerings in 2025!

Lord, You make all things new. You bring hope alive in our hearts and cause our spirits to be born again. Thank you for this new year for all the potential it holds. Come and kindle in us a mighty flame so that in our time, many will see the wonders of God and live forever to praise Your glorious name. Amen.



## Advent – BLUE

Blue is the color for Advent. During the Middle Ages, when blue was an expensive color to reproduce, purple was often used instead. This is why you still see some churches using purple in Advent. Also, purple was used by churches that followed the Roman rite as opposed to the Sarum Rite. Theologically, however, blue is the proper color for this season, because Blue is the color of the Blessed Virgin, and Advent is all about Mary as we await with her the arrival of the Incarnate God. Blue is the color of hope, expectation, confidence, and anticipation. These are all adjectives which describe the season of Advent.

## Christmas and Easter – WHITE

White is the color of both Easter and Christmas. It is the color of celebration, joy, and peace in the western world. With the color gold, white symbolizes the greatest work of God in the world, specifically His incarnation into this world at Christmas, and His triumph over death and evil at Easter. White is the color used for funerals, as we celebrate the passage of another soul into the Kingdom of God. Likewise, it is the color of baptisms and weddings, as we celebrate the arrival of another child of God into his household of faith, and as we celebrate the union of soulmates into one family in the eyes of God.

## Epiphany and Pentecost (Ordinary Time) – GREEN

Green is the color of revelatory experience, and so is the color of the feasts that celebrate God's revelation to mankind: Epiphany and Pentecost. Epiphany, the season after Christmas, celebrates Christ's revelation as the Incarnate God to the Gentiles. Pentecost occurs after the Easter season and includes Trinity Sunday (return to white), which celebrates the revelation of the One Eternal God as revealed in the persons of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The season falls within the late Spring and Summer months, when we see the natural world grow green with leaves, vines, and crops. Therefore, green symbolizes our own spiritual growth in Christ, nurtured by the Church and the Gospels.

## Lent – PURPLE

Purple is the color of humility, penance, and wisdom that comes from inward discernment. It is also the color of royalty. The extreme differences between the two (humility and royalty) express one of the great lessons of Lent: Christ as the servant-king and our endurance to be as such to the world as well. In penitential theology, purple is the color of inward reflection, which is one of the important things we are called to do each Lent in preparation for Easter.

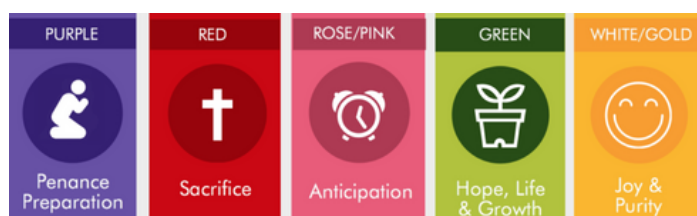
## Holy Week and Pentecost Sunday – RED

Red is the color of excitement, energy, power, and all things intense and passionate. As such, red is the color of the Holy Spirit. It calls to mind the flames that descended upon the Church at the Day of Pentecost, and so is the color of the Feast of Pentecost. It is also used on Palm Sunday and during Holy Week, recalling the work of the Holy Spirit at Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem and His Passion. Red is the color of the Holy Order of Bishops, and so is used for all Episcopal visitations and offices (consecrations, ordinations, and confirmations), using a bright, primary red. Finally, red is used for the commemoration of all martyred saints. Red recalls the blood shed for the Faith and the Church.

## Good Friday – BLACK

Black is generally used on only one day of the year: Good Friday. It is the color of extreme, deep sorrow. Good Friday is the only day of the year that such sorrow is expressed in the Church. Black is appropriate for the first of only two days of the year on which the celebration of the Holy Eucharist is forbidden. On Good Friday, the altar is usually kept stripped. However, if Communion is to be received from the reserved Sacrament (there is never the celebration of the Eucharist on either Good Friday or Holy Saturday), the altar may be adorned in hangings with black. Since Communion is never received – even from the Reserve – on Holy Saturday, the altar remains stripped with no hangings at all. Should an individual community decide to keep black hangings on the altar during Holy Saturday, they should be removed by sundown, which the beginning of the Easter Vigil. (Note: Black is not appropriate for Christian funerals, as Christian funeral rites are Easter liturgies – and so white is more appropriately used).

# DID YOU KNOW?



SAINT MARGARET'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
**STEWARDSHIP**  
 **2025**

*Final*

**Pledge Goal**  
**\$1,040,000**

2025 PLEDGING UNITS AS OF 12/30/24:	215
AMOUNT PLEDGED TO DATE:	\$871,105
AMOUNT NEEDED TO REACH GOAL:	\$168,895
% REMAINING:	16%

If you have not pledged yet and would like to  
to **PLEDGE NOW**.



*Many thanks to the  
households who have  
pledged to support the  
work of St. Margaret's in  
2025!*

**Where  
are  
you  
rooted?**



# Youth Spotlight

BY ELIZABETH PFEIFER

ASSISTANT TO THE RECTOR FOR YOUTH MINISTRY

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

The St. Margaret's youth program had a truly fantastic calendar year full of fun programs and retreats, small group discussions, and a fair amount of laughter and good-natured competitiveness. Our students have taken Jesus' call to make disciples seriously and have been inviting friends, and friends of friends, to our Sunday evening meetings. We appreciate the youth and parents who worked very hard to juggle what life throws at them while still managing to read all of Elizabeth's weekly news and respond to texts.

## *A look back at what the youth of St. Margaret's took part in in 2024:*

- Had 32 Sunday night EYC meetings or events
- Spent the season after the Epiphany discussing "who is Jesus" and looking at stories from Jesus' childhood and how they influenced his future ministry
- Flipped pancakes and cooked bacon at the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper
- Learned about Jesus instituting the Eucharist on Maundy Thursday.
- Met up with 47 of our best friends for dinner and ice cream after spring break
- Took a charter bus down highway 74 to Oak Island for our beach retreat
- Commandeered a section of Oak Island beach when 43 students and 8 adults joined for our EYC Beach Retreat
- Celebrated 9 graduating seniors who received their handmade scarves from our Knots of Love ministry
- Participated in a week-long mission trip to Pigeon Forge, TN
- Volunteered at Vacation Bible School
- Took a big chunk of the summer off while Elizabeth was on sabbatical, but we still made time to welcome our 6th graders and new families with our annual summer bowling outing
- Welcomed our 9th graders to the "high school couch" with a summer pizza gathering
- Packed the parish hall when 72 students attended EYC Kick Off in August.
- Spent a beautiful fall weekend at Bethelwoods Camp for our fall overnight
- Spent multiple meetings discussing how we are God's incredible masterpieces, designed to do "good works."
- Created our own masterpieces on canvas to celebrate Saint Francis of Assisi and God's creation
- Ate a comical amount of candy. And mac-n-cheese. But, hey, if you can't do it when you're a teenager, when can you?!



***For all of those things and more, I say: thank you and here's to 2025!***

A special thank you to the many adults who volunteered with youth group in a variety of capacities this year.

We especially thank: Erin Nelson, Sue Jaquish, Julie Jenkins, Mark Shaffer, and Sharon Sullivan for the time they dedicate to our Sunday night gatherings.

**EYC will meet every Sunday in January (5th, 12, 19th, and 26th) from 5:00-6:30 with a complimentary dinner from 6:30-7:00pm.**

All 6th-12th graders are invited to EYC gatherings and friends are always welcome.



# EYC

*Join the fun in 2025!*

Youth Group will meet every Sunday in  
January (5th, 12, 19th, and 26th)  
from 5:00-6:30 with a  
complimentary dinner from 6:30-7:00pm.



# Children's Ministry



**BY JAMIE PETER**

ASSISTANT TO THE RECTOR  
FOR CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

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

We wrapped up 2024 with lots of fun and joy the Saint Margaret's Children's Ministry! Sunday School classes spent time with Advent lessons, and we took time to read The Legend of the Candy Cane and discussed how this seasonal candy represents Jesus. Students enjoyed getting to celebrate Jesus' birthday early with a Christmas-themed scavenger hunt and Nativity ornament making. Thank you to our Sunday School teachers for a fabulous fall!

We held our annual Saint Nicholas Festival on December 7th with story time with Father Matt, crafts, and a yummy pancake breakfast. Children made clay Advent wreaths, enjoyed hot cocoa, and listened to live music provided by Saint Margaret's own Laura Sells. A highlight this year was the introduction of crocheted Father Dill Pickle ornaments, which were blessed and will provide a fun tradition to everyone's Christmas tree for years to come! Thank you to all the volunteers who made this year's event such a success.

During the 3pm Christmas Eve service we held our "pick up" children's Christmas Eve Pageant. Since no rehearsals were needed, children were invited to show up and pick out their favorite costumes to participate. There were several adorable angels, donkeys, shepherds, and a bright shining star! The children did a remarkable job sharing the story of Jesus' birth!

We are excited to start back with Sunday School classes in January and look forward to what the New Year brings!

Have a happy and healthy New Year!



*Mark your 2025 calendars for a few upcoming dates in Children's Ministry, and keep a lookout for emails with additional details:*

**January 5th:**

Nursery Care Resumes

**January 12th:**

Sunday School Classes Resume  
9:30-10:15am

**Feb. 2nd, Feb. 9th, & Feb. 16th:**

Spring Holy Communion Classes  
9:30-10:15am

*\*Registration coming soon*

**February 23rd:**

Holy Communion Class Celebration  
at 10:30am service

**April 19th:**

Easter Egg Hunt at 10am

**June 16th-19th:**

Vacation Bible School



# Parish Connection & Outreach

BY TRACI SCOTT

ASSISTANT TO THE RECTOR FOR OUTREACH & PARISH CONNECTION

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



**Welcome new members!**

*The Stengel Family  
Joe, Meredith & JT*



Want to help with a future monthly parish breakfast?

**Volunteers are always welcome.**

Click here for more information:

<https://bit.ly/2425Breakfast>



*Thank you to all the ladies who attended the Advent Social in December. It was a festive evening of fellowship & fun and some great gift giving.*

*Special thanks to Traci Scott for organizing. Here's to next year.*

# Outreach

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



**Pantry update:** Christmas cheer was certainly felt at our weekly pantries in December! Hot chocolate, candy canes, treat bags for the kids and even a visit from Santa himself all served to put smiles on the faces of kids (and adults) of all ages! Many thanks to Tara & Neva, Karen Mills, Kathy & Tommy Clapp, Erin Culver & Jeff Culver for loving on our neighbors. We hope to see you at a Wednesday night pantry soon. **CLICK LINK BELOW** to sign up: <https://bit.ly/stmpantry>.



**Books for the pantry:** St. Margaret's is collecting new and gently used children's books, games, puzzles, and (new) coloring books to distribute to the children who come to the Common Heart pantry on Wednesday nights. We can use items for all ages (infant-high school), but particularly for preschool-2nd grade, middle school, and high school. Leave donations in the box in the narthex. If you have a large donation, contact Tara McLellan at [tara.mclellan@gmail.com](mailto:tara.mclellan@gmail.com) for pickup. We distribute book packets 1-2 times a month, and the kids love them!

## Worship flower delivery team

When parishioners sign up to provide flowers for our Sunday worship services, they can choose whether to take the flowers home afterwards or have us donate them to a local nursing home for the residents to enjoy. We then need drivers to pick the flowers up on Mondays and deliver them to White Oak nursing home in Waxhaw. Could you help us by signing up to deliver these floral arrangements when you are available? **CLICK THIS LINK** to sign up:

## CKF StM Monthly Meal Delivery

We call it Community Kitchen Fellowship or CKF. One group of parishioners meets in the StM kitchen to prepare to-go meals and another group of drivers come to pick them up and deliver them in the Waxhaw area. It's easy and FUN! A great way to meet fellow StM members and give back at the same time. Can you help us in 2025 by either delivering, shopping, baking desserts or helping in the kitchen? Lots of ways to get involved. **CLICK LINKS BELOW** to sign up:

<https://bit.ly/CKFdelivery>

<https://bit.ly/CKFmeals>



## Shelter Meal January 28th

Our next meal for the Union County Shelter is coming up on January 28th. Please sign up to help us with shopping, cooking, baking or serving. Cooking will take place at St. Margaret's on 1/28 at 1pm and then, we'll be serving the meal at the Shelter in Monroe at 5:30pm that same day. **CLICK LINK BELOW** to volunteer: <https://bit.ly/2024Shelter>



Sunday School will resume on January 19h for adults. We have two new classes for Spring '25.

FINDING

# Hope & Rest

THROUGH SPIRITUAL CONNECTIONS

SUNDAY MORNINGS  
9:30-PARISH HALL

## OPTION 1

*led by Clergy*

Peace of God  
which  
transcends all  
understanding.

Join us Sundays at  
9:30am in the Youth  
Room

## OPTION 2

*led by  
Elizabeth Pfeifer*



Our church office is open M-Th from 9:00-4:00  
& 9:00-12:00 noon on Friday.

#### Rector

The Reverend Fr. Todd R. Dill+  
dill@saintmargarets.net

Assistant to the Rector

The Reverend Fr. Matt Addington+  
addington@saintmargarets.net

#### Priest Associate

The Reverend Sarah Hollar+  
hollar@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  
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Assistant to the Rector for Finance & Accounting

Kathy Marakoff  
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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

#### 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*



## January Calendar

- 1/5 Monthly Parish Breakfast
- 1/5 EYC back from Winter Break
- 1/11 DOK monthly meeting, 11:00 am
- 1/12 Sunday School resumes
- 1/12 2025 Vestry Election**
- 1/12 Annual Parish Meeting, 9:30 - 10:15 in the Parish Hall**
- 1/18 Community Kitchen Fellowship, 9:00 am
- 1/18 Knots of Love monthly meeting, 10:00 am
- 1/19 Adult Sunday School Classes resume, 9:30 - 10:15
- 1/20 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED
- 1/21 Vestry Business Meeting

\*First Monday of the month: *Prayer time in the nave with Father Todd, 10:00 am*

\*Wednesday Evenings: *Food Pantry, 6:00 pm & Compline on FB Live at 9:00 pm*

 **CLICK HERE for our YouTube channel** *SERMONS in library!*

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

### A Blessing for the Season of Epiphany

May Almighty God, who led the Wise Men by the shining of a star to find the Christ, the Light from Light, lead you also, in your pilgrimage, to find the Lord. Amen.

May God, who sent the Holy Spirit to rest upon the Only begotten at his baptism in the Jordan River, pour out that Spirit on you who have come to the waters of new birth. Amen.

May God, by the power that turned water into wine at the wedding feast at Cana, transform your lives and make glad your hearts. Amen.

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. Amen.



Happy New Year from the StM Clergy & Staff