

# MAGGIE'S CROSS



## From Our Rector *The Joy of Lent*

People look at me strange when I say this, but the season of Lent is my favorite time of the year. Lent is a season of repentance, sacrifice, and reflection, and for most of us those do not sound like very exciting endeavors. It is easier to get excited about warmer weather, spring flowers, and the beginning of baseball season, but the exercise of self-denial and reconciliation can seem like a time for us to endure before the joyous season of Eastertide rather than forty days to deepen our faith.

The formal practice of Lent in the Church seems to have begun shortly after the Council of Nicea in 325 A.D. Fasting was the primary spiritual discipline practiced, and at first applied mainly to new converts to the faith and then later to the entire church community. There is some sense that a season of forty days leading to Easter was honored by the very early church, as St. Irenaeus

(130-202) wrote some correspondences to fellow bishops to address the number of days required for fasting before Easter. Just as Jesus went into the wilderness for forty days, and just as the Israelites journeyed for forty years to the promised land, our forty days of Lent are a gift from the Church that offers us a time of preparation for the extraordinary blessings waiting for us on the other side of the wilderness.

After forty years, the people of Israel reached the Promise Land. After forty days battling Satan, Jesus embarked upon His public ministry of healing, teaching, gathering, and forming His Father's Kingdom. For us, Lent can be an extraordinary time of reflection, acknowledgment of our faults, and an embracing of the new life that Jesus offers to each of us. Simplifying our lives, discarding the clutter in our hearts, and turning back to God is the most amazing thing, and Lent is an offering that invites us to reorient our hearts back to our Father so that we might give ourselves to Him and His purposes for us. Having done the hard work of the season and being connected deeper to our Lord through its spiritual disciplines, Lent can be a season of joyfulness and rejoicing, knowing that God our Father waits for us again to give ourselves more

***“...our forty days of Lent are a gift from the Church that offers us a time of preparation for the extraordinary blessings waiting for us on the other side of the wilderness...”***

fully to Him. Lent is hard, Lent is challenging, but Lent can also be a season of renewal, refreshment, and connection with Jesus.

*“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. (Jer 29:11-13)”*

May you each have a Lent full of rich worship, deep prayer, and amazing joy!

Your priest,

*Fr. Todd+*

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



A close-up photograph of a hand applying a grey, powdery substance (ash) to a white surface. The ash is being spread into a cross shape. The background is a plain white surface.

# Ash

# Wednesday

Ash Wednesday is  
March 5th.

Services at noon  
and 7:00pm

St. Margaret's Episcopal Church  
Waxhaw, NC



# What are you Giving Up for Lent?

This may be the most asked question during any given Lenten Season. Whether you like sharing what you're giving up or what you're taking on, or not, a dear friend of mine shared with me a Lenten thought that has stuck with me for several years. "Don't go looking for a desert in Lent when your already standing in the middle of one."

This statement has taken on several meanings throughout the years. Sometimes it has meant don't think too hard about giving something up and replacing that moment or that indulgence with reflection. Other times it has meant that life is harder than usual already, and making it even harder by trying to find another desert to stand in, simply doesn't make much sense.

This year beloved, I share this Lenten thought with you because many of you have shared your concerns with me. You have shared social, family, personal, societal, and global concerns. What many of you have described to me sounds like a desert experience.

If you find yourself in the middle of a desert already, be present in that moment, in that space this lenten season. Seeking out a new desert may lead to exhaustion, frustration, and a host of other things. In the desert moments of life, in the moments of reflection, contemplation, in the moments of prayer and repentance God is there. Jesus was tempted for 40 days in every way and did not sin. If we fall short during our fasts, with our prayers, do not beat yourself up over these things. Simply begin again. As we embark on this Lenten journey of self-examination and repentance, by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's Holy word, I invite you to be present to where you feet are. To be present to what God will reveal as we draw our hearts and minds closer to him remembering that we know how the story ends. Lent points us towards resurrection. Lent prepares us for resurrection. The journey to resurrection is not a sprint but a slow reflective pace, for us to be still and know that God is God.

Beloved, I pray this Holy Lent will be a journey that brings us all to a new birth. The journey most certainly begins in the desert, but remember we may already be in the middle of the desert of life, take heart because we know full well, that rest and rejoicing will come in the morning. Amen.



**Something new is coming  
online beginning in Lent.**

**Be on the look out on Facebook and  
Instagram! St. Margaret's is going  
viral!**



[@stmwaxhaw](https://www.instagram.com/stmwaxhaw)

[@stmwaxhaw](https://www.facebook.com/stmwaxhaw)





# Music

BY GAVIN D. CRAIG

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC & ORGANIST

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

## FINDING ORDER IN MEDIEVAL MUSIC

On Friday, March 21, Music at St. Margaret's will host **Calextone**, a California ensemble presenting music of the medieval era. Their program, *Solatium, highlights 14th-century music celebrating the cosmic order*. In a time of disease, schism, and warfare, musicians and artists sought to impose structure and beauty on a world in turmoil.

As European culture transitioned into the Renaissance, these efforts inspired innovations that produced a rich and unique repertoire, which continues to fascinate today.

As European states asserted themselves militarily and politically, distinctive regional styles sprang up. In France, the Ars Nova movement pushed the boundaries of musical complexity for an elite court, while the English favored simpler, dance-like music. Italian composers, meanwhile, balanced innovation with expressiveness.

Despite these differences, certain themes unified the arts, such as courtly love, an idealized romance for a woman of higher status, stemming from the troubadour tradition. In Italy, this led to unaccompanied love songs called madrigals, telling stories of longing and virtue. The French chanson, meanwhile, used lower voices to accompany a melody—an innovation at a time when harmony was added both above and below.

In addition to common approaches to poetry, new approaches to song structure provided order. Still familiar today is the canon, in which multiple parts sing or play the same melody at different times, while the rondellus had different phrases of a musical line sung simultaneously to similar effect. Composers explored formes fixes, structured song forms such as the rondeaux, which featured repeated refrains. And the regular, predictable rhythms of dance music such as the estampie were adopted into vocal music, reinforcing a sense of meter and movement.

Though these innovations emerged seven centuries ago, larger musical forms, rhythmic predictability, refrains, and melodic emphasis continue to shape even popular music today. Each of these forms will be performed in this month's offering by Calextone, showcasing a repertoire that is only recently being rediscovered. Join us on March 21 to experience this fascinating music and connect with those who sought to bring order to a world in chaos.



*Make a joyful noise.*

**Please join in singing our hymn selections each Sunday.  
Your voice makes a difference as we worship together..**

Interested in the Children's or Adult Choir?  
Email Gavin at: [music@saintmargarets.net](mailto:music@saintmargarets.net)

A reminder that Adult Choir meets for rehearsal on  
Wednesdays at 7:00 - 8:30pm



# Youth Spotlight

**BY ELIZABETH PFEIFER**

ASSISTANT TO THE RECTOR FOR YOUTH MINISTRY

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

I love working with students. The energy and world view of a 13-year-old keeps me on my toes. I plan a game to go one way, they take it a completely different way. I highlight a Bible verse to make one point, they see a completely different (and valid!) point.

Working with students is the heartbeat of my job. But, I have also been at my job for 14+ years, so those students have grown up (and so have I!). Our former students have graduated college or gotten professional certificates, they have moved out or maybe moved out and then back home. They manage their own doctors appointments and pay their own taxes. And, some of them come to church on their own! St. Margaret's has an increasing number of former youth who are back in the Charlotte area and worshipping with us, volunteering their time, and re-engaging with their faith as 20-somethings rather than teens. We are so glad you are back at St. Margaret's, welcome home! We realize the 20-somethings are unlikely to read this newsletter article but if you are the parent of a 20-something, we see your young adult and we welcome them to St. Margaret's. Reach out to Elizabeth or Traci Scott

([connection@saintmargarets.net](mailto:connection@saintmargarets.net)) for information on connecting to St. Margaret's worship services and programs. Welcome back, we are glad you are here!

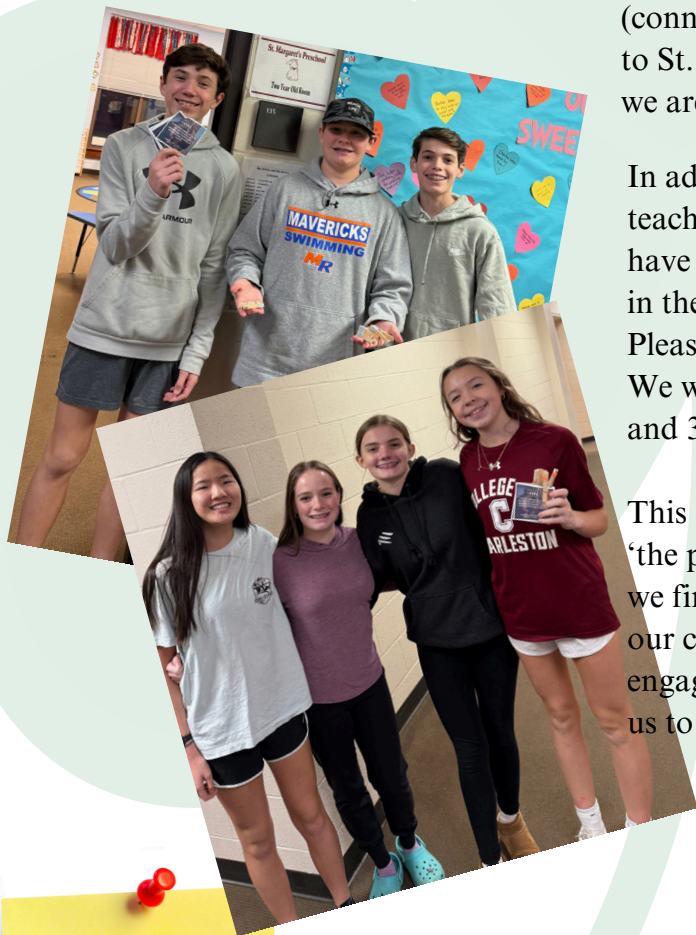
In addition to teens and young adults, I have also been honing my teaching skills with a different age group: adults! Since the fall, I have been teaching an adult education offering on Sunday mornings in the youth room for 9:30-10:15am (during our education time). Please consider joining us in March! We will gather March 9th, 16th, 23rd, and 30th.

This semester we have been discussing 'the peace of God,' what is it and how do we find, keep, and share it? In March our conversations will continue to engage with Bible passages encouraging us to seek God's peace.

I'd love to see you soon!

**Our EYC beach retreat for all 6th-12th graders is May 16th-18th at Oak Island.**  
*More info out in spring 2025.*

*Save  
the  
Date*



# Children's Ministry



**BY JAMIE PETER**

ASSISTANT TO THE RECTOR  
FOR CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

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

The new year has been off to a fast start and our Sunday School classes are back in the full swing of things. **Children have been learning from the books of Psalms, Luke, and Genesis.** Paired with modern day picture books that align with the lectionary, children have discovered the stories of Jesus calling upon his first disciples and Joseph choosing to forgive his brothers who sold him into slavery. It's been wonderful to see the children learn about Jesus and His ability to love everyone. There have been so many meaningful discussions and enjoyable craft activities.

## **There are only a couple spots left for Vacation Bible School!**



Don't wait to register for VBS and miss your chance to join us June 16-19, as we trek into the wilderness at True North VBS. Bursting with the glow of northern lights and the wonder of God's majestic wildlife, kids will discover that they can trust Jesus in a wild world.

VBS is open to students 4 years of age (as of 8/31/2025) to rising 5th grade.

We will have an amazing week of fun and fellowship through games, activities, crafts, and music!

**Click here to register!** Do you have 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.

## **CONGRATULATIONS to the following students and their families who completed the Holy Communion classes and received the Sacrament on February 23rd:**

As we approach the season of Lent, I invite you to join in a time of reflection, growth, and renewal. Lent is a special time when we come together to learn, pray, and share kindness with others. Whether through simple acts of love, prayer, or sacrifice, we can all grow closer to God.

If you are looking for a way to help prepare you children for Lent, please check out this article, *4 Things I Tell Children The Sunday Before Lent* by Christine Hides from [BuildingFaith.org](http://BuildingFaith.org). It is a quick and easy way to help younger ones be better prepared for what to expect in this upcoming season of the church.

I am excited to walk alongside you in this journey and look forward to the wonderful moments of learning and connection that Lent will bring. Let's make this season a time of hope and joy, as we prepare our hearts for the promise of Easter!



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

**April 27th:**  
Easter Egg Hunt at 9:30am

**June 16th-19th:**  
Vacation Bible School



# Parish Connection

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

**BY TRACI SCOTT**

ASSISTANT TO THE RECTOR FOR OUTREACH & PARISH CONNECTION

## StM 101 Class for Newcomers

Join us for our 2-week StM 101 Class on March 16 & 23 at 9:30am. Are you new to St. Margaret's or never been able to attend 101? In this 2-part session of our newcomers class, we discuss the Episcopal faith, our church's history, our various ministries and how to get engaged in the life of our parish. We'll also take a tour of the building.

**RSVP to Traci at [connection@saintmargarets.net](mailto:connection@saintmargarets.net)**



## Women's Lenten Bible Study

***"Have a Beautiful, Terrible Lent!"***

*Mondays 7pm in the Youth Room*

**March 10th thru April 14th** (the final session on 4/14 will be off-site)

*"Lent is full of hard truths...and it a perfect moment for spiritual honesty.*

*We can look on this tragicomedy with love and bemusement as we wait for the someday that will be God's promised future.*

*There, God's kingdom comes. God's will be done on earth as it is in heaven.*

*In the meantime, there's this...our beautiful, terrible days."* – Kate Bowler

Using Kate Bowler's book *Have a Beautiful, Terrible Day!* as a meditation guide during the season of Lent, this study offers an honest and real reflection on what it means to follow Jesus through the ups, downs, and in-betweens of our days.

**Purchase the book using one of the links here:**

**<https://katebowler.com/books/have-a-beautiful-terrible-day/>**

**Sign up for the study here: <https://stm.breezechms.com/form/5c2f5d36>**



# Sunday, March 2nd

**9:15 - 10:15 am**

## **StM MONTHLY FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST**

Want to help with a future monthly parish breakfast?  
Click here for more information: <https://bit.ly/2425Breakfast>



# Outreach

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

## Walk with us on Sun, March 2nd

Common Heart's annual Hunger Walk is on Sunday, March 2nd at 2pm. Crooked Creek Park in Indian Trail.



StM is putting together a team to walk that day and is captained by Fr. Matt, Fr. Jay & Karen Mills.

The goal is to raise awareness about hunger in our community and raise funds to support Common Heart's food pantry programs.

**CLICK HERE** to sign up to join our team "The Maggies" and spread the word to your friends and family. *Please register and/or donate today!*



**Volunteers needed at St. Margaret's on March 15 & 25.**

**March 15 at 9am:** 2 more people to help prep to-go meals in the kitchen

**March 15 at 11am:** 1 more car to deliver meals to 4 homes in the Waxhaw area

*If you're able to help, please sign up by clicking the link sbelow:*

<https://bit.ly/CKFdelivery>

<https://bit.ly/CKFmeals>

**March 25 at 1pm:** 2 more people are needed to help prep the Shelter meal. Prior to March 25, we also need a volunteer to shop for the groceries (to be reimbursed). **SIGN UP HERE:** <https://bit.ly/2024Shelter>

## Ways to help Western NC

Recently, Elizabeth, Fr. Matt and Traci have been looking for ways that we could help the devastated areas of Western NC as they continue to recover from Hurricane Helene. We all know it will take a long time and tons of resources for them to get back on their feet. As the weather continues to warm, there appear to be more ways that people can volunteer in person. Of course, monetary donations are still needed so that skilled labor can be hired to handle the more difficult repairs and to support the displaced families.

Elizabeth is planning a weekend youth mission trip to Marshall, NC in March (reach out to her for details) and we are looking for options for an adult or family trip later this spring/summer.

We also encourage you to think about visiting the area on your next vacation getaway. Maybe instead of going to the beach for spring break, rent an Airbnb in Hendersonville or Banner Elk and work in some time to volunteer or bring items to donate to a local collection.

Many of these areas rely heavily on tourism and the local economies took a big hit last fall. The beautiful NC mountains are only a short drive from us and such a special part of our state. Let's continue to support our friends as they work to rebuild!

**If you're looking to volunteer in person, below are some organizations that we found in our searches that you may want to check out:**

[\*\*Hands On Asheville\*\*](#)

[\*\*Baptist On Mission\*\*](#)

[\*\*Spokes of Hope\*\*](#)

[\*\*Samaritan's Purse\*\*](#)

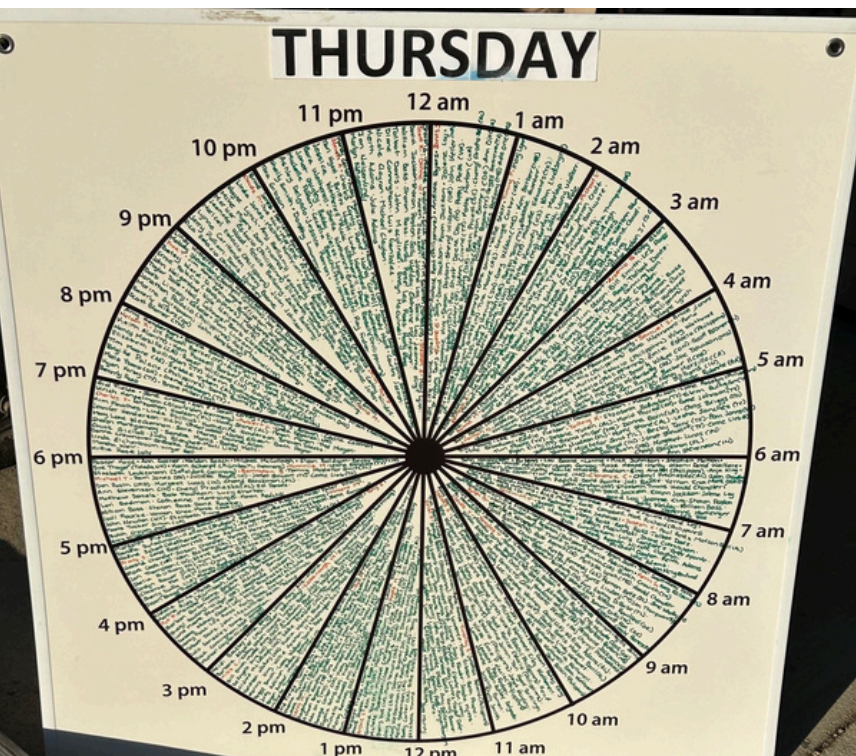




## Cookies, Meal Tickets & Prayers, March 25-28

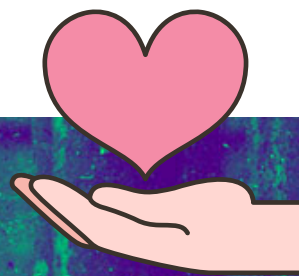
*The Kairos Team will be going into Kershaw Correctional Facility to share the Gospel with a group of 30 inmates over 4 days....and they need our support!*

1. **Homemade cookies:** cookies due Sunday, March 23rd in the collection bin outside the restrooms. No sign up needed. Prison rules require that the cookies are packaged in a quart-sized Ziploc bag with 12 in each 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.
2. **Meal tickets:** cover the cost of an inmate's meal during the 4-day Kairos event. Meals are brought in from outside sources and are quite a treat for the men as they go through the program. Your name is included on their placemat to let them know that someone cared enough to provide the food for them. \$10 covers one meal (lunch or dinner) <https://stm.breezechms.com/form/d7a249>



3. **Prayer vigil:** there will be a prayer vigil for the full 4 days where people can sign up to pray for one hour.

If you'd like to pray for the Kairos group March 25-28, please contact Traci at [connection@saintmargarets.net](mailto:connection@saintmargarets.net) to sign up and receive suggested prayers.





JOIN US!



SHROVE TUESDAY

# Pancake Supper

**Tuesday, March 4th**

**5:30-6:30pm**

**St. Margaret's Episcopal Church**

**Waxhaw, NC**

*All donations will support our Costa Rica mission trip*

Open to all adults!

# Then...GOD got Real

## ADULT LENTEN RETREAT

Saturday, 3/22

9:00 – 2:30

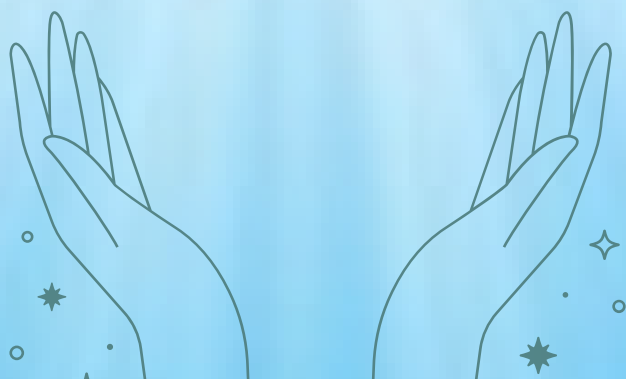
The Adult Lenten Retreat Day will include prompts to recall when God made himself very present to you bringing you comfort, giving you direction, answering your prayer, issuing you a call or challenge.

Time will be led by Rev. Sarah Hollar and spent in self-examination, questioning our relationship with God going forward. Then, when sharing our stories, we will engage the contemplative practice of holy listening, attending to what God's Spirit intends us to hear and intuit. Table fellowship at lunch, time to walk the labyrinth and Taizé worship will complete the day.

Mark your calendar, invite a friend, and get ready to encounter real-life, real-time examples of God acting in the lives of your faith companions.

**[CLICK THIS LINK](#) to register.**

*Deadline is 3/17 at noon.*





# March Calendar

- 3/2 Monthly Parish Breakfast, 9:15-10:15 am in the Parish Hall
- 3/2 Common Heart Hunger Walk, 2:00 pm
- 3/4 Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, 5:30-6:30 pm
- 3/5 **ASH WEDNESDAY, services at 12 noon & 7 pm**
- 3/9 Spring forward - time change
- 3/10 Women's Monday Night Lenten Bible Study begins, 7:00 pm
- 3/21 Music at Saint Margaret's Concert Series: Calextone, 6:30 pm
- 3/22 Lenten Retreat Day, 9:00-2:30 pm
- 3/23 Cookies Due for Kairos ministry



\*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

## LENT is...

The word "Lent" comes from an Old English word for "spring," and is derived from the German word "lang," meaning "long," because during this season before Easter, the hours of daylight become longer.

The Book of Common Prayer explains Lent in this way: "The first Christians observed with great devotion the days of our Lord's passion and resurrection, and it became the custom of the Church to prepare for them by a season of penitence and fasting. This season of Lent provided a time in which converts to the faith were prepared for Holy Baptism. It was also a time when those who, because of notorious sins, had been separated from the body of the faithful were reconciled by penitence and forgiveness, and restored to the fellowship of the Church (Book of Common Prayer, pp. 264-265).

**The Episcopal Church invites us to observe Lent "by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy Word" (Book of Common Prayer, p. 265).**

episcopalchurch.org



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](mailto:dill@saintmargarets.net)

### Assistant to the Rector

The Reverend Fr. Matt Addington+  
[addington@saintmargarets.net](mailto:addington@saintmargarets.net)

### Priest Associate

The Reverend Sarah Hollar+  
[hollar@saintmargarets.net](mailto:hollar@saintmargarets.net)

### Deacon

The Rev. Ludwig Wallner

### Organist & Director of Music

Gavin D. Craig  
[music@saintmargarets.net](mailto:music@saintmargarets.net)

### Executive Assistant to the Rector

Joanie Cameron  
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### Assistant to the Rector for Youth Ministries

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### 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  
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### Assistant to the Rector for Outreach & Parish Connection

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

## 2024 Vestry

Emily Nelson, Senior Warden  
Tom Washington, Junior Warden  
Philip Huff  
Bill MacMinn  
Jenny Marlier  
Amy Pharr  
Josh Ward  
Kathleen Culpeper  
Karen Paar  
David Feldser, Treasurer