

MAGGIE'S CROSS



From Our Rector

An invitation to Holy Week

If you asked Christians today what the most important day of the year was, most would likely respond with Christmas Day. Our modern society has done a powerful job of building up the Christmas season, turning it into what now seems like months of celebration and hecticness, so much so that many of us need a vacation to recover from all the activities that have so consumed our lives during that season. But as much as I love Christmas, its season, and the celebration of the Nativity of our Lord, the most important day of the year is Easter, and Easter (along with Holy Week) is now almost upon us.

Beginning with Palm Sunday, Holy Week and its liturgies invites us on a spiritual journey in which we walk alongside Jesus and fall more deeply in love with Him through the remembrance of His saving acts for us. On Palm Sunday we experience the

celebratory procession of the palms and listen to the passion narrative being read for the first time that week, inviting us all into the solemnity of the week. Maundy Thursday recalls the night in which Jesus instituted the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist, commanded us to love one another, and the altar is stripped and cleansed. Just as the disciples were asked to stay and pray with Jesus, a prayer vigil is held in the church that evening as we too are invited to sit for one hour with the reserved Sacrament from the Maundy Thursday service. Good Friday confronts us with the reality of the cross and our own participation of it, and we are invited into the ancient practice of venerating the cross as we meditate on the great victory that Jesus has won. At the Great Vigil of Easter, we kindle the new Easter fire, hear the incredible story of God's love for His people, baptize new Christians, and celebrate new creation begun through the saving acts of Jesus. Easter morning finds us at the empty tomb, celebrating, along with Mary, Peter and all the disciples, a new life offered to us and to the world.

I share this with you so you might accept an invitation to Holy Week

“... as I love Christmas, its season, and the celebration of the Nativity of our Lord, the most important day of the year is Easter...”

I believe with all my heart, that if you participate in the fullness of the liturgies of Holy Week, your Easter experience will be different. To hear the story again, to receive the Body and Blood of our Lord, and to meditate on the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross can help re-center our lives on the most important thing that has ever happened in the world and in our lives. I encourage you to set aside some time that week, come to church, and remember again just how much Jesus loves you.

“Unless there is a Good Friday in your life, there can be no Easter Sunday.”

– Ven. Fulton Sheen

Your priest,

Fr. Todd+

dill@saintmargarets.net



Holy⁺Week **SERVICES**

April 17: Maundy Thursday	7:00PM
April 18: Good Friday	NOON
April 19: Great Vigil of Easter	8:00PM
April 20: Easter Day	8:15 & 10:30AM

Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping. "Couldn't you men keep watch with me for one hour?" he asked Peter.

Matthew 26:40

CLICK HERE



Please **click this link** to sign up for our overnight prayer vigil on 4/17-18.

Interested in dedicating a lily to help decorate our worship space this Easter?

Lilies are \$15 each. Use **THIS LINK** to pay and submit your dedication. All dedications will appear in Easter Vigil & Day bulletins. *Deadline is: April 14th.*

And Then...Things Got Real

Deep in this season of Holy Lent I found myself standing in a 100 year old building that was originally built as a school in Marshall, NC that, before Hurricane Helene, was converted an art studio and community center.

Twenty-Five feet of contaminated water filled the building as a result of the hurricane. Twenty-Five feet of water also filled every home and business in the area.

Our small group from St. Margaret's shoveled and spread 5,000 cubic feet of gravel. We cleaned muddy and moldy window frames and chair molding. We did good hard work that was really important to the town of Marshall and its people.

We also were offering hope. We were showing the good people of Marshall they are not forgotten and they are beloved children of God and we care deeply for them.

And then, things got real. In having a brief conversation with a resident of this tiny mountain town, God showed up. Very few words were said between he and I but we both knew that the Spirit was alive and moving touching us both. He knew things would get better and he was grateful for us being there to help make a difference, but what struck me, was how this person knew that he was part of something bigger, and we were part of something bigger. What a wonderful reminder during this season of Holy Lent. During this season of fasting and prayer, reflection and reading of scripture, to live a life of abundance even when most of the normal parts of life are no longer an option, even when there is a constant reminder of the destruction from fallen trees and mud slides and buildings no longer standing, Christ over comes all, and this man knew it and is living into it. When life is abruptly halted and his first response is Christ is overcoming, I knew I was standing on holy ground. Yes we worked hard. Yes we did what we could, but i received so much more from that small intimate moment, than I think I gave all weekend long. Thanks be to God for the amazing people of Marshall.



BY REV. FATHER MATT ADDINGTON
ASSISTANT TO THE RECTOR

Father Matt is in the office M-Th
and can be reached at:
addington@saintmargarets.net



WNC Adult & Family Work Weekend

Friday-Saturday, April 25th & 26th

As you read in Father Matt's article, our youth group spent a work weekend in Marshall, NC to support Helene relief work. We were partnered with Marshall Relief Alliance and worked at Marshall High Studios.

Six months after Helene, Marshall is actively rebuilding their community and there is absolutely a need for volunteers and neighbors supporting neighbors. The weekend was a powerful reminder that our neighbors are still in need of support and to know that they have not been forgotten.

St. Margaret's is planning to return to Marshall to volunteer Fri-Sat, April 25 & 26, (the end of Union County Public Schools spring break) for an adults and family (6th grade and above) work weekend and we hope you will consider joining us.

Use the following [link](#) to sign up to serve with us April 25 & 26th.

[CLICK HERE](#)

Can't join for the weekend but would like to support with a monetary donation so that skilled labor can be hired to handle the more difficult repairs and support displaced families?

Contact Elizabeth at pfeifer@saintmargarets.net



Music

BY GAVIN D. CRAIG

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC & ORGANIST

music@saintmargarets.net

Alleluia: A Listener's Guide

The ancient custom of the western Church has been to suppress the singing of “Alleluia” in the liturgy throughout the season of Lent. As we prepare to shout and chant this word of joy again on April 20, I would like to briefly comment on some of the exceptional ways “Alleluia” has been treated in music. *All these pieces can be found on platforms such as YouTube or Spotify.*

Hymn 122, “*Alleluia, song of gladness*” is a twelfth century hymn for the final days of the Epiphany season. It speaks of the “alleluia” connecting us to the eternal choirs of heaven, then how the sorrows and sins of mortal life compel us to refrain from the word through Lent. Then verse four asks “at the last to keep thine Easter... for ever singing alleluia joyfully.” I’ve yet to program it here (in my opinion, the tune and translation in the 1940 hymnal are far more suitable), but it is a beautiful meditation on the word.

In the traditional Gregorian Chant of the Roman Church, the Gospel is preceded by a sung “Alleluia” with a verse. These chants developed into long, complex melodies where the word “Alleluia” would be sung fairly simply, but the final “a” would be sung to a seemingly endless melody of its own, of great beauty. For example, “Alleluia, Pascha nostrum” from the Easter Day Mass has forty notes for this final syllable! St. Augustine wrote of melodies such as this that they are “the sound of joy without words.”

The music for Hymn 518, “*Christ is made the sure foundation*” was adapted from the anthem “*O God, thou art my God*” by the great Henry Purcell. The words originally sung to that music? “*Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia...*”

Probably the most obvious use of this word in music is the Hallelujah Chorus from the oratorio *The Messiah* by Georg Handel. This piece has attained to the absolute heights of fame and legend among classical compositions. Traditionally, audiences stand when this is sung, owing to an apocryphal story that King George II, astonished by its majesty, immediately stood up, prompting everyone else to stand in kind. It is also said that right after Handel wrote this movement, he exclaimed, “*I did think I did see all Heaven before me, and the great God himself seated on his throne, with his company of Angels.*” For a little different treatment by Handel, try “*Hallelujah, Amen*” from *Judas Maccabaeus*, written in similar style.

Jumping ahead to 1940, Randall Thompson was commissioned to write a celebratory choral piece for the opening of the Berkshire Music Center in Lenox, MA. About to set upon his work, Thompson was horrified by the rapid fall of France before the invading Germans at the outbreak of World War II, and chose instead to write an Alleluia which instead has a slow and contemplative mood. He said, “The word “Alleluia” has so many possible interpretations. The music in my particular Alleluia cannot be made to sound joyous. It is a slow, sad piece.”

I found fairly little information about James Furman’s “*Hehlelooyuh*”, but it is a decidedly different perspective on the word, as the title indicates. Written in 1976 and dedicated to his mother, the piece incorporates much from African-American musical traditions, and I would argue that its use only of the word, changes in mood, and flowing nature point strongly to an intentional inspiration by the previous work by Thompson.

The 1979 Book of Common Prayer featured a revision to the Coverdale translation of the Psalms, updating them into contemporary English. Among more minor textual changes was the decision to replace the old “Praise the Lord” in many Psalms with the original Hebrew words, with the explanation of the translation reading, “The ancient praise-shout, ‘Hallelujah,’ has been restored.” This quote is the title of the first movement of Dan Locklair’s *Rubrics*, a suite of organ works inspired by the instructions in the Book of Common Prayer. The piece is fast and energetic and conveys the excitement of an Easter “Alleluia” heard once more!

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





Youth Spotlight

BY ELIZABETH PFEIFER

ASSISTANT TO THE RECTOR FOR YOUTH MINISTRY

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Spring is here and youth group is overjoyed with our longer days, warmer temperatures, and plenty of sunshine (well, Elizabeth is at least!).

In March we discussed the season of Lent and spoke about it as a journey—an opportunity to be intentional about our faith and participate in activities that involve a regular action to bring us closer to God. Lent provides a chance to get from point A to point E to point L with our faith. We wrote postcards to ourselves (which Elizabeth mailed later in Lent) challenging ourselves to a Lenten practice; we discussed the parable of the Lost Sheep and how far Jesus is willing to go to find us.



We finished up the month with a new series called ***“Did you hear about Jesus?”*** We heard stories of Jesus that might have made people say, ***“did you hear about what Jesus did?”*** Our first story was Jesus healing a blind man using only spit and mud and we will continue this series into April.

We also squeezed in a quick work weekend in western North Carolina to support Helene relief work. The local school district had a Friday off so we drove up to Marshall, NC early that morning and worked at Marshall Arts Studio, a historic school turned community center, the remainder of the day and Saturday. Half of the group spent their time in a pit of gravel, moving it from a conveyer belt and raking it.

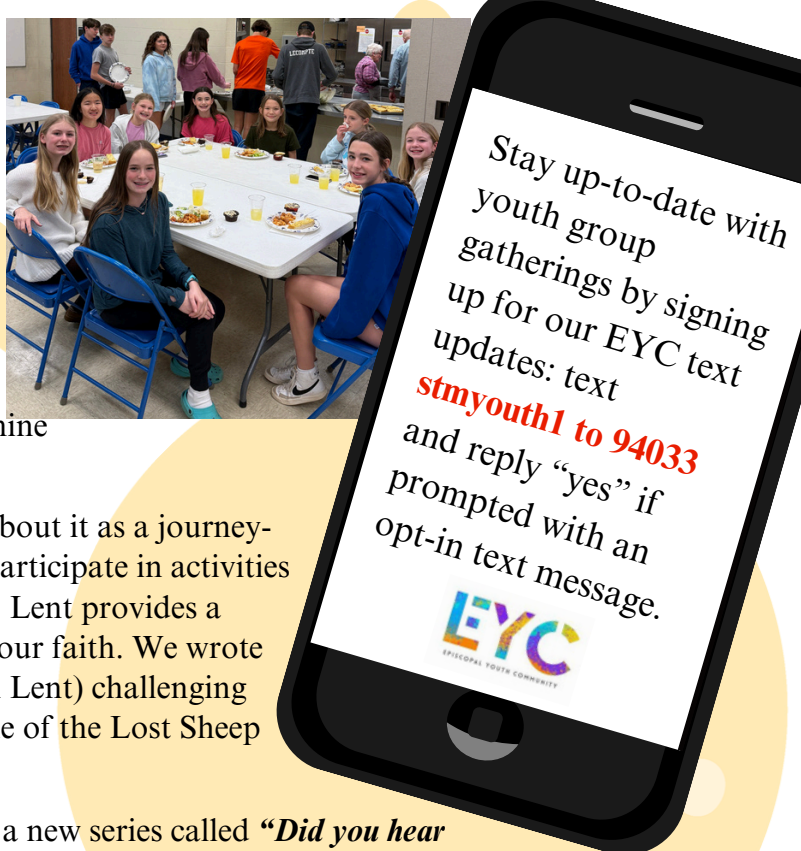
Lots and lots of gravel. The area will soon have concrete poured and be the center’s stage and auditorium. The other group spent time scraping all framing (windowsills and frame, door frames, chair rails) and then cleaning them with a special hardwood solution so that paint primer could go on the surfaces the following week.

There are reminders of Helene everywhere you turn in WNC and our neighbors continue to need our support in a variety of ways: our time, our donations, and the community and prayers of a state that will not forget them. ***We give special thanks to the adults who traveled and served with us: Mick Marlier, Matt Brown, and Fr. Matt & Jennifer Addington.***

Mark YOUR Calendar

EYC is excited about the remainder of our spring calendar and last few gatherings we have planned. We invite all 6th-12th graders (and friends) to join us from 5:00-6:30 with dinner 6:30-7:00pm. 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. ***Please note upcoming meeting times below.***

- EYC will meet April 6th & 13th at church from 5:00-6:30 with dinner 6:30-7:00pm.
- NO EYC on April 20th. Happy Easter!
- EYC will meet off-site for dinner on April 27th from 5:00-6:30pm (location TBA).
- EYC’s last gathering of the school year is May 4th at the church from 5:00-6:30 with dinner 6:30-7:00pm.
- Our EYC beach retreat for all 6th-12th graders is May 16th-18th at Oak Island. More info out in mid-April.





Children's Ministry

childrensministry@saintmargarets.net

BY JAMIE PETER

ASSISTANT TO THE RECTOR FOR CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES


It's been lovely to enjoy the warmer spring weather, and as your family anticipates Easter, I pray that you can come together and reflect on the true meaning of this joyous and special season.

Sunday School classes have been busy this past month with lessons focused on Lent. Students began the month by learning how they can actively participate in the Lenten season. We explored God's Covenant with Abram, and the students created their own kid-friendly firepots to help them remember God's promise and Abram's faithfulness. We also discussed the story of Moses and the Burning Bush, reflecting on how Moses trusted in God, who never left his side. As part of a service project, the students made bookmarks to be distributed at the Wednesday Night Food Pantry. Sunday School classes will continue throughout April.

Mark your calendars for the Easter Egg Hunt! The Easter season lasts for 50 days, so we invite you to join us the Sunday after Easter, April 27th, at 9:30 am! Children in 5th grade and under are welcome to bring a basket and participate in the egg hunt. Afterward, they can head to the Sunday School classrooms for an Easter lesson and craft. We are accepting donations of Easter eggs filled with individually wrapped, nut-free candy or small toys/stickers! Please drop off your donations in the designated bins at the church by April 23rd. Preschool families can also drop off donations in the car rider line by Thursday, April 17th.

Volunteer for Vacation Bible School! We are still looking for adult and youth volunteers to help us make it an amazing week as we trek into the wilderness at True North VBS June 16-19, from 9:00 - 12:30 pm. Please contact Jamie at childrensministry@saintmargarets.net so you can be contacted closer to VBS with more information.




**I pray that
you can
come
together
and reflect
on the true
meaning of
this joyous
and special
season.**



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

*Join us afterwards in the Sunday School rooms for
an Easter craft for the LAST Sunday School class
of the school year.*

Join us!





BY TRACI SCOTT

ASSISTANT TO THE RECTOR FOR OUTREACH & PARISH CONNECTION

Parish Connection & Outreach

connection@saintmargarets.net

Join US!



Welcome new members

- André & Melissa Yadow
- Karl & Janet Pepin
- The Lyman Family

Save the Date

May 2: StM Spring Fellowship Night

Kairos Prison Ministry wrap-up

Many thanks to all of our bakers who made 98 dozen cookies for the Kairos Prison Ministry in March. They ended up with a total of over 2,500 dozen cookies gathered from all of the churches.

The Kairos volunteer team disbursed them to the 30 men who attended last month's program, as well as the 1,400 other inmates at the prison. A small ray of light for these men to remind them that we care. We also thank the 22+ StM parishioners that prayed for this ministry during our prayer vigil.

The 4-day program in the prison went very well. Seeds were planted and the Kairos team will continue to minister to these men at monthly reunions.

If you are interested in learning more about Kairos, please speak with parishioners Chris Ronayne or Brian Scott. The next 4-day event will be in late September, and the training sessions for that "walk" will take place at St. Margaret's beginning in June.



Outreach

connection@saintmargarets.net



What an incredible outpouring of support we had for this year's Hunger Walk! Common Heart brought in an amazing \$100,927, the largest amount it has ever raised. **And St. Margaret's raised over \$18,000 of that with donations from parishioners, friends and family.** The Walk itself was such a fun event with about 30 StM parishioners participating. Our very own DJ Jeremy Ervin created a festive vibe with his music and even warmed everyone up with some line dances! Debbie Marchand and Karen Mills have got some moves! Our partnership with Common Heart continues to grow through the weekly food distribution at St. Margaret's, food drives, members delivering groceries through their Cupboard Ally program in addition to financial support. In a time of significant increases to the cost of living, Common Heart is on the "front lines" of battling poverty in our community and we are proud to support their work.



Speaking of the **St. Margaret's Pantry**, did you know that it had its first anniversary on March 20th? One year ago, we started serving neighbors at our drive-thru food distribution in the parking lot with food brought over by Common Heart. Since then, we have grown to serve about 65 families each week, which represents about 230 individuals. It takes 15 volunteers to do this every week and we are very grateful for all of the parishioners, local high schoolers and other community members who keep the sign-ups full. You have also donated countless children's books and that has been such a special treat for the kids to enjoy! They love picking out their books from our library cart, and we've learned that the princess coloring books can be a hot commodity! Thank you St. Margaret's...what a blessing you are to this community. Let's keep it up!



Monthly Saturday meal deliveries (CKF)

Our next Saturday meal prep and delivery is on Saturday, April 19th at St. Margaret's (please note this is the day before Easter). We could use one more helper in kitchen (9am) and one more driver (11am).



If you're able to help, please sign up by clicking the links below:

<https://bit.ly/CKFdelivery>

<https://bit.ly/CKFmeals>



To view Common Heart's volunteer opportunities, including the Wednesday night pantry at StM, click here:
<https://bit.ly/stmpantry>

Showing Christ by Serving Others

"By this all men will know that you
are my disciples..." John 13:35



Interested in
serving in the
WORSHIP
MINISTRY
at StM?

We need you!



[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE](#)



April Calendar

- 4/6 Monthly Parish Breakfast, 9:15-10:15 am in the Parish Hall
- 4/7 Women's Lenten Study, 7:00 pm
- 4/12 DOK monthly meeting, 9:30 am
- 4/13 Palm Sunday
- 4/14-18 Holy Week
- 4/19 Community Kitchen Fellowship, 9:00 am
- 4/19 Easter Vigil, 8:00 pm
- 4/20 Easter Day: services at 8:15 am & 10:30 am
- 4/21 Church Office closed
- 4/24 Men's Group monthly meeting, 6:30 pm
- 4/27 Easter Egg Hunt, 9:30 am
- 4/27 LAST DAY of Sunday School
- 4/28 Testing site partnership with MRHS IB Program begins

*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

Almighty God, we pray you graciously to behold this your family, for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed, and given into the hands of sinners, and to suffer death upon the cross; who lives and reigns for ever and ever.



*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+
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Assistant to the Rector

The Reverend Fr. Matt Addington+
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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

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2025 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*