

MAGGIE'S CROSS



From Our Rector

Whose ready for summer?

I'm writing this article on Sunday night, and it's the end of a good day. We had two wonderful worship services, Reg and I ate lunch with my father (a regular for us on Sundays), and then I came home, exercised, and watched some soccer before sitting down to write to you. Especially satisfying was seeing our young graduates recognized at the 10:30 worship service. It is such an exciting time for them, and I love seeing them move to this next phase of life, and being able to bless them along the way is such a wonderful privilege for me. It really was a good day!

It also feels like summer is just about here. Soon, the school year will end, and many of us will begin to spend more time with family, travel to see friends, and take a little time to rest and refresh. The church even takes on a slower pace during these next two months. Preschool has ended, Sundays have less activities,

and the staff all use this time of year to try and fit in some well deserved vacation time. It is a welcome time for rest, reconnection, and fun with those we love, and I can say without a doubt that I am ready for the long days of summer.

First, let me say that during this time of year, I spend more time in prayer. The lighter calendar allows for more time for me to spend in prayer and reflection. I share this with you so that you know that I will be praying for you and your families with great intentionality this summer. I will be praying for your safe travel, for wonderful times at play, and for incredible experiences along the way. I hope that you will pray for me, too, as a community that prays together is such an important calling of our common life together.

And while the church does slow down a bit during these summer months, remember that Saint Margaret's is not closed! We will still worship together every Sunday and Wednesday. VBS will be here before you know it. Elizabeth and Father Matt will be leading our mission team to Costa Rica in July, and our Wednesday night pantry will feed our neighbors every week.

During these slower summer months, I invite you and your family to come and worship, do your prayers, and help serve

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our neighbors. The work of Jesus goes on, and I so look forward to being with you in our shared ministry. Be safe, have fun, and know that you will be in my prayers!

Fr. Todd+

O God, in the course of this busy life, give us times of refreshment and peace; and grant that we may so use our leisure to rebuild our bodies and renew our minds, that our spirits may be opened to the goodness of your creation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



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Summer at St. Margaret's: A Different Pace, the Same Heart

Growing up, many of us remember the joy of summer vacation—the beach, the mountains, the open road. For me, it didn't matter where we were headed. What mattered was that we were going somewhere. Something had shifted. Life felt different. The scenery changed, meals tasted new, and time seemed to slow down just a little.



That feeling still lingers for many of us. Even now, summer has a way of inviting us to pause, to breathe, and to live at a different rhythm.

In the church world, we often say that summer is a slower season. And maybe that used to be true. But I'd say it's not so much slower anymore—it's simply different.

Yes, some families will travel. Yes, our calendar at St. Margaret's may not be packed with the same number of official events. But life here is still vibrant. Ministry is still moving. There's a quiet buzz across our campus—and it's only growing. Vacation Bible School is just around the corner. The Costa Rica Mission Experience is happening soon, and fall preparations are already beginning.

But even more than what's happening on campus, we're preparing ways for you to stay connected—wherever your summer takes you. Each week, look for a short, sacred moment from Fr. Matt—a spiritual reflection designed to help you pause and recenter, shared on Instagram (@stmwaxaw) and Facebook.

Also launching soon: Beyond the Pews: A St. Margaret's Podcast. In this new series, you'll hear from fellow church members—how they found their way to St. Margaret's, how they're growing in faith, and how Jesus is at work in their lives. It's a beautiful way to stay connected and deepen our community, even across miles.

So yes, summer may feel different—but it's full of opportunity. And here at St. Margaret's, we're embracing the season, continuing to walk with you, your family, and our neighbors in faith.

Keep your eyes open for what's coming—and may this season be one of grace, connection, and renewal.





Music

BY GAVIN D. CRAIG

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC & ORGANIST

The Holiness of Beauty: Encountering the Divine in Music

This article is a written form of a lecture delivered in October 2024 to the Daughters of the King chapter here at St. Margaret's.

We can probably all think of music we would call “beautiful.” But where is the beauty in all the sound; how can we identify it? Looking for it is the task of not only music theorists and performers, but also everyday lovers of music, and I invite you to join me on this task. This month, I’d like us to reflect on what beauty is and its importance in the Christian life.

“Beautiful” is perhaps one of the most misused words in contemporary language. We often use it to describe prettiness, sentimentalism, nostalgia, or any expression of strong personal taste. But it has an objective quality to it, which philosophers have dwelt on for millennia.

Plato proposed a concept called “the good,” an ideal (or as he said, forms) from which anything that can be called good originates. Sunny days, hot pizza, a long talk with a friend all are ways in which we experience the good. And this good-ness has different species in which we encounter it, including truth, justice, and beauty. While these may have traits in common, they are different ways through which we encounter the good.

The quality of beauty is that it attracts those who encounter it, specifically attracting them to the good. This wasn’t only an aesthetic judgement, but an experience could be beautiful, a person could have a beauty to their character, and so on. What beauty means is **harmony and order**. It’s things being as they ought and everything working together perfectly. And it goes hand in hand with the other two species of the good.

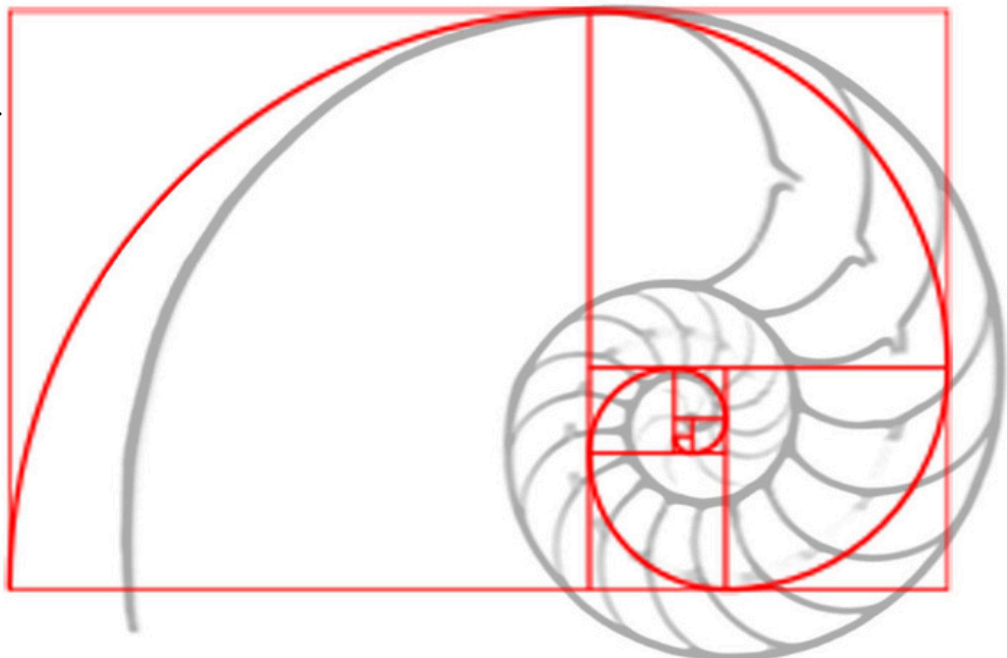
A nice illustration is the Fibonacci sequence. 1, 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 13, we get each number by adding the previous two numbers together. This is **beautiful** in that, as it progresses, the ratio between each number more closely approximates the “Golden Ratio” (roughly 1:1.618) which occurs in nature and architecture, forming visually pleasing shapes. This approach to the ratio makes it **just**, according Plato, who equated justice with proportion and measure. And it states plain **truths** by its very sequence: $1+1=2$, $1+2=3$, etc.

While this may sound academic and pedantic, Christian theology has long affirmed the necessity of beauty. If the idea of a “good” from which all goodness flows sounds like God, St. Augustine agreed with you. He said that God was the source of beauty and that beauty draws us to God. Thomas Aquinas went further and said goodness and beauty are the same thing, and that beauty is the tangible manifestation of that goodness that comes from God.

Returning to ancient Greece, Pythagoras spoke of a “music of the spheres.” He laid down certain principles about musical pitch and harmony that remain fundamental to our modern music, and he theorized that, just as a string makes sound from its vibrations, the planets and stars must also be making sound from their motions, all of which create a grand harmonious music. The harmony of this music represented a moral law, and to the extent that we act consistently with that law, we are participating in this “music of the spheres.”

Centuries later, Johannes Kepler, who studied orbital motion, would confirm this “music.” In his *Harmonices Mundi*, he shared that, for example, the angular motion of the earth varies over its orbit by a ratio of 15:16, which happens to be the same ratio of pitches in a musical half-step (halfway from “Do” to “Re”). He wrote that over the course of its orbit, “Misery and Famine hold sway.”

So in the same way that we can join in the music of the spheres, our experience of beauty can be an encounter with the divine. If you “tune in” next month, I’ll share some of the ways we encounter this in music!





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Youth Spotlight

BY ELIZABETH PFEIFER
ASSISTANT TO THE RECTOR FOR YOUTH MINISTRY

EYC finished up a phenomenal year with our final meeting of the school year on May 4th and our annual beach retreat May 16th-18th at Oak Island. Elizabeth wrote the below in an end of year note to our EYC parents and thought she would share with the parish-at-large for a look insider her overly sentimental end-of-year thoughts. **Thank you to our church family for supporting our youth ministry program.**

Almost two years ago, at the start of the 2023-2024 school year, our youth group experienced a wave of students join our program. They were friends of StM members, and then they were friends of friends, and then they were friends of friends of friends. Our fall 2023 attendance increased by 25 students, to an average of 52 (compared to 27 in spring 2023). I spent last school year catching up. I tried new room management tips, we played new games, we tried new ways of doing our programs and activities. Honestly? I also kept waiting for the wave to rush back out. But, it didn't.

So, we started this school year (2024-2025) and I was more prepared! It still took me longer than I would have liked to get to know everyone's name, but I got there. I asked parents for help at meetings because we need more additional adult support at our meetings than I can recruit from our St. Margaret's worshipping community. But, honestly? I was still waiting for the wave to rush back out. Teenagers are fickle. Perhaps a student would have a friend or two who would have conflicts and not be able to come to Sunday night youth group anymore, and so then that original student wouldn't come anymore. Perhaps I would make them listen to one too many stories about Jesus and they'd be over it. Perhaps I'd make them wait in line for dinner and they would realize they'd prefer to just be at home.

But, the wave didn't rush out. In fact, we averaged more students this spring than last spring! Over 60% of our youth group is community members, meaning their families do not attend St. Margaret's Sunday morning worship services, although we realize some families may attend other home churches.

This wave has been an unbelievable journey, and I am so thankful for it because God is at work in our group! We have fun and get too competitive about silly games, and we play up-front trivia and games for a candy prize. And then, we talk about God, and we learn about the life and ministry of Jesus. We hear how Jesus healed and preached and how those events impact our life today. We ask questions, we do cheesy hands-on activities and crafts, and every once in a while, we sit in stillness with God. God is with our group, every time we gather.

Your students have made our youth program their place and I am ever-grateful for them. This past fall, we spent several weeks discussing how we are God's workmanship, created to do good works and that we are all uniquely created by God. Our group is an ever-changing dynamic; our current group would not be what it is without your student, and we are thankful for their contributions, enthusiasm, and unique perspective. **Thank you for allowing St. Margaret's to be a part of your student's faith journey.**

Sunday nights over the summer won't be the same without our weekly gatherings but we hope your family has a fun, restful summer and we'll see your student on August 24th for our fall kick off! We invite all of our students and parents (rising 6th grade included) to sign up for EYC text updates by texting "stmyouth1" to 94033 and reply "yes" to opt in. This is the best way to stay up-to-date with activities over the summer.



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Children's Ministry

BY JAMIE PETER

ASSISTANT TO THE RECTOR FOR CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

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As the school year winds down and the excitement of summer begins to build, let's take a moment to celebrate all that God has done in the lives of our children this year. From learning and growing in faith to building friendships and discovering God's love, it's been a season full of blessings—and the best is yet to come!

Vacation Bible School is FULL! We are thrilled by the incredible response—thank you! We can't wait to venture into the wilderness together at True North VBS. This is one of the most exciting weeks of the year at Saint Margaret's, and we're deeply grateful to the parishioners who have already stepped up to support this joyful and impactful ministry. Our amazing volunteers are already hard at work preparing to make this the best VBS yet! To be added to the VBS Waitlist, [click here](#).

We are also still in need of some items for VBS because we have some exciting plans for décor this year! And we plan to use repurposed and recycled items as part of our decorations. If you have any of the following items and can donate them to the church, it would be greatly appreciated! Items can be dropped off in the Youth Room. Thank you so much! Questions? Contact Jamie at childrensministry@saintmargarets.net.

- Christmas trees of all sizes (please tag with your name and email, it will be returned after VBS)
- Cardboard boxes (any size; please flatten)
- Large cardboard shipping tubes
- Newspaper
- Wooden canoe paddles (these will be used for décor only; please label with your name and email, they will be returned after VBS)

Please continue to pray for the children, youth, and adult volunteers participating in VBS this summer. We are looking forward to a wonderful week.

Also mark your calendars for these upcoming dates for VBS this summer:

- June 11th: VBS Workday with decorating from 10am-2pm (11am VBS Volunteer Training) *Only 1 training required
- June 12th: VBS Workday with decorating from 10am-2pm (1pm VBS Volunteer Training) *Only 1 training required
- June 16th-19th: True North VBS from 9am-12:30pm

Do you have 90 minutes ONE Sunday this summer to help our young families and visitors? Volunteer in our Nursery Ministry! We're looking for caring volunteers to join our Nursery Ministry—what a meaningful way to support the young families of Saint Margaret's! The nursery will be open during the 10:30am service each Sunday from July 13 through August 17 and will be staffed by church member volunteers.



Volunteers must be at least 18 years old and not related to one another. Responsibilities include playing with and supervising our youngest parishioners to create a safe, welcoming environment, and tidying up the nursery afterward (wiping down and putting away toys). The time commitment is from 10:15am to 11:45am.

We only need 5 more volunteers! If you love little ones and want to be part of a joyful ministry, we'd love to have you! [Click Here to Sign Up for the Summer Nursery](#).

I wish each of you a summer filled with joy, rest, and God's blessings. May your days be safe, your hearts full, and your time with family and friends truly special.

Have a wonderful and blessed summer. - Jamie



Parish Connection & Outreach

BY TRACI SCOTT

ASSISTANT TO THE RECTOR FOR OUTREACH & PARISH CONNECTION

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Nametag reminder!

With so many new faces for our clergy to keep track of, we ask that all members please wear your nametags on Sunday mornings. Paper nametags are now in a box on the Welcome Center desk.



If you'd like to order the smaller, magnetic nametags, the cost is \$16 each and you can order by [clicking here on this link](#).

Welcome new members:

Mike Anderson

Henry & Charlotte Jenkins



Save the Date for the annual StM Ladies' Tea



Saturday, August 9th, 2:00pm

All ladies (ages 4+) are invited to join us for an afternoon of fellowship, fancy food and tea! Friends and family are welcome.

Watch for more details and registration link coming soon!

Thanks to your kind support of our Outreach efforts, we were able to show some love to the teachers and staff at South Providence School in Waxhaw.

SPS is an alternative school for students in 6th-12th grade who have challenges in a traditional school setting. They are a Title I school and do not have a PTA. So, we were thrilled to be able to provide some snacks, drinks and lunch throughout their Teacher Appreciation Week.

Many thanks to Susan Norwood, Melinda Shelley, Karen Mills & Sarah Whalen for taking such good care of the SPS staff!



Outreach continued

connection@saintmargarets.net

Summer Outreach Volunteer Opportunity

Wednesday June 25th is parishioner night at the St. Margaret's pantry. We are holding all 15 sign-up spots for StM parishioners that night so, come serve with us!

Each week, we help Common Heart distribute groceries to 70-90 families at our drive-thru pantry. You'll work from 6pm-8pm outside in our parking lot. Plan on standing for 2 hours and working in the heat.

If you are unable to participate physically, please come for as long as you are able.

You can help us hand out children's books or water bottles...or just visit with fellow parishioners while you watch the process. Children under 14 may serve with a parent; 14 and above may serve on their own.

You are not able to sign up directly with Common Heart for this one. Please email Traci at connection@saintmargarets.net to sign up.



**COMMON
HEART**

a small revolution of kindness

Kairos Prison Ministry meetings at St. Margaret's this summer

Curious about the men's prison ministry that we support? They will be holding their training meetings at St. Margaret's this summer in preparation for their September event so, it's a great time to learn more about it! No commitment, just come and meet the men who make this such a special ministry. Meetings on Saturdays at 8am: June 21, July 19, Aug 2, Aug 23, Sept 13. Contact Chris Ronayne for more information at cgr1057@aol.com

June monthly meal deliveries - volunteers needed



June monthly meal deliveries - volunteers needed

We need some more helpers for our next meal day on Saturday, June 21st.

Grocery shopping: we'll give you a list and reimburse you. Just need you to shop and bring the food to StM before 6/21. Sign up here: <https://bit.ly/CKFmeals>

Drivers are needed to pick up the prepared meals at StM at 11am and deliver them to 3 or 4 homes in the Waxhaw area. It will take about 1 hour and is a great family outing!

Drivers sign up here: <https://bit.ly/CKFdelivery>





SAVE THE DATE

St. Margaret's 2nd Icon Retreat August 17-22, 2025

In honor of our patron Saint, we will be painting an icon of St. Margaret of Scotland. We will also learn about her life and her contributions to the Church. No experience is necessary to create a beautiful rendering of St. Margaret!

We will begin on Sunday, 8/17 afternoon with an hour-long gathering to prepare for the week. Then, we will begin each day with Holy Eucharist followed by gathering time and then working on the icon. We will start each day at 8:30am and end around 4:30pm and take a break for lunch. A special Blessing of the Icons will also be held on Sunday, 8/24 at our 8:15 service.

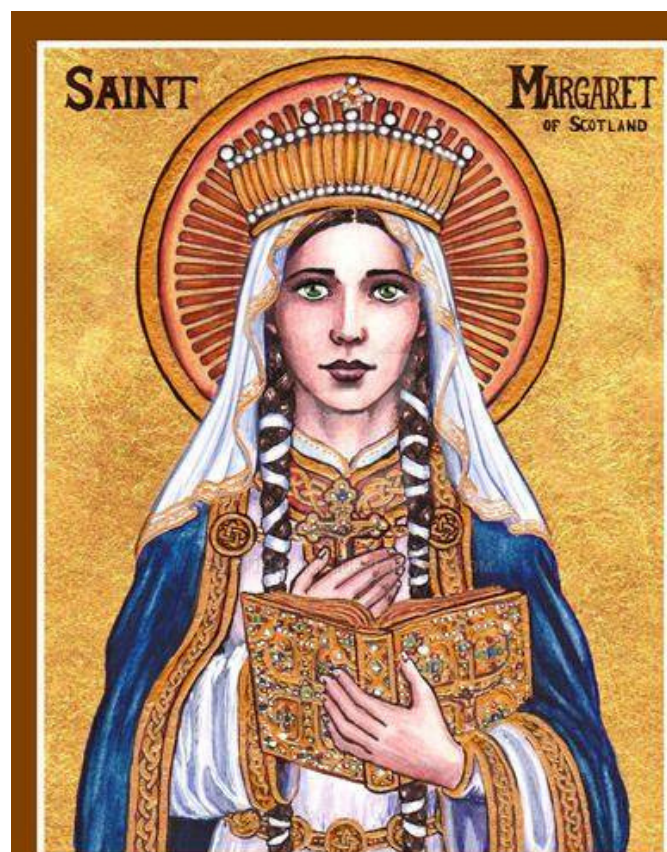
The fee for the retreat, including icon board, paints, brushes, gold, and personal instruction is \$150. *This is a special discount for the people of St. Margaret's. Icon retreats like this usually cost \$495, but our own iconographer, Cathy Harrison, wants to make this wonderful and spiritual experience available to all that wish to explore this meditative art form.*

All you need to bring is a lamp to illuminate your work space and an apron to protect your clothes.

Class size will be limited, so be sure to register early! click below to register now.



Questions?
Please contact Cathy Harrison at:
mch.060112@gmail.com.



Many thanks to our adult volunteers who attended the EYC Beach Trip to Oak Island in May.



June Calendar

- 6/1 Graduate Recognition, 10:30 service
- 6/8 Pentecost Sunday (Please **WEAR RED!**) Incense at 10:30 svc.
- 6/9-13 VBS prep
- 6/11-12 VBS volunteer training
- 6/15 VBS set up
- 6/16-19 Vacation Bible School**
- 6/17 Vestry Business Meeting
- 6/21 Kairos training session, 8:00 am
- 6/21 Community Kitchen Fellowship, 9:00 am
- 6/24-27 Flute Camp
- 6/27 Music at St. Margaret's Concert Series, 6:30 pm



*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

THANK YOU

for the responses we received to our invitation to GIVE EXTRA in May.

We received over \$28,000 from 60 families to assist in closing the gap on the budget deficit we are operating on.



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 Children's Ministry

Jamie Peters
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Assistant to the Rector for Outreach & Parish Connection

Traci Scott
connection@saintmargarets.net

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