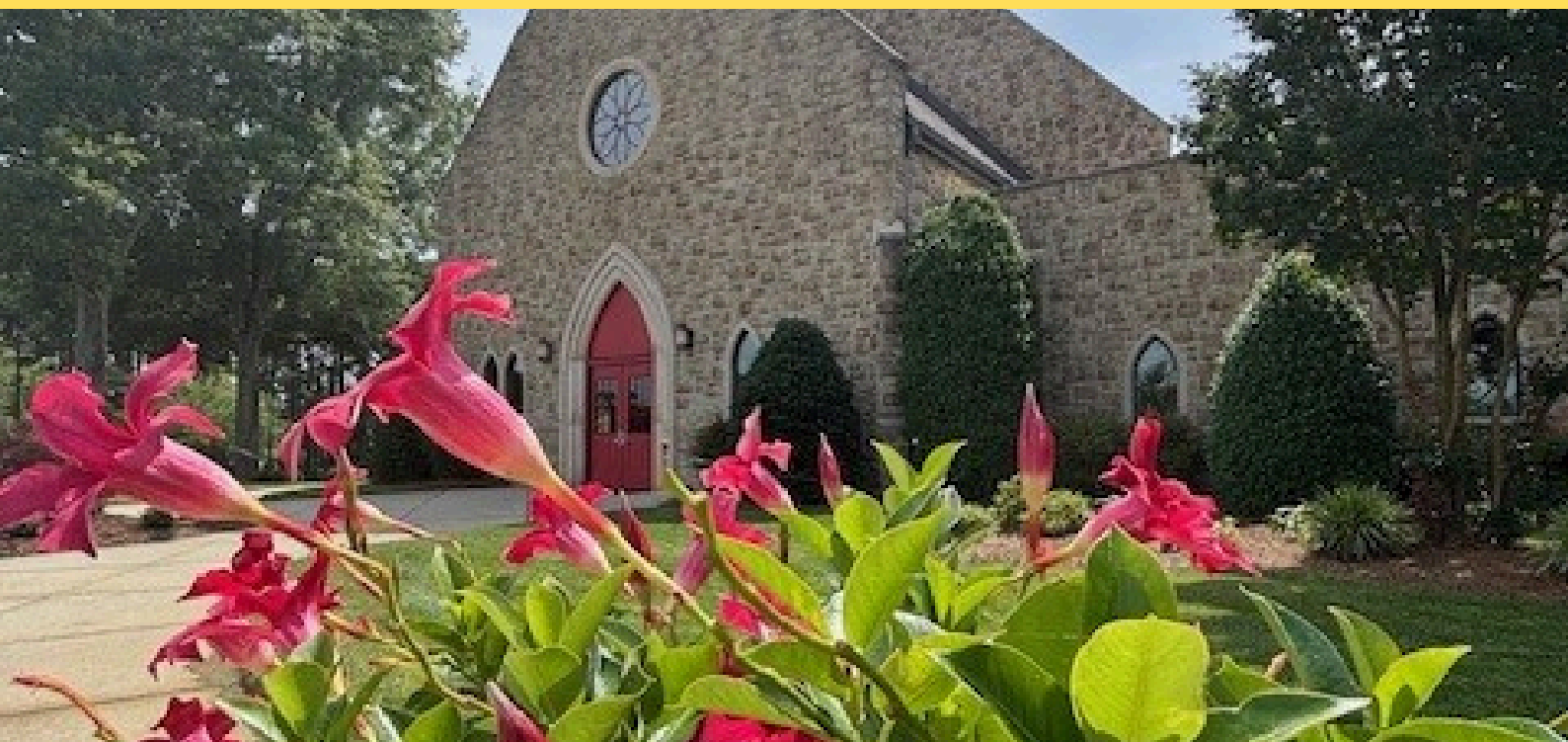


MAGGIE'S CROSS



From Our Rector

The Power of Personal Invitation

On a recent weekend, Reg and I were invited to a new experience for us. Charlotte has a new interactive game adventure, *Monopoly Lifesized*, which we joined with our fellow priests and family to play. It was high energy, fast paced, and a thoroughly enjoyable time. Peter Macon and Reverend Sarah coordinated the gathering, and we were thankful to take some time and enjoy ourselves with both them and Father Matt and his daughter, Kylee. Without their invitation, not only would we have not gone, but we wouldn't even know that this venue existed! It reminds me of the importance of personal invitation, and I'd like to take a moment and encourage all of us to invite other people to join us in ministry at Saint Margaret's.

Jesus' ministry is full of invitations. As I did some quick research for New Testament invitations, several authors agreed that Jesus had at least seven invitations that are recorded in the New Testament:

1. Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. *Matthew 11:28*
2. Jesus stood and cried, saying ... if any man thirst let him COME unto Me, and DRINK... *John 7:37*
3. Jesus said unto them, "COME and DINE!" *John 21:12*
4. Come and See *John 1:39*
5. Come and take up your cross *Mark 10:21*
6. Come away to a secluded place and rest *Mark 6:31*
7. Come you blessed of my father and inherit the Kingdom *Matthew 25:34*

Invitation is at the heart of the Gospel, and this summer and beyond, I would like to encourage us to perhaps go out of our comfort zone and invite our friends to join us for worship, prayer and fellowship. The church office can send out unlimited emails, eBlasts, brochures and the like

"I would like to encourage us to perhaps go out of our comfort zone and invite our friends to join us for worship, prayer and fellowship."

but nothing replaces the power of a personal invitation. To be assured that someone we know will be with us makes us more likely to accept an invitation. Our youth group currently has 70+ youth in attendance, and over 60% 25% of those involved do not attend Saint Margaret's. They are coming to EYC because they have been invited by someone who already attends, and once they have come, they decided to stay. You see, we Episcopalians can evangelize!

So, in the coming weeks take a chance. Invite those you know who do not have a church community to join you for worship, church gatherings or prayer. You might just be surprised when they say yes, because all they were waiting for was for you to invite them!

Your priest,

Fr. Todd



dill@saintmargarets.net

Put that Down...

As a kid, do you remember being told to "Put that down?" I remember very well, as a parent myself, saying that to our daughter, Kylee, when she was VERY young and had gotten into my wife's sewing kit and found her very sharp shears. Calmly, I asked Kylee to put them down.



I wonder if that's sort of how we understand our vacation time? With summer in full effect and many of us traveling for vacation, I cannot help but wonder if our bodies and minds say it or feel this idea, to put that down. Often, it can take several days for us to feel like we have set aside the business of work, or family stress, or anything else that takes up mental space or causes stress to our bodies.

This idea, I think, can work in the exact opposite way when it comes to our spiritual well-being. I think the Spirit often asks us to pick something up, and I know for me, when I allow myself to put something down, I can more easily pick up something else. During this season of a different pace, of vacations, and maybe even in our little moments of stillness, what might God, through the Spirit, be asking us to pick up? What might the Spirit be asking us to put down to make room in our life to pick up something? What can we pick up together as a church that will deepen our faith in Jesus?

It could be as simple as spending a few minutes in prayer each morning. It might even be making an effort to tune into the new St. Margaret's podcast, Beyond the Pews, with the idea to learn more about the people here and their faith journey. Whatever the case may be, it is my prayer that this summer, you would find something to put down that is causing you stress, but also that you would find something to pick up that feeds your spirit, that feeds your soul. For it is soul-feeding that the church does very well.

This summer, may your bodies find rest and your souls find nourishment. Amen.

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



Music

BY GAVIN D. CRAIG

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC & ORGANIST

The Holiness of Beauty, Part II: The Theorists Strike Back

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

Last month, we explored the nature of beauty and its importance in the Christian life. Drawing on ancient philosophers, theologians, and even astronomy, we learned that beauty is a representation of goodness and related to truth and proportion. It is a real, discernible, and meaningful part of creation that draws us to the divine. But how do we know when we hear it? This is where music theory comes in.

The fundamentals of music draw from proportions of small integers, which instinctively draw the human ear. Harmony is the interaction of multiple frequencies (pitches), and we find consonant proportions of 1:2 (DO to the higher DO), 2:3 (DO-SOL), 4:5 (DO-MI), and so on. Established rules even govern how more dissonant harmonies are used, so as to preserve the hierarchy of smaller and simpler ratios over complex ones. Similarly, modern rhythm is built on dividing time by a factor of two, the simplest division: Whole note, half note, quarter note, etc. In the medieval era, rhythms were even more clearly linked to the divine, with time divided by three, which they called “perfect time.” And larger rhythmic units can provide repetition and predictability, giving easily understood structure to meter and larger forms.

Leaving behind the ten dollar words, we have a yet more obvious and simpler source of beauty: The subject matter of the music itself! John Calvin wrote that music “has a sacred and almost incredible power to move hearts,” amplifying whatever the music carries. By representing things that are true or good, music becomes itself beautiful. A text become more penetrating when sung – consider a chanted Lord’s Prayer. In the same way, music without words can become beautiful by representing truth or the sacred through title, program notes, or even context. The question to ask when we seek for beauty in music is: What new ideas is this presenting to me?

There is another category we have yet to discuss which has at times been part of beauty or distinguished from it: the sublime. If beauty is the character of predictability and order, sublimity is surprise. It is the property of incomprehensibility: the vastness of the night sky, the tininess of an aphid, the blast of thunder or the stillness of a pin drop, all reflecting the majesty and incomprehensibility of God. This can be heard in music through creative use of dissonance, extremes of tempo or irregularity, or sudden changes in volume. These can add to the drama of lyrics or theme, and the sublime provokes humility in us – as one colleague expressed how worship well done should make one feel “simultaneously worthy and unworthy.”

Over the course of two months, we’ve found beauty is more than sentimentality or prettiness, but rather a way of connecting with goodness, and thus through God, its source. When we build our musical understanding, we become better able to encounter God through that beauty. I hope these articles spur you on to join me in seeking these moments of beauty, whether through making music or through enjoying it, lifting us from enjoyment to the divine.

“...beauty is a representation of goodness and related to truth and proportion. It is a real, discernible, and meaningful part of creation that draws us to the divine. But how do we know when we hear it? This is where music theory comes in.”



Youth Spotlight

pfeifer@saintmargarets.net

BY ELIZABETH PFEIFER

ASSISTANT TO THE RECTOR FOR YOUTH MINISTRY



Thank you to our fantastic students (middle, high, and college!) who spent their week volunteering at Vacation Bible School or helped us prep for VBS! We are so grateful to have had your energy and appreciate the time you gave us to help provide a fun week at True North VBS for our younger students.



Costa Rica Mission Trip



Our Costa Rica Mission Team is traveling 7/12-7/20. Projects they will work on have not been confirmed at time of this publication, but we are fairly certain we will be doing construction work at one the schools the Diocese operates.

We have a total of 24 people traveling and we ask that you please keep the following team members in your prayers:

Matt, Dylan, Erin, Jerry, Andrea, Owen, Ray, Katie, Pam, Connor, Ollie, Joni, Aidan, Sawyer, Drew, Briley, Liam, Danyeale, Mackenzie, Sharon, Cayden, Carter, Elizabeth, and Fr. Matt.





Children's Ministry

BY JAMIE PETER

ASSISTANT TO THE RECTOR FOR CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

childrensministry@saintmargarets.net

A Wildly Wonderful Week at True North VBS!

In the weeks leading up to VBS, our amazing volunteers worked hard to transform the hallways into the Alaskan wilderness, creating an immersive adventure for the children. As we kicked off the week, kids “trekked into the wild” for a time filled with faith, fun, and fellowship—diving into games, crafts, music, and hands-on activities that all pointed to one powerful truth: **No matter what, we can always trust Jesus.**

Each day brought something special:

- In Deep Bible Adventures, children stepped into the stories of Scripture and saw God’s faithfulness come to life.
- At Imagination Station, they explored creative science experiments and made calming Northern Lights bottles and snowflake handprints—reminders that each of us is uniquely created by God.
- Glacier Games kept the energy high with wild outdoor fun, while Tundra Treats kept everyone fueled (and a new favorite was born: fruit dip!).

Our local outreach focus this year was supporting the Saint Margaret’s Food Pantry and our partners at Common Heart. Children generously brought in food and kid-friendly snacks throughout the week, learning that even at a young age, they can make a difference in our community.

It was a joy to see the building come alive with smiles, laughter, and the light of Christ as children discovered that Jesus is our unshakable guide—real, loving, trustworthy, and forever with us. Whatever life brings, we can follow Him with confidence.

We are incredibly thankful to the dedicated adult and youth volunteers who gave their time, creativity, and heart to make this week possible. Your love for the children and commitment to StM’s Children’s Ministry created a week full of joy and spiritual growth.

A special thank you goes to Catherine Chintala and Crystal Sepulveda for their leadership, time, and thoughtful planning behind the scenes.



If you have any questions, feel free to reach out at childrensministry@saintmargarets.net.

Wishing you a happy and healthy summer!

Jamie



“It was a joy to see the building come alive with smiles, laughter, and the light of Christ as children discovered that Jesus is our unshakable guide...”





Parish Connection & Outreach

BY TRACI SCOTT

ASSISTANT TO THE RECTOR FOR OUTREACH & PARISH CONNECTION

connection@saintmargarets.net

Shelter meal Tuesday, July 22

We'll be serving a meal at the Union County Shelter in Monroe on 7/22. Volunteers are needed to help serve the meal at 5:30pm. This is a great opportunity for a family to serve together! We also need one more dessert baker.

Sign up here: <https://bit.ly/2024Shelter>

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: July 19, Aug 2, Aug 23, Sept 13.

Contact Chris Ronayne for more information at cgr1057@aol.com

Distribute water at a Wednesday night pantry.

With the high temperatures, we're looking for individuals or families who would like to distribute cold water bottles to those who are waiting in our car line in the StM parking lot.

What's involved? arrive at StM by 5:30pm with a cooler of 24 cold water bottles. Park in the rear of the church and begin going from car to car in the line out front to see if anyone would like some cold water.

We usually begin distributing the food by about 6:30-6:45 and some people arrive before 5pm to be at the front of the line and many have children in the car with them.



**COMMON
HEART**

a small revolution of kindness

If you'd like to help, contact Traci to pick a date connection@saintmargarets.net



Welcome new members:

Amanda Brooks
Iris Durell



LADIES TEA

Join us for:

The Last Rose of Summer Tea

Saturday, August 9th, 2:00pm

St. Margaret's Parish Hall

All ladies (ages 4+) are invited to join us for an afternoon of fellowship, fancy food and tea benefiting Western NC relief efforts.

Friends and family are welcome and hats are encouraged.

Cost is \$20 for ages 13+ and \$10 for ages 4-12.

CLICK HERE



Outreach continued...

Please help us support Union County Schools by participating in the school supply drive.

Place donations in the collection bins outside the StM restrooms by Sunday, Aug 1st



Suggested list:

- New backpacks for boys and girls (grades K-12)
- #2 pencils
- Loose leaf paper (wide and college-ruled)
- Composition books (wide and college-ruled)
- Pens (black, blue, and red ink)
- Highlighters
- Markers
- Dry erase markers
- Colored pencils
- Crayons
- Spiral Notebooks
- 1 and 1.5" binders
- Binder dividers
- 2-pocket folders with prongs
- Glue sticks
- Scissors for kids
- Pencil boxes and pouches
- Gallon and sandwich bags
- Erasers
- Pencil sharpeners
- Ear buds and earphones



Deadline is August 1st

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.

CLICK HERE

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





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
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Assistant to the Rector for Youth Ministries

Elizabeth Pfeifer
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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
childrensministry@saintmargarets.net

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*



July Calendar

7/4	Church Office Closed
7/12-20	Costa Rica Mission Trip
7/7-11	Summer Fun Camp, week 1 of 6
7/14-17	Summer Fun Camp, week 2 of 6
7/15	Vestry Business Meeting
7/19	Kairos Ministry training
7/21-24	Summer Fun Camp, week 3 of 6
7/22	Shelter Meal cook & serve day
7/28-31	Summer Fun camp, week 4 of 6

*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, who hast given us this good land for our heritage:

We humbly beseech thee that we may always prove ourselves a people

mindful of thy favor and glad to do thy will. Bless our land with honorable industry, sound learning, and pure manners. Save us from violence, discord, and confusion; from pride and arrogance, and from every evil way. Defend our liberties, and fashion into one united people the multitudes brought hither out of many kindreds and tongues. Endue with the spirit of wisdom those to whom in thy Name we entrust the authority of government, that there may be justice and peace at home, and that, through obedience to thy law, we may show forth thy praise among the nations of the earth. In the time of prosperity, fill our hearts with thankfulness, and in the day of trouble, suffer not our trust in thee to fail; all which we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.