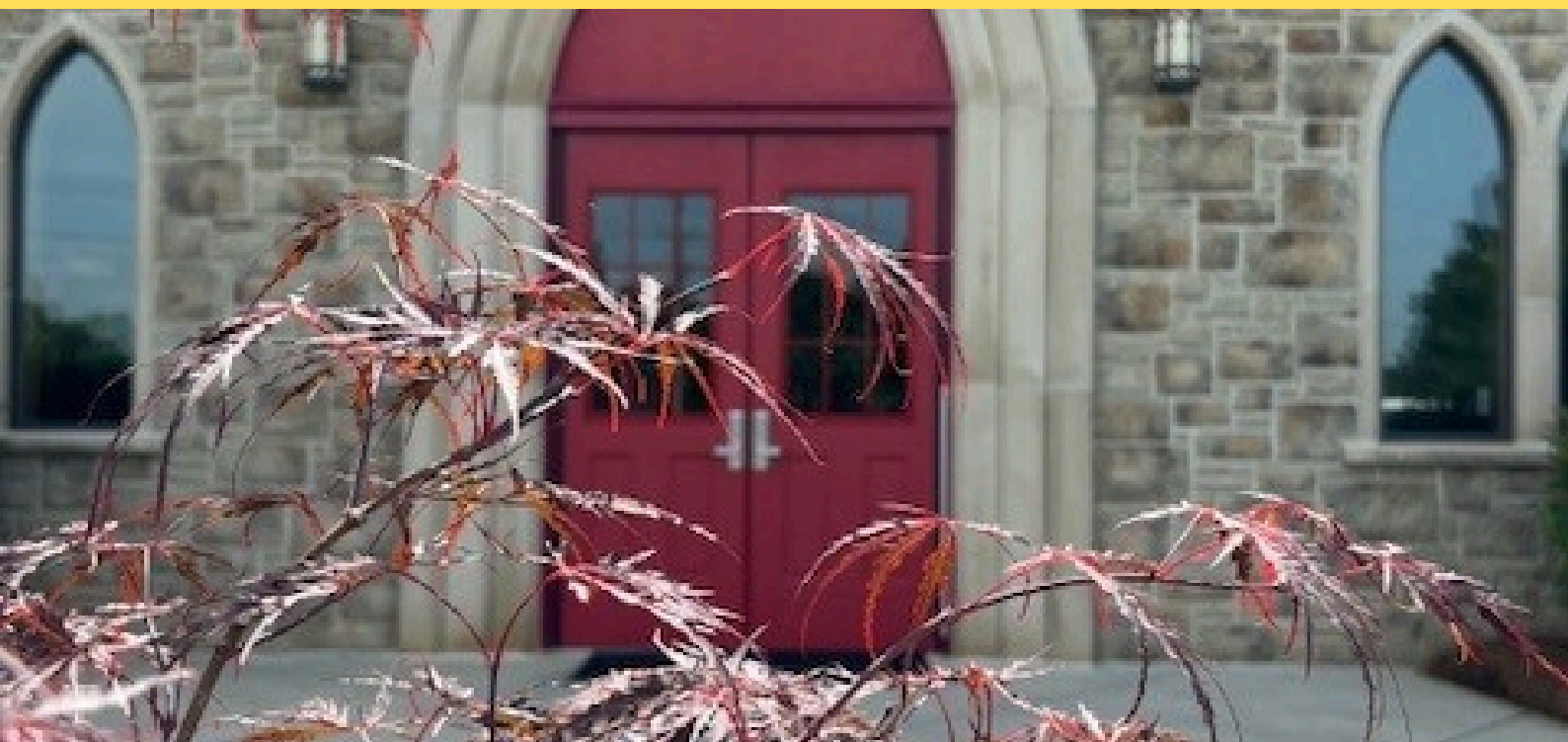


MAGGIE'S CROSS



From Our Rector

Sacred space. Sacred lives.

As evening approached, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who had himself become a disciple of Jesus. Going to Pilate, he asked for Jesus' body, and Pilate ordered that it be given to him.

Joseph took the body, wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, and placed it in his own new tomb that he had cut out of the rock.

He rolled a big stone in front of the entrance to the tomb and went away.

Matthew 27:57-60

The very first recorded act of a disciple following the death of Jesus is that of Joseph of Arimathea. Wanting to care for Jesus' body, he gently wraps it and places it in a tomb, honoring the sacredness of our Lord. Had it not been for Joseph, Jesus' body may have been left on the cross to decay, devoured by wildlife, or discarded in a common grave. Refusing to let Jesus be treated in such a way, Joseph shows his love and devotion through his tender care, providing a sacred space for our Lord's earthly rest.

One of the radical teachings of the universal Church is that all human life is sacred, not just the life of Jesus. Each person is made in the image and likeness of God and is worthy of reverence and care, even in death. This belief extends to the holiness of the body when someone passes away. To understand the Episcopal Church's position on this, we need look no further than our Liturgy for the Burial of the Dead. In it, we find a profound affirmation of the sacredness of life, along with prayers offered for a dignified burial. The remains of the deceased are most appropriately kept together, honoring the body in one sacred place of rest.

Saint Margaret's is embarking on a new ministry to embody this teaching, a ministry that will offer a place on our campus for burial (alongside our columbarium) to local families in need.

This ministry will focus particularly on families who have experienced the death of a young child, a stillbirth, or a miscarriage. It is a holy and important endeavor that will require much from our community: financial support to build and sustain this sacred space, assistance with funeral costs, and help from internal ministries to support burial services and maintain the grounds is not a small undertaking.

"St. Margaret's is embarking on a new ministry..."

In truth, it is far too much to cover in a single newsletter article. But suffice it to say, it will take the prayerful commitment and support of every member of our parish to bring this vision to life.

We have spoken of this ministry for many years at Saint Margaret's. Now, the vestry and I believe that the time has come to act.

On September 7th, we plan to organize our monthly breakfast in a way that allows me to share more details about this ministry. I'll show you the architectural designs, explain the plans, and answer any questions you may have.

Until then, I ask for your prayers for God's guidance and wisdom as we follow the good example of Joseph of Arimathea, who gave our Lord a sacred space in death. May his faithful care inspire us, as we seek to provide Sacred Lives with Sacred Spaces.

Fr. Todd



***“St. Margaret’s is embarking
on a new ministry...”***



*Sacred space.
Sacred lives.*

Current view



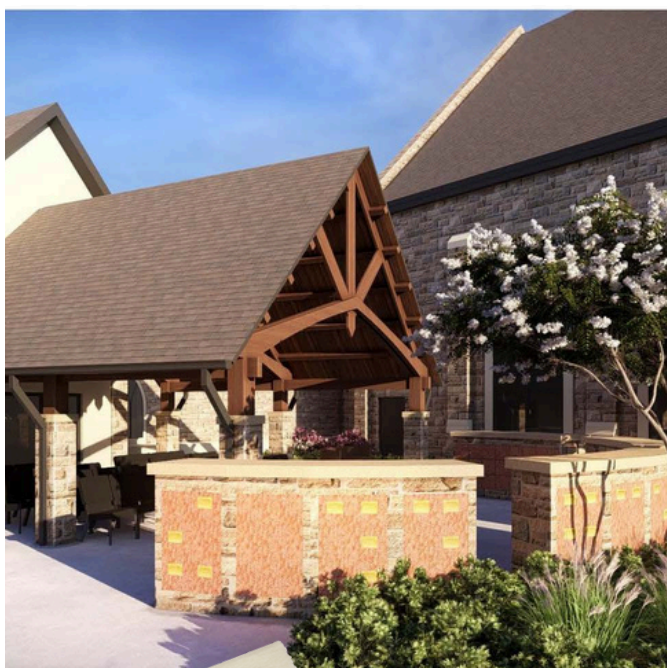
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Sacred space.
Sacred lives.

Current view



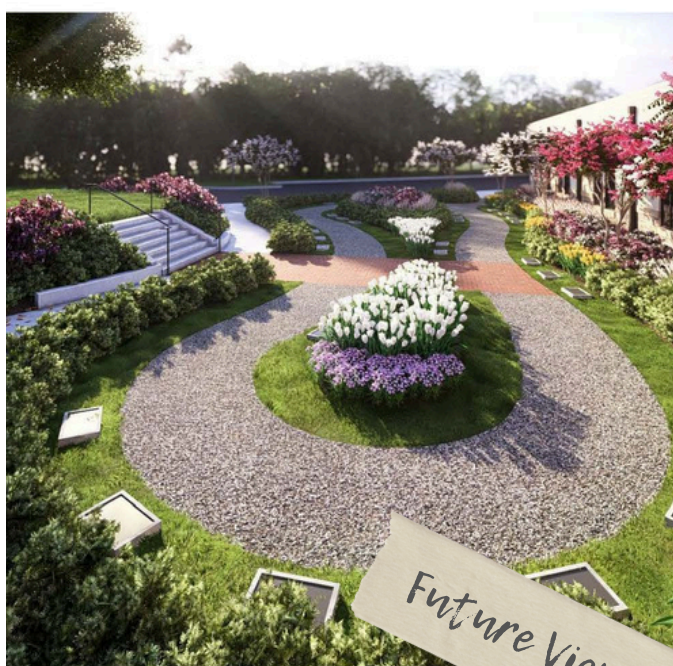
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Future View

Sacred space.
Sacred lives.



FILM NEGATIVE

Future View

FILM NEGATIVE

I WASN'T IN CHARGE



As most of you are aware, St. Margaret's recently sent a group of adults and teenagers to Costa Rica for a mission experience. We poured concrete and painted classrooms at St. Mark's School, an Episcopal School in the heart of the port city of Limon.

I have been traveling to Costa Rica off and on for more than 15 years. This was the first time I had ever been in Costa Rica when I was not in charge of the group. Let me say, Elizabeth Pfeifer did an **AMAZING** job of planning, coordinating, and leading our group. It was because of all her amazing efforts that I could simply be present to the work, be present to the people, be present to myself in Costa Rica.

This experience was different for me. I found myself being much more reflective in my room in the evenings. My personal journal entries were more life-giving and fruitful. My spirit was more full.

I say all of this to encourage us together to be present to the moments of our lives; to be present to what God may have in store for us at any given moment; to allow the Spirit to move in us and through us; and to have an awareness that we are all called in some way to our own mission experiences wherever we find ourselves.

Jesus calls all of us to minister to those we meet along our way. We cannot be fully present to the needs of others or ourselves if we are not paying attention to all that is around us. When we are present in this way, our eyes and hearts are opened and we cannot unsee and we cannot unlearn what God puts before us.

As summer draws to a close, may we be present, may we embrace the moments where we are not in charge, may we live into the mission of Jesus that God has set before us. Amen.

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



Music

BY GAVIN D. CRAIG
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC & ORGANIST

*Let's hear
from the choir*

Have you wanted to see what life is like on the other side of the choir stalls?

The Adult Choir will resume rehearsing on Wednesday, August 20.

We rehearse each Wednesday from 7:00-8:30pm and sing most Sundays, warming up at 9:30 to sing at the 10:30am Eucharist.

We welcome anyone willing to commit and learn, whatever your background.

If you've been interested to try it, there's no better time to come and see!



We all have different musical backgrounds, and I am firmly in the amateur camp. I began singing in my church choir when I was eight years old and continued until I graduated from high school. Singing in a church choir as a child gave me a sense of comfort and familiarity with our complex liturgy and made me feel more at home in our church. The beauty of music often gives me the strongest sense of God's presence in my life. If you sang in choirs or choruses as a student and would like to come back to it, we are the group for you. Participating in our choir is a great way to grow relationships at St. Margaret's.

- Jessica Parker

I fell in love with music when my Mom and I would sing our favorite hymns out of the 1940 Hymnal while she played the piano. I was asked to join the Christ Church Cathedral, Indianapolis, Choir of Men and Boys, and choir recalls the joy of singing as a boy as well as praising God as part of the liturgy. I enjoy the different backgrounds of our choir. Some of us have grown up singing in the Episcopal Church, while some bring over the traditions of their previous denominations. We are a fun group. Often the saying "Preaching to the choir" implies the choir is somewhat holier than the congregation; given my many years of being a chorister, I can assure you that is not the case!



- Michael Porter



The choir at St Margaret's is a special group of people with different viewpoints who are united by our faith and our love of music. Singing is so much fun and provides us with a small taste of our future eternal glory in Christ. These people mean so much to me and I hope to continue in this ministry together as long as possible and also to welcome new members!

- Spring Plihcik

Choir rehearses each Wednesday from 7:00-8:30pm and sing most Sundays at the 10:30am Eucharist.



Youth Spotlight

pfeifer@saintmargarets.net

BY ELIZABETH PFEIFER

ASSISTANT TO THE RECTOR FOR YOUTH MINISTRY



EYC will have our Fall 2025 Kick Off on August 24th from 5:00-6:30pm (*dinner will begin on 9/7*).

Our 6th graders are invited to a welcome gathering on the 24th at 4:30pm in the Parish Hall (older siblings welcome as well!).

We will welcome our group and go over what to expect at EYC for our newest members. Youth will then stay for our EYC kick off following the meeting.

Dinner is not served at our EYC Kick Off and parents may leave after dropping their student off.

Stay up-to-date with youth group gatherings by signing up for our EYC text updates: text stmyouth1 to 94033 and reply "yes" if prompted with an opt-in text message.

Rising 6th grade families are invited to sign up!

EYC FALL 2025 KICK OFF

SUN, AUG 24TH

5:00-6:30PM

6TH-12TH GRADE

ST. MARGARET'S

EPISCOPAL CHURCH



DONUT FEAR

ISAIAH 41:10

DO NOT FEAR, FOR I AM WITH YOU

All 6th-12th graders are invited to our first meeting of the school year.



Costa Rica Mission Trip

RECAP

In July, a team of 24 youth and adults traveled to Limón, Costa Rica to participate in a mission week through our companion Diocese, the Diocese of Costa Rica. This was Saint Margaret's sixth trip to Costa Rica but our first time traveling to and serving in Limón (on the Caribbean side of the country, about a 3 hour drive from San Jose).

The team spent their week at San Marcos Escuela, an all-ages private school run by the Diocese. In addition to being a school, San Marcos is next door to its namesake church and has become a destination for other Episcopal churches in town and the community at large due to its gathering spaces. With it being a community destination, part of the team spent several days replacing about 50 yards of sidewalk in front of the school in order to provide safer access to the entrance. They broke apart the top layer of concrete, hauled it away and then swept the surface clean. They then worked together to shovel the needed materials into a concrete mixer and walk the cement down the sidewalk, wheelbarrow by wheelbarrow. Team members learned from experienced contractors how to mix, haul, lay, and smooth the concrete. After they finished the sidewalk, they took those new-found skills to the back of the school where they did a similar job for a play space/patio.

The other team members spent their week painting an ever-growing number of classrooms while the school was on a short holiday. In all, the team touched 12 classrooms, 9 of which were completed start to finish (sanding to final trim!). Our youth and adults managed a tight ship of painting, keeping track of which classrooms had first and second coats, what needed to be edged, and kept a very patient attitude while painting three cinderblock classrooms that took a lot of cutting in!

We spent our evenings at our home for the week, a small hotel in the area. We swam in the pool, played cards, got to know one another, and closed each day with Compline. The team spent their weekend in Quepos (fully across the country, on the Pacific Coast) visiting Manuel Antonio National Park and beach. We saw a spectacular sunset on our last evening before finishing up our week with Eucharist.

This was Saint Margaret's sixth trip to Costa Rica but our first time traveling to and serving in Limón.





Costa Rica





MISSION TRIP PHOTO RECAP





Children's Ministry

BY JAMIE PETER

ASSISTANT TO THE RECTOR FOR CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

childrensministry@saintmargarets.net

TIME to BLESS those Backpacks!

We are looking forward to our new school year! We hope you will mark your calendars with some special upcoming events at Saint Margaret's. Join us for our **Blessing of the Backpacks** on **Sunday, August 24th** during both the **8:15 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. services** as we bless backpacks, briefcases, and workbags for students, teachers, and school staff of all ages. Start the school year off with a prayer of encouragement and support from your church family. We look forward to celebrating this meaningful tradition with you!

We are excited to announce that **Sunday School at Saint Margaret's will resume soon for children ages 4 through 5th grade. Classes will begin on Sunday, September 14th, and take place each week from 9:30 to 10:15am.** This year, we'll continue using the Mini Revolutions curriculum by Illustrated Ministry. Rooted in the lectionary, this engaging program offers our children meaningful lessons that connect with current children's literature, hands-on crafts, and thoughtful journaling activities for older students. As always, our lessons will reflect



the mission of Saint Margaret's Church: Love Jesus. Love your neighbor. Bless the world. [Click here to register for Sunday School!](#)

We are also looking for volunteers to help teach classes and support this important ministry. All volunteers must be active parish members for at least six months. Volunteers will receive training and teach in pairs 1-2 times every 6 to 8 weeks. All supplies and lesson plans will be provided, so our teachers can focus on the fun and meaningful part... teaching our kids! If you have any questions, or are interested in joining this ministry, please contact Jamie at childrensministry@saintmargarets.net.

We're excited to announce the launch of a brand-new group at Saint Margaret's:

EYC Jr.—our Episcopal Youth Community for younger students! EYC Jr. is designed especially for children in grades 3rd through 5th, offering a space to build friendships, explore faith, and have fun together outside of Sunday School. Through games, service projects, snacks, and meaningful conversations, this group helps kids begin to engage more deeply with their church community in a way that's age-appropriate and exciting. Our first meeting is on Sunday, September 21st from 3:30pm to 5pm in the Parish Hall. Friends are always welcome, so bring someone along to share in the fun and learning!



"START THE SCHOOL YEAR OFF WITH A PRAYER OF ENCOURAGEMENT AND SUPPORT FROM YOUR CHURCH FAMILY."



Wishing everyone a fantastic start to the new school year! May it be filled with learning, growth, and new friendships. I hope to see you in Sunday School this fall.

Let's make it a great year!

Upcoming dates in Children's Ministry:

August 24th:

Blessing of the Backpacks and Red Door Welcome
at the 8:15am and 10:30am services

September 7th:

Parish Breakfast at 9:15am

September 14th:

Sunday School starts 9:30-10:15am

September 21st:

New EYC Jr. 3:30-5pm in the Parish Hall
(3rd through 5th graders and friends welcome)

October 12th, 19th, & 26th:

Fall Holy Communion Classes-Registration Coming Soon

November 2nd:

Fall Holy Communion Celebration at 10:30am service

BACK TO SCHOOL

O Eternal God, bless all schools, colleges, and universities, that they may be lively centers for sound learning, new discovery, and the pursuit of wisdom; and grant that those who teach and those who learn may find you to be the source of all truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

BCP pg. 824

Saint Margaret's Episcopal Church **Blessing of the Backpacks!**

**Join us on Sunday, August 24th as we bless
backpacks, briefcases, and workbags
for students, teachers, and school staff
of all ages!**

**Blessings will be during the
8:15am and 10:30am services.**





Parish Connection & Outreach

BY TRACI SCOTT

ASSISTANT TO THE RECTOR FOR OUTREACH & PARISH CONNECTION

connection@saintmargarets.net

The Last Rose of Summer Tea

Saturday, August 9th, 2:00pm St. Margaret's Parish Hall



Last call to all ladies (ages 4+) 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.

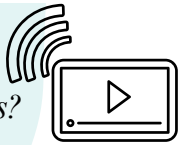
[CLICK HERE](#)

Media Ministry

Helpers are needed to record the sermon each Sunday at our worship services.

Are you willing to learn our simple recording system and volunteer for a service every 4-6 weeks?

Great for older teens too! Contact Traci to find out more at connection@saintmargarets.net.



CKF Monthly Meal Deliveries



Lots more help is needed for our next meal prep and delivery on Saturday, August 16th.

Help is needed with grocery shopping, meal prep and delivery. Join us for this wonderful ministry to bring a warm meal and a bit of comfort to our neighbors in need.

Delivery drivers: <https://bit.ly/CKFdelivery>

Shopping and prep: <https://bit.ly/CKFmeals>

Help needed at our Wednesday night food pantry at StM



It's hard to get a slot to help in the weekly food pantry, but helpers from StM are needed for several

different roles in addition to the regular volunteers:

- Bring and distribute cold water bottles to our guests waiting in line.
- Distribute children's books to the car line.
- Help direct the cars into the lines.
- Greet volunteers and help facilitate the flow.

If you'd like to help, contact Traci to discuss the details at: connection@saintmargarets.net

Blood Drive: Sunday August 17, 9am-1pm



OneBlood will be on-site at St. Margaret's with 2 buses: one for traditional blood donations and the other for platelets.

Platelets are critical for the treatment of cancer as some of you may have experienced if your lives have been impacted by this disease. Platelet donations take about 90 minutes. You can donate platelets every 7 days and donate whole blood every two months.

Please schedule your appointment to donate whole blood or platelets by using this link:

<https://bit.ly/BloodAug2025> Questions, contact Jeremy Ervin at jereseth@yahoo.com

School Supply Drive LAST CALL!

School supplies for Union County Schools are due **Sunday, August 3rd**. Collection bins are in the hallway outside the restrooms.

Thank you for your support of our local schools!



a glimpse of summer outreach



What a gift.

Members of the StM Chapter of the **Daughters of the King** wrapped 336 presents for Bright Blessings' birthday program in July.

***Bright Blessings** is an organization focused on bringing a message of joy and positive recognition to homeless and impoverished children whose special day may otherwise go unnoticed.*



Teamwork.

Thank you to our cooking crew for working together in the StM kitchen on 7/22 to create a meal and then serve it at the Union County Community Shelter that evening.



Love your neighbor.

In July, we had the privilege of being able to help replace a roof for a long time recipient of our CKF monthly food and meals ministry.

Ms. McIlwain let her StM meal delivery driver know that her roof was leaking right into her bedroom. She has lived in this very modest house, built by her father, 80+ years ago, so of course, she wanted to stay there. With some funds from our Outreach account (funded through the generosity of StM pledgers) and an amazing private donation, we were able to partner with our friends at ***Fixing it for Christ*** to get the roof and decking replaced, provide new window A/C units and do some sheetrock repair.



What a blessing it is to be able to help our neighbors in need! ***Thank you St. Margaret's!***



August Calendar

- 8/2 Kairos Training Meeting, 8:00 am
- 8/2 DOK Summer Luncheon, 11:00 am
- 8/4-7 Summer Fun camp, week 5 of 6
- 8/8-9 WNC Adults & Family work weekend
- 8/9 Ladies Tea, 2:00 pm
- 8/11-14 Summer Fun camp, week 6 of 6
- 8/16 Community Kitchen fellowship, 9:00 am
- 8/17 Blood Drive
- 8/18-22 Icon Writing Class
- 8/19 Vestry Business Meeting, 7:00 pm
- 8/20 Wednesday Bible Study resumes, 10:00 am
- 8/23 Kairos Training meeting, 8:00 am
- 8/24 Blessing of the Backpacks, at both services

*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

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!

Questions?

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

[CLICK HERE](#)



*Register now...
only a few spots remain!*



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
preschool@saintmargarets.net

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*