

MAGGIE'S CROSS



From Our Rector

The Opportunity Before Us

The stewardship campaign we are about to begin together is a tremendous opportunity for us. It is a great gift to be invited to participate in the work of Jesus. The primary way the Spirit of Jesus accomplishes His purposes is through His Church and its people. Saint Margaret's is a special place, and we now stand at an important threshold—called to continue the good work begun in us and to expand our ministries to reach even more of our neighbors. One important aspect of this campaign is funding our operating budget. These funds are collected annually and are essential to support the upkeep of our building, pay staff salaries and benefits, sustain the daily functions of our parish, and serve our broader community through outreach ministries. It is a great privilege to be entrusted with this calling: to support our church, our staff, and our shared mission.

To meet our budgetary needs for 2026, we estimate a 20% increase will be required to catch up and cover rising expenses. Inflation has affected us all, but when we give together, Jesus can do abundantly more than we can ask or imagine. Let us give joyfully and trust in His provision.

From the very beginning, followers of Jesus understood their lives to be woven together for the common good. They joyfully gave of their resources to build God's Kingdom. Two thousand years later, we too are called to come together, through prayer, through the use of our spiritual gifts, and through our financial support, to follow Jesus and carry out His purposes.

In addition to our operating needs, we are launching a small capital campaign to expand our columbarium and to build a dedicated sacred space for the Joseph Project. You should have received information about these plans through our recent newsletter, the September 7th presentation, and various electronic communications. If you haven't yet had the chance to review these materials, I encourage you to do so before making your commitment. I am truly excited about

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this new ministry opportunity, and I hope you will be too. While the vision may seem ambitious, I firmly believe we have the financial capacity to fully support our church's operating needs, to expand and enhance our Sacred Space, and to provide a resting place for families who might otherwise have nowhere to lay their loved ones to rest. So I invite you to join me—in prayer, in giving, and in joyful expectation—as we embrace the opportunity before us. We have received so many blessings from our Lord in this parish. Let us respond to those blessings with generosity, for the sake of our shared mission.

Your Priest,

Fr. Todd

dill@saintmargarets.net



A HEAVENLY PURPOSE TO GIVING.

SACRED SPACE SACRED LIVES

2026 Pledge Goal

\$1,021,000

2026 Stewardship

Fixed Operating Expenses	\$ 1,105,476
Program Goal Expenses	\$ 45,410
Total Expenses	\$ 1,150,886
Building Capital Expenses	\$ 20,000
Revenue Goal	\$ 1,149,428

	2025 Revised Projection	% of Total
Pledge Units	218	
Average Pledge	\$4,158	
Pledge Revenue	\$906,506	85.8%
Est Plate Revenue	\$110,000	10.4%
Estimated Revenue	*\$1,051,506	

* Includes \$35,000 Misc Rev



Stewardship Data

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
# Pledges	203	223	213	214	218
Amount	\$818,068	\$811,005	\$850,800	\$809,000	\$876,50
Average	\$4,030	\$3,637	\$3,994	\$3,780	\$4,021



CLICK HERE
to PLEDGE for 2026 TODAY!

THE JOSEPH PROJECT

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

2026-2027

The expansion of Saint Margaret's Columbarium meets the pastoral needs of parish members seeking a place of burial at our church.

The Children's Garden, a sacred outreach ministry, will offer space and support to those who lack the financial resources or a faith community to aid them during this difficult time of loss.

**HELP US REACH OUR GOAL OF \$700,000
TO MAKE THIS VISION A REALITY!**



CREATED FOR COMMUNITY...



What a great and glorious year it has been! On September 1st, I celebrated my 1st anniversary here at St. Margaret's. Milestones often cause me to look back, wonder, and reflect. In many of these reflective moments, the word and idea of community have come to mind.

Even from Creation itself, we have lived in community. God creates in community. If you read Genesis, you see God acting as a plural God. Genesis also tells us that "God created them" when God created humankind. Humanity has ALWAYS been meant to live and breathe with each other in community. I know I am better when I can celebrate life with family and friends.

In the world in which we find ourselves, our communities seem to be in need, in want, longing for rest and renewal, longing for redemption. In a culture as busy as ours, where we almost celebrate having a calendar with too many things on it, I believe if we are honest with ourselves, we are overfilled, and we are overstimulated at least in part for our need for community. We want to be involved with so many good things, and we want our children to have so many wonderful experiences, that we try to do it all. This, in and of itself, is not wrong. And in the context we find ourselves today, we have so many wonderful opportunities to do so many things.

Beloved, there is one place and one thing that is more valuable than all of our other choices combined. That is the church. There is no other place in the world where you can get what the church offers. Soccer and swim coaches will tell you and your children that practice is most important, but it's not. Our jobs tell us they are most important; they are not. Even our families can tell us that they are most important, beloved, but they are not. Jesus said it himself, hate mother and father, brother and sister, even life itself.

No one has ever expressed to me, "I wish my children had played more soccer or taken more dance classes." A countless number of people have expressed to me as their children have grown older, they wish they were more intentional about making faith more a part of their lives.

Beloved, these words are not about guilt or shaming. These words are not about telling you you are wrong. I pray that these words meet you from a place of love. Love for you because Jesus first loved us, and the only place you will hear the words of Jesus' love is the church.

So come to church, and bring your kids. If they say they don't know anyone there, let them invite a friend. If you were up working late on Saturday night, come to church and rest well when you get home. Beloved, this matters because in God's eyes and our eyes, you matter. When you are at St. Margaret's, our prayers are better and our table is more full and all of us are made better because we are in community together as God intended us to be...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

Moved by the Sacred

Music moves us. This is hardly a novel sentiment, but have we ever considered how true this really is? At a basic level, music is sound, waves of pressure, which can shake your chest and break glass. A favorite song will invariably set your toe tapping or your head nodding. And this says nothing of the emotional power of great (or even less-than-great) music.

It occurs to me that these movements, interior and exterior, are a participation in the music itself. We have a desire to not simply react to music, but to become part of it. And during the liturgy, the rumble of the organ, joining in congregational song, or memories of singing with your parents can transform us into a participant in that music. And just as sacred music is set apart for the worship of God, perhaps we are moving ourselves, not just spiritually but physically, into individually being set apart for God's service.

When we sing, we take air in. Air, a simple sustaining gift of God, becomes, as we exhale and make melody, a unique gift of praise back to him. Our vocal cords vibrate together with the music, and our very bodies join in motion towards a divine purpose.

Yet many devote themselves further. Members of our choirs move themselves in and out of the chancel in procession, dedicating time and talent and attention to the leadership and service of God's Church. And as we listen, the bones in our ears moving with the sound of the choir, we are often stirred in spirit to a similar devotion.

Our music ministries are sustained both by the general budget as well as by occasional donations. There is movement in this, as well: movement of hands to labor and hearts to give. What is spectacular about this is that the movement some experience from sacred music provides for others to share in that experience by funding our music ministries. Those who have been moved by music allow for those who come after them to move with them.

*"When we sing, we take
air in. Air, a simple
sustaining gift of God,
becomes, as we exhale and
make melody, a unique gift
of praise back to him."*

If sacred music is set apart for God, then whether we move through hearing it, singing it, leading it, or funding it, I would suggest we are similarly consecrating ourselves to Him. However our shared music moves us, I am grateful each Sunday to have the opportunity to share that with you, and I hope you'll continue to help our music ministries move our parish and the world.

**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



DONUT FEAR

 ur youth group conversations to start this fall have been guided by God's words in Isaiah 41:10: *"So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous hand."*

At EYC, we have been reading texts that focus on people who are experiencing fear and hearing how God responds to those fears and how God shows up when God's people are afraid or being challenged to conquer something they did not think possible.

We read about the disciple Ananias who was called by Jesus to go and heal the man Saul, who had been persecuting followers of Jesus. Anaias is, understandably, nervous and scared. Ananias goes anyways and places hands on Saul to heal him in Jesus' name. Ananias answers Jesus' call.

There is no growth- in faith, in friends, in life- without challenging ourselves. God has an incredible calling for each of us and our challenge is to listen for that call and to answer.

As we continue into the fall, my challenge for our EYC families is to channel Ananias. You don't have to lay hands on someone who has been persecuting Christians but, is there someone you can reach out to and invite to St. Margaret's? Is there someone who would like to join you at church, someone who would like to join you for a Bible Study or fellowship gathering? Someone who would want to join your student at youth group?

Between our 6th and 7th grade roster, we have a total of 7 active and engaged St. Margaret's members. This is a smaller number of families than we have had in the years past and is on par with our weekly church attendance since 2022.

In May of this year, I took 44 students to the beach. 15 of them were St. Margaret's members (35%) and 29 students (65%) were community members, meaning their families are not members of St. Margaret's and youth group is their primary (perhaps only) connection to our church family.

EYC has experienced rapid and then sustained growth for the last two years because our students invited their friends. These friends have become integral members of our community and are growing older with each passing year, a huge cohort of friends will graduate in 2027. Our involved community members did not magically appear. Their friends who regularly attend StM took a chance. They felt God encouraging them to send the text, to make the ask, to extend the invite. And wow, have their friends accepted those invitations.

The next few months bring weekly youth group meetings, day events, fun holiday celebrations, and more. Encourage your student to invite a friend. You never know who may come through our doors and be the next Saul (aka the disciple Paul).

***"...is there someone you
can reach out to and invite
to St. Margaret's?"***





STM

EYC

OCTOBER MEETINGS

EVERY
SUNDAY

5:00-6:30

with dinner

6:30-7:00

OCT 5 OCT 12
OCT 19 OCT 26
ALL 6TH-12TH GRADERS

ST. MARGARET'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
INSTAGRAM: STMYOUTHG

SIGN UP FOR EYC TEXTS: TEXT STMYOUTH1 TO 94033



Children's Ministry

BY JAMIE PETER

ASSISTANT TO THE RECTOR FOR CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

childrensministry@saintmargarets.net

A gift that lasts a lifetime!

Helping Your Child Attend Sunday School Is a Gift That Lasts a Lifetime

As another Sunday approaches, many parents feel the familiar rush of getting the family out the door and to church on time. Amid the morning hustle, it might be tempting to let Sunday School slide “just this once.” But helping your child attend Sunday School consistently is one of the most valuable investments you can make in their spiritual life, and in the life of your family.

Sunday School isn't just about stories and crafts. It's where children begin to build a personal relationship with God, learn the foundations of our faith, and discover that they are part of a larger Christian community. The lessons they hear, the prayers they learn, and the friendships they form all work together to nurture their growing faith. **Your commitment to bringing them sends a powerful message: their faith matters.**

And when parents also attend Adult Faith Formation, whether it's a Bible study, discussion group, or a formation class, they model that same message in an even deeper way. Children watch how we live our lives, and when they see you prioritizing your own spiritual growth, they're more likely to do the same. Just as children imitate the way we speak or treat others, they will also imitate the way we engage with our faith.

Making formation a family habit shows that faith isn't something we outgrow. It's not just something we do for the kids. It's a lifelong journey we walk together.

So, this Sunday, consider how attending both Sunday School and Adult Formation can be a blessing not only for you and your child, but for your entire family's faith life. Let's grow together in faith—side by side, generation by generation.

As we continue into this beautiful fall season, we hope you're enjoying every moment, and we look forward to seeing you and your family in formation in the weeks ahead!

Upcoming dates in Children's Ministry:

November 2nd:

Fall Holy Communion Celebration at 10:30am service

October 12th:

Great Turkey Countdown with Common Heart Kick Off

October 12th, 19th, & 26th:

Fall Holy Communion Classes

November 2nd:

Fall Holy Communion Celebration at 10:30am service

December 6th:

Saint Nicholas Festival 9:30-11:30am

December 14th:

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





Parish Connection & Outreach

BY TRACI SCOTT

ASSISTANT TO THE RECTOR FOR OUTREACH & PARISH CONNECTION

connection@saintmargarets.net



Over the last few weeks, we have seen a significant rise in the number of families attending our weekly food pantry. In fact, all of Common Heart's pantries in Union County are seeing increased numbers. This is a reminder that what we do at St. Margaret's and in our community matters. When we talk with our neighbors at the pantry, they are struggling. Everything costs more; children are getting their homework done in the car; mom is tired after working all day and the stress of "making ends meet" is ever-present. Those who are retired are worried about having enough to pay the bills and are so grateful to have the extra food to provide a little cushion. At StM, we are so blessed to be able to help by providing the food, but also just being able to give them a smile, a space to vent a little and some encouragement as they continue through their week. The generosity of StM parishioners is what makes ministries like the pantry happen...financial generosity, but also volunteer time and prayer time which is just as important. Sincere thanks for all that you do to support St. Margaret's Outreach efforts!

Save your Halloween candy!



We will be collecting your leftover Halloween candy again this year to be sent to our Troops serving overseas. The collection will run thru early November.



CKF Monthly meal deliveries

More volunteers are needed for our 3 remaining dates in 2025: Oct 18, Nov 22, Dec 20

Volunteers meet in the St. Margaret's kitchen to cook the meals; bakers make desserts to be included and one volunteer shops for the groceries beforehand. All lists and recipes are provided and the grocery cost is reimbursed. Another team of volunteers comes to pick up the meals and deliver them in the Waxhaw area.

In November, we'll pick up special Thanksgiving meals at Common Heart and take those to our neighbors.

We serve about 60 meals each month and can always use more helpers. Great family activity too!

Sign up for shopping, desserts, cooking: <https://bit.ly/CKFmeals>

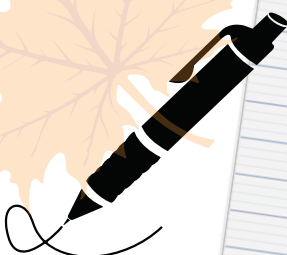
Sign up for delivery: <https://bit.ly/CKFdelivery>

The Kairos Ministry thanks you for baking 80 dozen cookies for September's Kairos program at Kershaw Correctional Facility! And many thanks to the 28 prayer vigil participants and other parishioners that prayed for the success of this 4-day event. The Kairos team will continue to have monthly reunions with the inmates at Kershaw and will have another 4-day program in March.

Angel Tree is coming! We will once again support the Union County Christmas Bureau and help brighten the season for local children. Watch for our online gift list sign-up just before Thanksgiving. Gifts will be due back in early December. If you want to help us sort the gifts or drive them to Monroe, please reach out to Traci at connection@saintmargarets.net

Welcome new members:

- Caroline Turner and family
- Bonnie Sampson



SAVE THE DATE: The Last Act of Living

Saturday, January 24, 2026
9:00am-2:30pm
in the Parish Hall

Few people want to talk about death and dying, but there's a 100% chance we will all experience it! How could an openness towards death teach us how to live better, die more peacefully and help our loved ones through the grieving process?

More details about this new program will be coming soon.



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+
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Deacon

The Rev. Ludwig Wallner

Organist & Director of Music

Gavin D. Craig
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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



October Calendar

- 10/4 Altar Guild meeting, 9:30 am
- 10/5 Monthly Parish Breakfast, 9:15-10:15am
- 10/5 Blessing of the Animals, 4:00 pm
- 10/6 Monthly Monday Prayer time, 10:00 am in the nave
- 10/11 DOK monthly meeting, 9:30 am in the Parish Hall
- 10/18 Community Kitchen Fellowship, 9:00 am
- 10/18 Knots of Love monthly meeting, 10:00 am in the Prayer Rm.
- 10/19 Commitment Sunday: Stewardship Pledge Cards due!**
- 10/21 Vestry Business Meeting

*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



Parishioners Dan and Sue Jaquish sent in this photo from a summer visit to St. Paul's in Springville, NY.

Sue emailed us with this story: *"This was the place where our family's faith journey began together. We brought Flat Maggie along!*

It was wonderful to see so many familiar faces and to share about St. Margaret's and where we now worship in North Carolina."



Have a StM snapshot to share?

Please send to parishadmin@saintmargarets.net for consideration in a future newsletter.