

MAGGIE'S CROSS



From Our Rector

Pray Like it Matters!

I am fortunate to be asked to pray for people often. It is one of the many blessings of being a priest, but even more so because I serve a parish of faithful people who trust me with their intercessions. Recently, I started a private prayer chain with my extended family in Ohio. After the death of my cousin Mike, the other five cousins (and many others in our family) realized that we needed to be more intentional about praying for one another in our grief. What has transpired since then has been a deep commitment to pray daily for each other and to share both our thanksgivings and our struggles. Out of Mike's death has come a renewed intentionality in prayer and mutual support.

The discipline of an ongoing prayer life is vitally important to our spiritual health. Prayer is how we connect with Jesus and ask for His help, comfort, and guidance. It is also a time to set aside distractions and focus on cultivating a closer relationship with Him. We pray because our struggles and needs truly matter to Jesus.

Recently, I was reminded of a quote from N.T. Wright in his book on Paul's Letter to the Philippians that beautifully emphasizes this point. It is lengthy, but well worth our consideration:

Anxiety was a way of life for many in the ancient pagan world. With so many gods and goddesses, all of them potentially out to get you for some offence you mightn't even know about, you never knew whether something bad was waiting for you just round the corner. With the God who had now revealed himself in Jesus, there was no guarantee (as we've seen) against suffering, but there was the certainty that this God was ultimately in control and that he would always hear and answer prayers on any topic whatever. People sometimes say today that one shouldn't bother God about trivial requests (fine weather for the church picnic; a parking space in a busy street); but, though of course our intercessions should normally focus on serious and major matters, we note that Paul says we should ask God about every area of life. If it matters to you, it matters to God. Prayer like that will mean that God's peace – not a Stoic lack of concern, but a deep peace in the middle of life's problems and storms – will keep

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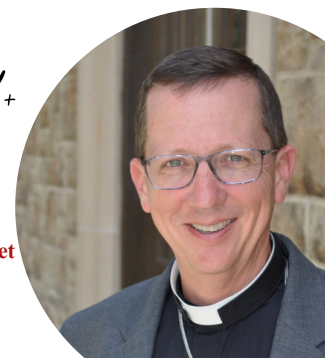
guard around your heart and mind, like a squadron of soldiers looking after a treasure chest.

Our prayers are not a bother to God. He desires to spend time with us, and He invites us to pour out our hearts to Him in trust. We bring our needs to God because what concerns us is important to Him, and He desires to be present in every part of our lives. We pray because Jesus has encouraged us to bring all our needs before Him, both great and small. We pray because it matters to God.

Your priest,

Fr. Todd+

dill@saintmargarets.net



“IT'S NOT THE SAME”



As some of you know, I am a bit of a podcast junkie. One morning while driving to church, I was listening to a podcast discussing how our society tends to create false equivalencies when making choices. We often convince ourselves that two things are essentially the same when, in reality, they are not.

For example, someone might say, “Instead of going to my aerobics class today, I’ll just walk a mile.” Now, there is absolutely nothing wrong with walking a mile. In fact, it is good and healthy. But any trainer would quickly point out: it’s not the same thing. The movement, the discipline, the formation, and even the community experience are different.

As I listened, I realized how often we approach our spiritual lives in the same way. We can unintentionally create spiritual substitutions and then convince ourselves they are equivalent. Again, this does not necessarily make those practices bad or wrong—it simply means they are not the same.

This past Easter, for example, I saw many social media posts from friends and family talking about how wonderful it was to worship the risen Lord on the beach or in the mountains. And truly, there is beauty in encountering God in creation. But it is not the same as gathering with the Church on Easter morning, proclaiming together that Christ is risen, hearing the voices around you sing, coming forward for Eucharist, and sharing in the joy of resurrection as one body.

Our faith is meant to be practiced both individually and communally, and healthy discipleship requires both. If we only pray in community, our spiritual life can become dependent on others to sustain it. At the same time, if we only worship in solitude, we miss the ways the Church shapes, challenges, and forms us together. One cannot fully replace the other because they are not the same.

That idea will guide Season 2 of *Beyond the Pews*, beginning May 27. Throughout the summer, we will explore topics like worship, music, prayer, sacraments, and spiritual formation through the lens of this simple but important phrase: It’s not the same. Together, we will look at the ways our spirituality can slowly become equated with something adjacent to faith, yet distinct from the fullness of what God is inviting us into.



One of the moments that deeply shaped this realization for me happened during worship several years ago. For one of the first times, I found myself engaged enough in the liturgy to close the prayer book and simply be present to the prayers as they flowed around and through me. Suddenly, the words carried new depth. The prayers felt more alive. Eucharist became less something I watched and more something I fully participated in. Things were most certainly not the same.

My hope for this season is not simply to discuss ideas, but to invite all of us to reflect more deeply on how we practice and experience our faith. As we journey through these conversations together over the summer, please feel free to leave thoughts, questions, or ideas on the podcast board so we can continue the discussion together. I am excited to see where this journey leads us.



BY REV. FATHER MATT ADDINGTON
ASSISTANT TO THE RECTOR

Father Matt is in the office M-Th
and can be reached at:
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TRY SUMMER CHOIR

By Gavin D. Craig
Director of Music & Organist

I regularly encounter, in most churches, a misconception of the choir as a secret club, open only to those possessed of extraordinary musical acumen and that almost unobtainable gift of a “nice voice.” While we do have members with advanced musical and vocal training, what sets each and every member apart is their willingness to show up and do the work of providing music for the sacred liturgy and honing their skills. Choir is perhaps the most demanding lay ministry in the parish, and this is the actual barrier to entry for many.

However, in June we lower that barrier and welcome all who enjoy singing to join our ranks. Each week, we prepare a simple 1-3 part anthem and present it at the 10:30am service. Everything you need, including learning the music, is ready for you when you arrive at 9:30 in the Choir Room, and friendly experienced choristers can help you through the morning’s duties. There’s no sign up, no fee, no commitment beyond one morning, and you get to make a difference in the worship experience of our congregation and visitors.

So if you enjoy the contributions of our choirs, you can help provide that gift to others by joining us in June for Summer Choir. This is perfect for those who have sung and can’t make the regular commitment during the year. It’s also a great way for those who have an interest in choir to try it out and see if that might be the ministry for you.

Beautiful choral music is something our parishioners offer together to Our Lord, and I hope you’ll be a part of that this June!

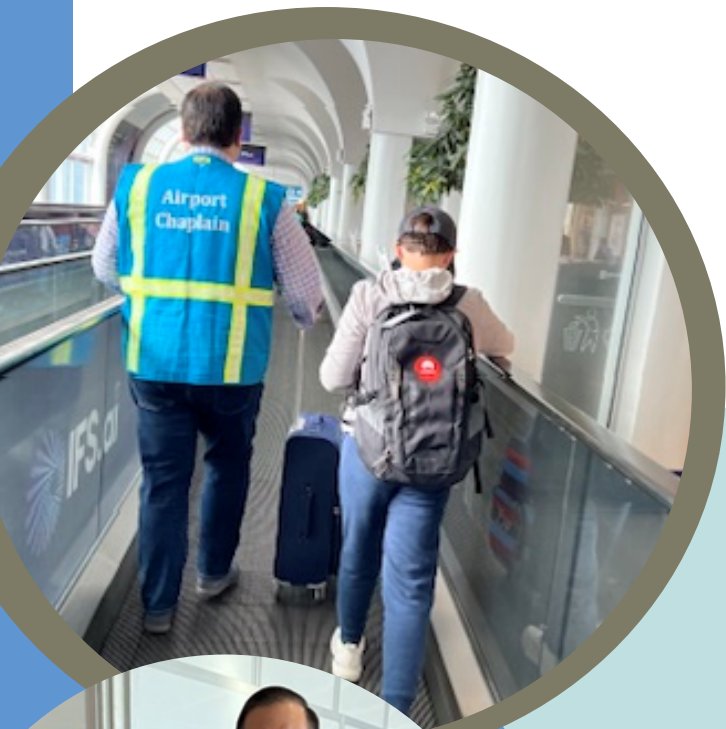
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BETWEEN GATES AND GRACE

THE MINISTRY OF AN AIRPORT CHAPLAIN

By Deacon Derek Luther



There's a common question among Deacons. "What's your ministry?" I answered the question so many times that it rolls off my tongue like a well-rehearsed presenter. For a while, it was my most practiced elevator speech. The answer begins with a season of discernment and an awful lot of air travel.

For years, my work regularly kept me on airplanes visiting college campuses around the country. In 2016 alone, I boarded 153 flights. Airports became familiar spaces filled with hurried travelers, delayed connections, and brief encounters with strangers. For me, it was comfortable - like a home away from home.

During COVID, when my travel schedule suddenly stopped, I realized how much I missed those spaces. Through another deacon, I learned about and connected with the Executive Director of the CLT Airport Chaplaincy, who described the work as a "ministry of presence." The goal, he explained, is simple: meet people where they are, share the love of Jesus, and help make their journey a little lighter.

I knew immediately that I had found something special.

My first shift as a chaplain was in April 2021. I met a woman named Judy who was traveling to visit her son after his diagnosis with esophageal cancer. The airport was still short-staffed following the pandemic, so I helped push her wheelchair to the gate. Along the way, we shared a sandwich and she told me stories about her son and her family. A few minutes later she boarded her flight, and we likely will never see each other again.

Later that same month, a woman spotted my chaplain vest while sitting at the airport bar and yelled across the atrium, "Hey, Chaplain!" She waved me over and explained that she was traveling home to give the eulogy at her sister's funeral. We stood together in the middle of one of the busiest airports in the world and prayed. At the end of the prayer she added, "Jesus, just keep Satan out of my eulogy and make sure I only say the nice things about my sister. Amen." That prayer still makes me smile.

Airport chaplaincy has taught me that everyone is carrying something. Some travelers are anxious. Some are grieving. Some are exhausted, lonely, frustrated, or afraid. Others are celebrating family reunions, vacations, weddings, and new beginnings - and that's just the passengers. The airport ministry extends to flight crews, baggage handlers, TSA screeners, food service & gift shop workers, and bus drivers. The airport community truly represents everyone.

Most of the ministry is quiet and ordinary. Giving directions. Helping someone find a gate. Pointing out a restroom. Listening to a story. Sitting with someone whose flight has been delayed and whose patience is wearing thin. Sometimes it's simply reminding a person that they are not invisible.

As a deacon, I've come to believe that this is part of our calling as Christians, too; not only inside the walls of the church, but out in the world where people are living real lives in real time.

Before many of my shifts at the airport, I pray the words of Fr. Mychal Judge, the FDNY chaplain who died serving others on September 11:

Lord, take me where you want me to go.

Help me meet who you want me to meet.

Help me say what you want me to say.

Most of all, help me stay out of Your way.

It is a simple prayer, but it feels especially fitting for ministry in an airport terminal. You never know who you will meet, what burden they are carrying, or how God may use a brief encounter to offer comfort, peace, and hope.

Sometimes holy ground looks like our church sanctuary, and sometimes it looks like Gate B12.



Youth

pfeifer@saintmargarets.net

BY ELIZABETH PFEIFER

ASSISTANT TO THE RECTOR FOR YOUTH MINISTRY

Congratulations

to our

Class of 2026 Seniors:

Camdyn Addington

Joseph Henry Bria

Dylan Brown

Mason Bucciero

Callie Cox

Westley Culp

Elizabeth Culpeper

Griffin Godwin

Zachary Hamilton

Adalyn Larmondra

Avery Toy

Hadley Ward

Drew Schwering

Mackenzie Shultz

EYC wrapped up an incredible year with our final meeting of the school year on May 7th and our annual beach retreat May 15th-17th at Oak Island. We will celebrate Graduate Recognition on June 7th and will serve in Marshall, NC on our summer mission trip June 14-19.

Following a thought-provoking Lent centered around our Baptismal Covenant, we spent our last several meetings celebrating Easter. We read about Jesus appearing to his disciples after a night spent fishing with no success. After a miraculous catch of fish, provided by Jesus, Jesus shares breakfast with his disciples and we wondered how we can give thanks for all Jesus provides for us today. We asked why the cross, used just weeks ago to kill our Lord, is now a symbol worn proudly by Christians? We decorated our own crosses to display in our homes for the Easter season. At our final meeting, we heard about Jesus' ascension and how, after, the disciples went back to Jerusalem "with great joy."

We had an EYC year that was filled "with great joy." Christian joy is not happiness. Christian joy is a deeply rooted state of being content; this joy is set in God's presence, promise, and salvation. We have joy because we know God is with us, in all times and in all places.

A year with "great joy" at EYC does not mean that every game I planned or every program I wrote was a hit (believe me, some of them definitely did not go as planned). It does not mean that every student, at every meeting, had a deep takeaway from the lesson. It means that we gathered, over 29 meetings, knowing that God was with us. We have joy in knowing that we are meeting together to play games and be with friends but also to learn about the life and ministry of Jesus.

We learned about Moses, Saul & Ananias, Zechariah, Mary & Gabriel, the fishermen who dropped everything to become disciples, and so many others. We heard how God was with these people in the hardest of moments and in the celebrations. We endeavored for our youth group to be a place where we come together with joy: in the hardest of moments and in the celebrations, a place we know God is with us.

Our EYC continues to be an ever-changing, dynamic group of students. Our current group would not be possible without the students and volunteer adults who make time in their schedules to join. We are thankful for each person's contributions, enthusiasm, and unique perspective.

Thank you for allowing St. Margaret's to be a part of your student's faith journey and may we all go out "with great joy" this summer.



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 23rd 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 "stmyouth!" to 94033 and reply "yes" to opt in. This is the best way to stay up-to-date with activities over the summer.



photo dump

LYC



Thanks for a great year!



Children's Ministry

BY JAMIE PETERS

ASSISTANT TO THE RECTOR FOR CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

childrensministry@saintmargarets.net

As summer approaches, we are excited for all the opportunities ahead for fellowship, faith formation, and fun. While school routines may change during the summer months, this season can also be a wonderful opportunity to nurture your child's faith in simple and meaningful ways at home.



Mark your calendars for these upcoming dates for VBS this summer:

June 23rd:

VBS Workday with decorating from 10am-2pm (11am VBS Volunteer Training) *Only 1 training required

June 24th:

VBS Workday with decorating from 10am-2pm (1pm VBS Volunteer Training) *Only 1 training required

June 29th-July 2nd:

Rainforest Falls VBS from 9am-12:30pm



Continuing Christian Formation This Summer

Here are a few easy ideas to help keep your child connected to their faith during the summer months:

- Attend worship together regularly and encourage children to participate in the service.
- Read a children's Bible story before bedtime or during family quiet time.
- Spend time outdoors noticing God's creation and offering simple prayers of gratitude.
- Listen to Christian music together during car rides or at home.
- Practice serving others as a family through acts of kindness and outreach.
- Keep a "God Sightings" journal where children can draw or write about moments they see God's love and presence around them.
- Pray together before meals, at bedtime, or whenever your family gathers.

Even small moments of faith shared together can have a lasting impact on your child's spiritual growth.

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 and 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 12th through August 16th 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.

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.](#)

Vacation Bible School Update

VBS is FULL! We are thrilled by the incredible response. We can't wait to explore the nature of God at *Rainforest Falls*. 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!

VBS Donations & Wish List

We have some exciting décor coming this year. 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 on Sunday mornings or during office business hours in the Connector Hallway.

Needed Items are:

- Large cardboard shipping tubes
- Newspaper
- Fake potted plants, especially larger ones (please label; items will be returned)

Thank you for supporting Children's Ministry and helping us create meaningful experiences where children can grow in faith and community this summer!



Outreach & Parish Connection

BY TRACI SCOTT

ASSISTANT TO THE RECTOR FOR OUTREACH & PARISH CONNECTION



connection@saintmargarets.net

Food Donations

St. Margaret's partners with two food pantries in Union County. During the summer months, when school is out, demand dramatically increases at food pantries.

Please consider donating needed food items or making a monetary donation so they can purchase what they need.

Common Heart: <https://commonheart.org/donate-food/>

Loaves & Fishes of Union County at St. Paul's Episcopal: <https://www.loavesandfishesofunioncounty.org/>

The food we collect at St. Margaret's is taken to Loaves & Fishes and also put in our Little Free Pantry in the back parking lot. *Items needed include canned vegetables, peanut butter, jelly, pasta & sauce, rice, cereal, oatmeal, snacks for kids.*

Distribute water at a Wednesday night pantry.



As the weather heats up, 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. If you'd like to help, contact Traci to pick a date at connection@saintmargarets.net.

We're also planning a St. Margaret's night at the pantry on July 15th so, look for more information and sign-ups coming soon!

South Providence School Support

THANK YOU to Karen Mills, Melinda Shelley and Susan Norwood for showing some love to the awesome staff at South Providence at the end of May.



The teachers were treated to a catered lunch from Salsarita's and a snack bar where they made their own trail mix.

And many thanks to those parishioners who purchased personal supplies for the students of South Providence and to Catherine Chintala for collecting and delivering all of the donations.

We have enjoyed partnering with South Providence for a number of years and look forward to finding new ways to support them in the future!

thank you

Need a name tag?

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 in a box on the Welcome Center desk in the narthex.



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](#).

We welcome new members:

- Aynsley Girardeau & Daxton
- Jay Jackson
- Dennis & Tanya Perry





Join St. Margaret's for a

BMO Take Out Night

Thursday, June 25th

5:30pm

Blakeney Shopping Center



Grab your favorite take out meal at a Blakeney restaurant and meet your St. Margaret's friends at the outdoor seating area behind Brix and Five Guys. There will be tables & chairs for eating and socializing.

In the event of rain, this event will not be rescheduled.

MAGGIE'S TEA GARDEN

Ladies' Tea Recap

We had a fabulous time at our annual Ladies' Tea in April where 75 ladies joined us for a beautiful event!

It was a time to sit & savor visiting with friends while enjoying delicious homemade treats and winning prizes.

\$2,500 in proceeds will benefit *Fields of Hope*, a local outreach organization dedicated to providing hope and healing for survivors of sex trafficking.



**POURING FUN,
FELLOWSHIP &
PHILANTHROPY
ONE CUP AT A
TIME!**



Many thanks to our committee: *Traci Scott, Mary Rushing, Maureen Barclay, Sarah Norwine, Charlotte Jenkins, Sally Murphy, Carol Land, Christine Wilkins, Tara McLellan and Michelle Stephens.*





STM WOMEN **ROOTED** **&** **RISING**

Ladies, join us for 3 casual
summer gatherings to study,
support and socialize!
Come to one or all three.

SUMMER DATES

Friday, June 12: 9am
Waverly Whole Foods

Saturday, July 11: 10am
St. Margaret's

Thursday, August 20: 7pm
Location TBD

SEE YOU THERE!



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

Deacon

The Rev. Derek Luther

Organist & Director of Music

Gavin D. Craig
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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

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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

2026 Vestry

Amy Pharr, *Senior Warden*
Philip Huff, *Junior Warden*
Bill MacMinn
Jenny Marlier
Kathleen Culpeper
Karen Paar
Erin Culver
Jeff Henry
Patrick Williams
David Feldser, *Treasurer*



June Calendar

- 6/6 Altar Guild Ministry Meeting, 10:00 am
- 6/7 Graduate Recognition, at the 10:30 service
- 6/12 Women's Gathering at Waverly Whole Foods, 9:00 am
- 6/12 Funeral for Ken Paar, 11:00 am followed by reception
- 6/14 EYC Mission Trip
- 6/16 Vestry Business Meeting
- 6/18 Pastoral Care team Meeting, 11:00 am
- 6/20 Monthly meal deliveries (CKF)
- 6/20 Knots of Love monthly meeting, 10:00 am
- 6/23 VBS Training & Work Day, 10:00 am
- 6/25 BYO Take Out Fellowship Night in Blakeney, 5:30 pm
- 6/29 VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL, 6/29-7/2
- 7/3 Church Office Closed
- 7/6 Summer Fun Camp week 1 of 6 begins

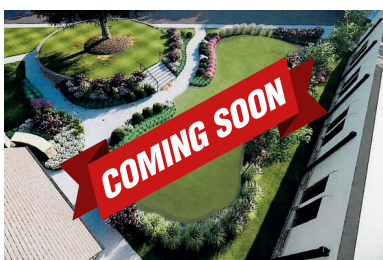
*First Monday of the month: Prayer time in the nave with Father Todd, 10:00 am

*Wednesday Evenings: Food Pantry, 6:00 pm & Compline on FB live at 9:00 pm

 **REMINDER:** Wednesday Evening Compline with Father Todd, 9 pm on Facebook

 **[CLICK HERE for our YouTube channel](#) *SERMONS in library!***

Joseph Project to break ground



Roby Construction will begin work on our Columbarium Expansion Project this month. We have labored for years toward this moment, and your generosity is making this vital new ministry possible.

To date, we have received commitments totaling \$477,000 to The Joseph Project.

[CLICK HERE](#) to GIVE NOW. Simply select *The Joseph Project* option from the drop down menu on our website.

