

MAGGIE'S CROSS



From Our Rector

We Don't Know Everyone's Entire Story

This morning, I was watching ESPN and catching up on the replays from last night's sporting events. There was a particular story which caught my attention that involved Jorge Lopez, a pitcher for the New York Mets. Upset following a bad inning, he walked off the field and threw his glove into the stands in disgust. When asked about the incident following the game, he stated that he played for ... "the worst team in the entire league!" (I cleaned up the quote for publication!). He also claimed that he was the worst teammate in the league and didn't much care what the reaction of the Mets would be.

I later learned that he was designated for assignment, a fancy terminology in baseball for being fired. I frankly thought it was a reasonable response and wasn't shocked by this decision from management. Sports stations and social media posts alike criticized him relentlessly, and Boomer Esiason, a famous sports figure and now radio host, offered harsh criticism for Jorge's behavior. It seemed so obvious that the

player was in the wrong, and that given his behavior and the public nature of his actions and comments, he should have expected the overwhelming public outcry that followed.

By the time I got home, something interesting had changed about the story. People began to learn that Jorge's 11-year-old son suffers from a rare chronic illness with lifelong complications. I cannot imagine the struggle he and his family are going through. And knowing this, I felt guilty for my quick judgment of his actions. Boomer Esaison, whose own son Gunnar suffers from cystic fibrosis, offered a heartfelt and sincere public apology for his harsh condemnation of Lopez, because he understands even better than I can the challenges and lifelong obstacles the Lopez family is facing.

It's a long story, with a very important reminder for us. We don't know everyone's whole story. We don't know what challenges others are facing, and we cannot fathom the struggles going on in other people's lives. Perhaps Jesus was reminding me of that and encouraging me to embrace humility and compassion and not be so quick to judge. St. Paul was calling the church in Colossae to this very way of being when he wrote, "Therefore, as God's chosen

people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity."

We are gracious with others because Jesus is gracious with us. We are called to compassion because Jesus is so compassionate with us. We are called to grace, forgiveness, and love, because Jesus knows us, knows our faults, and yet still chooses to love us so completely.

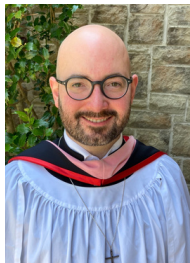
As disciples of Jesus, let us be gracious, kind, compassionate and patient, because we don't know everyone's whole story, and we might be the very people Jesus calls to love them in their distress. Life is hard. Perhaps by our love, we can bear with each other a bit more and by doing so, lighten the burden of someone who is struggling.

Your priest,

Fr. Todd+



dill@saintmargarets.net



Music

BY GAVIN D. CRAIG

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC & ORGANIST

*Summer choir will meet each Sunday at 9:30 in the Choir Room to rehearse an accessible anthem and present it at the 10:30 Eucharist. **Anyone interested is welcome!***

In May, our choirs completed a fantastic season of growth and beautiful music making! **The Children's Choir** gave a final performance with members of the adult choir on Trinity Sunday, with three children wearing light blue ribbons and medals. The ribbons are given to mark their progress in the *Voice for Life* program, through which they learn music theory, vocal technique, and repertoire. **Congratulations** to Serena Kindel, Aria Kindel, and Layla Kindel, and to all the children who worked hard to learn and serve this year!

The Adult Choir wrapped up with a stunning service of Choral Evensong on the Day of Pentecost. Starting June 9, our summer choir will meet each Sunday at 9:30 in the Choir Room to rehearse an accessible anthem and present it at the 10:30 Eucharist. **Anyone interested is welcome to join through June as a low-commitment way to experience choral singing.**

For more information about either of our choirs, contact Gavin D. Craig at music@saintmargarets.org





Youth Spotlight

pfeifer@saintmargarets.net

BY ELIZABETH PFEIFER

ASSISTANT TO THE RECTOR FOR YOUTH MINISTRY

EYC finished up a wonderful year with our final meeting of the school year on May 5th and our annual beach retreat May 17th-19th. We had an incredible youth group year with lots of growth and learning, laughter, spiritual conversations, weekly dinners, and hopefully a new friend or two!

We covered a lot of topics this year but our two main series for the year were: talking about what it means to be a disciple and how we “go and make disciples of all nations” in the fall and “who is Jesus?” in the spring. We also had seasonal activities such as a discussion on saints near All Saints Sunday, Advent and Lent activities, and several weeks celebrating the season of Easter! Our students took our fall theme seriously because by year end, over 50% of our students who attend our weekly meetings were from the community and were invited to EYC by a friend! Many students walked in a brand-new face and we are finishing out the year having talked about BIG topics and learned about the gifts and talents God has given each member of our group.

Youth group this year has been wildly different than other years at St. Margaret’s. It has challenged me to think differently about ways to teach and engage with students whose background I do not know, and keep attention and control of a very full youth room (admittedly, always working on this one). It has allowed me to see the best in our students who want others to share in the silly games and candy with them but also want their friends to learn about God. After fourteen years, I think it might amaze you how I continue to be so thankful for all of it.

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 25th 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 “stm youth1” to 43506 and reply “yes” to opt in. This is the best way to stay up-to-date with activities over the summer.



Youth Spotlight continued

Congratulations to our seniors!

Graduate recognition is on Sunday, June 2nd at the 10:30am service.

Ian Culp, *Elmhurst University*

Max Godwin, *Ole Miss*

Emma Larmondra, *U of South Carolina*

Sophia Ochsner, *Hofstra University*

Louisa Pharr, *Florida State*

Jack Poelke, *Clemson*

Aidan Reynolds, *U of South Carolina*

Neil Salvage, *U of South Carolina*

Dylan Smith, *Savannah College of Art & Design (SCAD)*



Father Todd Dill+, confirmands and StM confirmation mentors pose with Bishop Sam Rodman on May 12, 2024



Children's Ministry

BY JAMIE PETERS

ASSISTANT TO THE RECTOR FOR CHILDREN'S MINIST



Take time to thank God for His many blessings this school year

The school year is wrapping up and summer vacation is right around the corner! Remember to take time to thank God for His many blessings this school year and for the upcoming break.

Do you have 90 minutes ONE Sunday this summer to help our young families and visitors? Volunteer in our Nursery Ministry! We are looking for volunteers to help with our Nursery Ministry! This is such a wonderful way to help support our young families here at Saint Margaret's! The nursery will be open for the 10:30am service each Sunday from July 14th through August 18th and will be staffed by church member volunteers. Volunteers must be at least 18 years of age and cannot be related to each other. Duties will include playing with and supervising our sweet little parishioners to ensure a safe and welcoming space and tidying the nursery at the end of the day (wiping down and putting away toys). The time commitment is from 10:15am to 11:45am.

[Click Here to Sign Up for Summer Nursery](#)

VBS is FULL! Thank you so much for the amazing response and we are so excited to dive into a friendship with God in this undersea adventure! This is such an exciting week at Saint Margaret's, and we are so thankful for the parishioners who have already made a commitment to support this fun and meaningful ministry!

To be added to the VBS Waitlist, [click here.](#)

Please continue to pray for the children, youth, and adult volunteers participating in VBS this summer.

We are looking forward to a wonderful week.

Be sure to mark your calendars for these upcoming dates in Children's Ministry this summer:

June 15th: *Playground Family Meet Up at the StM Playground at 9:30am*

June 17th: *VBS Workday with decorating from 10am-2pm (11am VBS Volunteer Training) *Only 1 training required*

June 18th: *VBS Workday with decorating from 10am-2pm (1pm VBS Volunteer Training) *Only 1 training required*

June 24th-27th: *Vacation Bible School from 9am-12:30pm*





Parish Connection

BY TRACI SCOTT

ASSISTANT TO THE RECTOR FOR OUTREACH & PARISH CONNECTION



Welcome new members:

Tom & Ashley Navarini

connection@saintmargarets.net

Playground Meet & Greet



Join us for a summer St. Margaret's Playground Meet & Greet on Saturday, June 15th from 9:30am-10:30am. We will meet on the StM playground. Let the kids play while parents get to know each other better. Popsicles will be provided. When you arrive, park around back by the playground. **An RSVP is not required but appreciated to childrensministry@saintmargarets.net**

Women of StM are invited to join us on June 22nd at 10am in the Parish Hall



Over the past year, we have had several wonderful meetings with StM moms. We'd like to continue building these relationships and include ALL women of StM. We'll gather twice this summer on June 22 and August 24. We'll get to know each other better, share a devotional and have discussion time. **RSVP to Traci Scott at connection@saintmargarets.net**

Our new coffeemaker is here and it's SO NICE!



Very simple to use and makes coffee fast! Thank you all for your patience while we struggled with providing coffee on Sunday mornings at the end of the year.

Outreach

Join us in the kitchen on Saturday, June 15th at 9am!

More help is needed to prep and package the 64 hot meals that will be delivered to local Waxhaw neighbors in need. You'll be done by 11am and we have fun while we cook! Great summer activity for families! **[CLICK HERE](#)** to cook.

One more delivery driver is needed on June 15th at 11am.

You'll deliver a hot meals to 4 homes in the Waxhaw area which only takes about 1 hour.

[CLICK HERE](#) if you can help deliver.

In May, St. Margaret's Outreach provided the staff of **South Providence School** in Waxhaw some support during Teacher Appreciation Week.

The "snack bar" which featured a make-your-own-trail-mix station and a catered lunch from Moe's were a big hit! South Providence is a Title I school with no PTA so, anytime we are able to let the teachers know that we appreciate the hard work they do, we are happy to do it.

Many thanks to Karen Mills, Susan Norwood, Melinda Shelley and Christine Wilkins for making this happen.



JOIN US

Interested in helping on Wednesday evenings?

[CLICK HERE](#) to sign up.

Outreach can't



Weekly Pantry Update

Our drive-thru food distribution with Common Heart continues to go well, as long as we can avoid bad weather on Wednesday evenings! New neighbors continue to learn about our site and we have heard some tough stories about the struggles that people are facing. Here are a few examples:

- Ukrainian refugees are having trouble finding work and child care for their children with no “safety net” to fall back on, all while learning a new language and navigating the various agencies that may offer them support.
- We have met many members of the same family that all have homes just down Crane Rd from the church. One of the matriarchs said she has lived in her family home there for 72 years!
- One young couple drove from Cramerton because their power was out for 3 days after the severe storm and tornado that came through the Gastonia area. They had just spent all of the money they had left on groceries and lost everything in their fridge and freezer.
- A man with his wife and baby in the back seat spoke little English, but through a translator app, we learned that he is a construction worker and hadn't been able to work the past 3 days due to the rain making the ground too soft so, he needed food to get by until his schedule got back to normal.
- Several of the people that we have been delivering monthly hot meals to through our CKF ministry have become regulars in our pantry line too. We love seeing their smiling and grateful faces!



Book collection for the Pantry

St. Margaret's is collecting new and gently used children's books for all ages (infant through high school) to hand out at our weekly Common Heart pantry to families with children. We were able to start distributing these last week and the kids were so excited to pick out the ones that looked most interesting to them! Books may be left in the hallway box by the nametag board. It's a great time to clean out your old books! If you have a large donation requiring pickup or need more information, contact Tara at tara.mclellan@gmail.com.





Our church office is open M-Th from 9:00-4:00
& 9:00-12:00 noon on Friday.

Rector

The Reverend r. Todd R. Dill+
dill@saintmargarets.net

Priest Associate

The Reverend Sarah Hollar+
hollar@saintmargarets.net

Deacon

The Rev. Ludwig Wallner

Organist & Director of Music

Gavin D. Craig
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Executive Assistant to the Rector

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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
childrensministry@saintmargarets.net

Assistant to the Rector for Outreach
& Parish Connection

Traci Scott
connection@saintmargarets.net

2024 Vestry

Emily Nelson, Senior Warden
Tom Washington, Junior Warden

Paula Holbein
Philip Huff
Bill MacMinn
Jenny Marlier
Colin Miles
Amy Pharr
Josh Ward

David Feldser, Treasurer



Summer Nursery help is needed!

[Click Here to volunteer for Summer Nursery.](#)

We are looking for volunteers to help with our Nursery Ministry! This is a wonderful way to help support our young families here at StM.

June Calendar



- 6/2 EGC: Episcopal Grown Up Community, 5:00 pm
- 6/15 Community Kitchen Fellowship, 9:00 am
- 6/15 Playground Meet & Greet at StM, 9:30 am
- 6/16-22 EYC Mission Trip
- 6/22 Women's Group Gathering at StM, 10:00 am
- 6/24-27 Vacation Bible School
- 7/4-5 Church Office Closed



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



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

Prayer For the Good Use of Leisure

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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