

MAGGIE'S CROSS



From Our Rector

One Body, One Spirit

For the past few weeks, our readings from the Epistle in the Sunday lectionary have focused on Saint Paul's incredible letter to the church in Corinth. Fractured by discord and disagreement, one of Paul's purposes in writing this letter was to address the controversies engulfing the church, and to remind the faithful members in Corinth of who they were and to whom they belong. It is an extraordinary letter, and if has been some time since you have read through it, I would encourage you to take some time, sit with it for a bit, and read through it. There is much to be learned and much to reflect from it.

Most importantly, Paul is reminding these new followers of Jesus that they are all bound together by the Holy Spirit and are all important. In the twelfth chapter of the letter, Paul uses the image of a body, and the importance of each part of the body to sustain and

operate the greater whole, as an image for the work of the faithful. Consider this part of Paul's discourse,

Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot would say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear would say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose.

Paul is using this imagery to show the importance of each member of the church, acknowledging their unique spiritual gifts, and encouraging them with the knowledge that those gifts all come from the Holy Spirit and should be used for the greater good of the community and the world. Yes, some are apostles, and some are teachers, and some work miracles. But all are part of the same body and are connected by the same Holy Spirit. Each is vitally important, and the kingdom of our Lord Jesus is diminished when we do not use our gifts for His purposes or honor the gifts of others.

You each have gifts that have been given to you by Jesus through His Holy Spirit. **Do you know what your Jesus given gifts are? Are you using them for the benefit of the church and the surrounding community? Do you seek and serve Christ in all others and combine your gifts for the greater good?**

I would suggest to each of us that one of the primary tasks we have in this life is to find God's calling for us, acknowledge the gifts that we have from Him, and seek how we are to use those gifts for His purposes. And, as we strive to do that, to encourage each other, knowing that we are all of one body, and of the one and same Spirit.

Each one of you is important. Each one of you has gifts. Each of you has an important role to play in building God's kingdom. Let us, as one body and one Spirit, build the kingdom of Jesus together.

Your priest,

Fr. Todd+

dill@saintmargarets.net



Be Mine!

February is upon us. In the month of February, many things happen. Everyone knows about Valentine's Day, let's not forget that Lent sometimes falls in February. Ash Wednesday has been known to fall on Valentine's Day. The Super Bowl is in February. Two of our most influential presidents have birthdays in February.

National Tooth Fairy Day is in February, as well as National Random Acts of Kindness Day. One of the things that starts showing up this time of year are the little chalky candy hearts that have sayings on them like "I Love You," or "Be Mine." As some of you know I have a very strong sweet tooth, and these hearts are one of my favorite sweet treats of the year.

Several years ago, as I was enjoying these wonderful little heart candies, something in my brain clicked. This is exactly what Jesus was saying to everyone he met. I love you, be mine.

As we enter February and our society begins to shower us with ideas of Valentine's Day and what the world deems as love and acts of love, let us remember that without Jesus, our concepts of love would be very different.

Love would mean diamond rings, boxes of chocolate, roses, and red and pink cards. Love would mean XOXOXO, teddy bears, and overpriced dinners instead of sharing food, helping strangers, and taking care of the naked, hungry, thirsty, lonely, and sick. Jesus said to everyone he met, be mine and Jesus still is calling out to those who would listen, be mine.

Once we say yes to that call, we are called to love God, love our neighbors, and bless the world. May this be our work this Valentine's Day, this President's Day, this super bowl, this February and beyond...Amen.





Music at Saint Margaret's

BY GAVIN D. CRAIG
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC & ORGANIST

music@saintmargarets.net

Hymn singing is for you Yes, you!

Our liturgical tradition is literally hierarchical, with certain texts and actions belonging to the Celebrant or other clergy, others for designated laity, and others for the whole congregation. Yet so many faithful Christians neglect a core part of our worship that is as essential to their role as the response, "And with thy spirit."

Why sing in worship?

- **It's your role!** Just as we know to make our responses, the hymns and service music belong to the whole assembly, not just the choir or a few trained congregants. Participation has many different forms, both listening and singing, and we enrich our experience when we practice both.
- **We sing together!** The unity of our voices symbolizes our shared mission. Singing at the Entrance represents our joining together for worship, singing at Communion represents our identity as Christ's body.
- **It's good for you!** Singing well has many health benefits. It energizes the body, exercises the mind, and enriches the blood.
- **To profess our faith!** Hymns are some of the most profound expressions of the Christian faith. Consider a strange passage in a hymn and meditate on it – what does it mean? What could it be saying, and do you find this to be true?
- **Because you can!**

I know exactly what some of you may be saying right now: "I can't sing, God doesn't want to hear me, I'll just bother other people." Consider your favorite or most beautiful instrument: the horn, the harp, or a specific instrument like Hendrix's guitar or the organ of Notre Dame. That instrument was designed and built by a person, but your voice was made solely by God.

Further, if we feel we come up short next to Luciano Pavarotti or Renée Fleming, I would note that our bodies, which we use to produce sung sound, lack nothing that their bodies use to create such beauty. And we will never improve in our singing except by doing it – ask me how I know!

"...your voice was made solely by God."

Indeed, a few tips will greatly improve the confidence of any untrained singer:

- **Hold your hymnal up.** This is the most important thing a singer can do! In order to take in air efficiently and produce the best tone, the neck must be in alignment with the rest of the spinal column. First, hold your head as though you are speaking to someone confidently, looking them in the eyes, and then move your hymnal to where you can easily read it without moving your head. If the hymnal is below your chest, it's too low!
- **Pay attention to your breathing.** Notice the sensation of taking a breath to sing. How full do your lungs feel? What moved on your body? Just noticing this can change how you take air in, which changes how it sounds when it comes out. After a few phrases, try to take a fuller, deeper breath for the next phrase. The art of trained singing is the art of controlled breathing, which begins with simple attention.
- **Listen to those around you.** Are you singing the same words at the same time? Do your notes sound the same as others? Both of these are easy to adjust on the fly. Is a tune unfamiliar? Listen and follow the words for the first verse. Try to sing on the second verse, watch what notes seemed off, and try better on those spots at the third. By the fourth, it will feel like an old favorite!

If you find these simple tips help you, you may in time find choir is an enjoyable way to get more advanced training in the use of your voice. But whatever skill level you find yourself at, I hope you will join our song each Sunday!

**Choir meets for rehearsal on
Wednesdays at 7:00 - 8:30pm**

Choral Evensong: *Polycarp of Smyrna, Martyr*
Sunday, February 23 at 4:00pm

RACHMANINOFF:

Divine Liturgy of St. Chrysothom

PEETERS: Ein' feste Burg

DEMESSIEUX: In manus tuas

NOBLE: Evening Service in B Minor

BYRD: Responses

Reception following

Music
at
Saint
Margaret's



Youth Spotlight

BY ELIZABETH PFEIFER

ASSISTANT TO THE RECTOR FOR YOUTH MINISTRY



pfeifer@saintmargarets.net

At our first youth group meeting of 2025, we read a passage from Matthew 1 in which we hear that the coming Christ Child shall be called “Emmanuel” which means ‘God with us. We discussed the idea that God loves us so much he wanted to be physically present with us and sent his son to be ‘God with us.’ The Christmas story is an incredible story of God showing up in our world, of God becoming human when he sent Jesus to the world. It is an incredible reminder that the holy shows up in the everyday.

The rest of January was a two-fold discussion “scavenger hunt” during our weekly program time. We read scripture passages and looked for how Emmanuel (God with us) showed up in that passage. We also “Met the Team!” We studied scripture highlighting different people from Jesus’ ministry and wondered: who did Jesus surround himself and why does it matter? We met Matthew, John, Mary Magdalene, and others; all with something distinct to teach us about how the holy (Emmanuel) shows up in the everyday.

We always make time for fun and games around our discussions and have reached the season of anxiously awaiting longer days so we can get back outside during our game time! Elizabeth extended the Christmas season with using remaining candy canes as prizes for trivia, ice breakers, and games!



Save the Date:

Our EYC beach retreat for all 6th-12th graders is May 16th-18th at Oak Island. *More info out in spring 2025.*

EYC will gather most Sundays in February!

Join us on February 2nd, 16th, and 23rd from 5:00-6:30pm with dinner 6:30-7:00pm.

We will not gather on February 9th due to the Super Bowl.

When coming to youth group, please enter through the double back doors, near the playground.

All 6th-12th graders, and their friends, are welcome.



Children's Ministry



BY JAMIE PETER
ASSISTANT TO THE RECTOR
FOR CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

childrensministry@saintmargarets.net

Our area finally saw some snow this past month and I pray that your families are healthy this beginning of the new year.

On Sunday, January 5th we celebrated the Feast of the Epiphany. The Church has a custom of blessing homes on the Feast of the Epiphany (January 6) and the weeks following. A traditional way of doing this is to use chalk blessed during the liturgy for the Feast of the Epiphany and write the following above the home's

entryway: 20 + C + M + B + 25 The letters C, M, B have two meanings. They are the initials of the traditional names of the three magi: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar. They also abbreviate the Latin words *Christus mansionem benedicat*, "May Christ bless the house." The "+" signs

represent the cross and 2025 is the year.



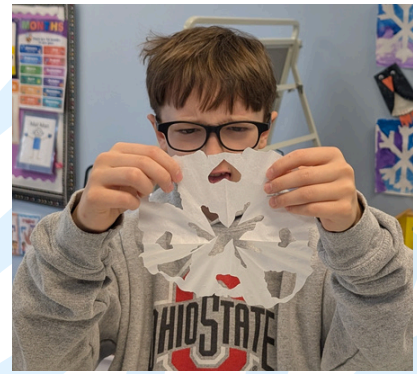
Sunday School classes resumed on January 12th, and we studied some Psalms this month. One was Psalm 139: 14 and how we are "fearfully and wonderfully made." Children compared this to being unique just like every individual snowflake is unique and special.

Beginning Tuesday, February 4th at 9:15am there is a new devotional group starting! Join us for Building Holy Homes-A Devotional Journey!

Did you know that "You are Made for This" beautiful and at times overwhelming gift of parenthood? Join us as we journey together alongside excerpts from Melissa Horvath's "You are Made for This" devotional, written to uplift and encourage busy parents of school aged children.

- We will meet on **Tuesday Mornings 9:15 to 10:45am** starting on February 4th through March 11th in the Youth Room at St. Margaret's.
- Please come as you are, there is no preparation needed for this time in fellowship. We'll enjoy coffee and light snacks as we explore God's hope for us as we journey through parenthood.
- RSVP is not required but always appreciated.
[Click here to RSVP.](#)

Questions? Contact Jamie at childrensministry@saintmargarets.net.



Mark your 2025 calendars for a few upcoming dates in Children's Ministry, and keep a lookout for emails with additional details:

Feb. 2nd, Feb. 9th, & Feb. 16th:
Spring Holy Communion Classes
9:30-10:15am

February 23rd:
Holy Communion Class Celebration
at 10:30am service

April 27th:
Easter Egg Hunt at 9:30am

June 16th-19th:
Vacation Bible School



COMING
SOON!

Building Holy Homes:
A Devotional
Journey

Join us as we journey together alongside excerpts from Melissa Horvath's "You are Made for This" devotional, written to uplift and encourage busy parents.

Tuesday Mornings starting
February 4th through March 11th

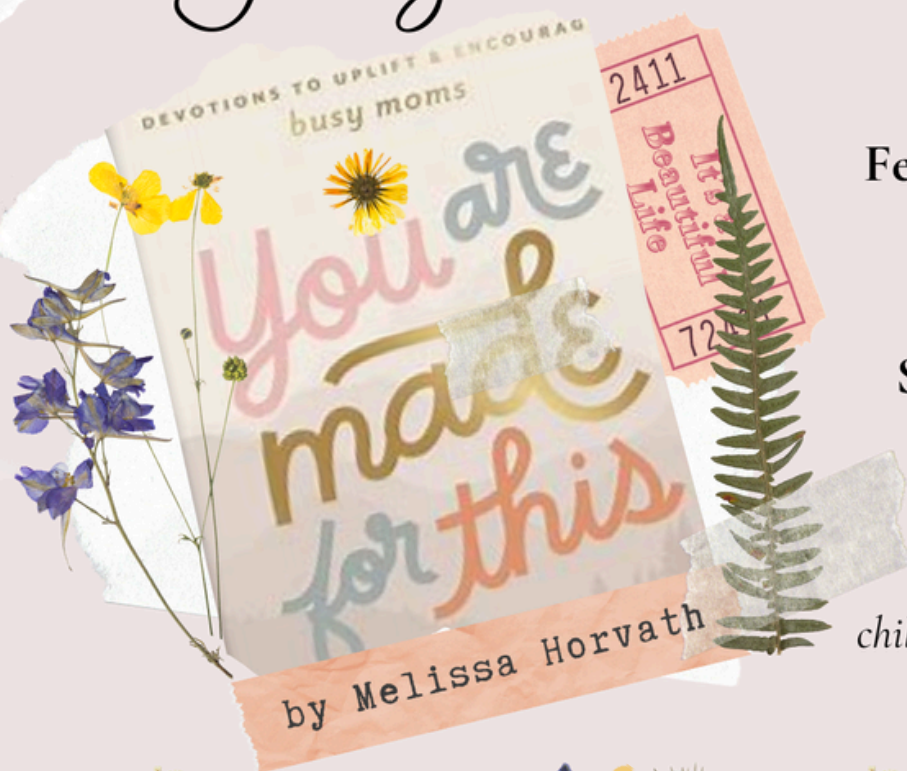
9:15 to 10:45am

Saint Margaret's Youth Room

Questions?

Contact Jamie Peters at

childrensministry@saintmargarets.net





Parish Connection

BY TRACI SCOTT

ASSISTANT TO THE RECTOR FOR OUTREACH & PARISH CONNECTION



connection@saintmargarets.net

Save the date for 101

Our next *StM 101 class for newcomers* will take place on March 16 & 23 at 9:30am. *Class will meet in the narthex.*

Women's Lenten Bible Study

"Have a Beautiful, Terrible Lent!"

Mondays 7pm in the Youth Room

March 10th thru April 14th (the final session on 4/14 will be off-site)

"Lent is full of hard truths...and it a perfect moment for spiritual honesty. We can look on this tragicomedy with love and bemusement as we wait for the someday that will be God's promised future. There, God's kingdom comes. God's will be done on earth as it is in heaven. In the meantime, there's this...our beautiful, terrible days." – Kate Bowler

Using Kate Bowler's book *Have a Beautiful, Terrible Day!* as a meditation guide during the season of Lent, this study offers an honest and real reflection on what it means to follow Jesus through the ups, downs, and in-betweens of our days.

Purchase the book using one of the links here:

<https://katebowler.com/books/have-a-beautiful-terrible-day/>

Sign up for the study here:

<https://stm.breezechms.com/form/5c2f5d36>



Want to help with a future monthly parish breakfast?

Volunteers are always welcome.

Click here for more information: <https://bit.ly/2425Breakfast>

Have you seen....



our little wooden church replicas?

To mark the 20th anniversary of Saint Margaret's being rooted on Rea Road, we had little wooden church replicas made from *Cat's Meow Village*, and they now are available for purchase. Perfect for your home or office bookshelf.

CLICK HERE to order

or call the church office to reserve yours.

Limited inventory.

Outreach



connection@saintmargarets.net

SAVE THE DATE

Walk with us on Sun, March 2nd

Common Heart's annual Hunger Walk is coming up on Sunday, March 2nd at 2pm. Crooked Creek Park in Indian Trail. StM is putting together a team to walk that day captained by Fr. Matt, Fr. Jay & Karen Mills.



The goal is to raise awareness about hunger in our community and raise funds to support Common Heart's food pantry programs. St. Margaret's is determined to maintain our fundraising title from last year when we raised over \$11,000!

CLICK HERE to sign up to join our team "The Maggies" and spread the word to your friends and family. Please register and/or donate today!

In Union County, it's estimated over 25,000 adults and children are hungry or facing the threat of hunger. That's approximately 10.5% of the residents of our county. 1 in 6 children in Union County live in homes facing food insecurity. Common Heart's food pantries are a lifeline for our hungry neighbors. Each month, over 5,500 individuals are served through 14 pantry programs, one of which takes place at St. Margaret's.



Interested in helping deliver worship service flowers to a local nursing home?

When parishioners sign up to provide flowers for our Sunday worship services, they can choose whether to take the flowers home afterwards or have us donate them to a local nursing home for the residents to enjoy. We then need drivers to pick the flowers up on Mondays and deliver them to White Oak nursing home in Waxhaw. **Could you help us by signing up to deliver these floral arrangements when you are available?**

CLICK HERE to sign up.



CKF StM Monthly Meal Delivery, Saturday, Feb. 15th

Can you help us prepare and deliver over 60 meals in the Waxhaw area?
On 2/15, we need more delivery drivers to pick up the packaged meals at 11am and take them to 3-4 homes (approximately 1 hour total!) A few more people are also needed in the kitchen at 9am to prepare the meals.

If you're able to help, please sign up by clicking the link sbelow:

<https://bit.ly/CKFdelivery>

<https://bit.ly/CKFmeals>

REMINDERS

Winter-Spring 2025 Adult Formation Opportunities

ADULT FORMATION CLASSES

Sunday Mornings 9:30-10:15

OPTION #1

Finding Hope & Rest:

through Holy Habits

Living the Good News of Jesus Christ day by day

**Clergy led*

Where? **Kitchen side of the Parish Hall**

- Feb. 9 **Prayer.** Resources & types.
- Feb. 16 **Prayer.** Going deeper.
- Feb. 23 **Service.** *How is it a spiritual practice?*

- Mar. 16 **Service.** *How do you discern?*
- Mar. 23 **Prayer, Service, Sabbath** check in
- Mar. 30 **Sabbath.** Why is it essential?

- Apr. 13 **Sabbath.** Share plan
- Apr. 20 **EASTER**
- Apr. 27 **Affirmation and accountability**



OPTION #2

The Peace of God

Where? **Youth Room**

With **Philippians 4:7** as our guiding verse, this class will spend the spring semester discussing **the peace of God: what is it? How do we find it? How do we keep it? How do we share it?**

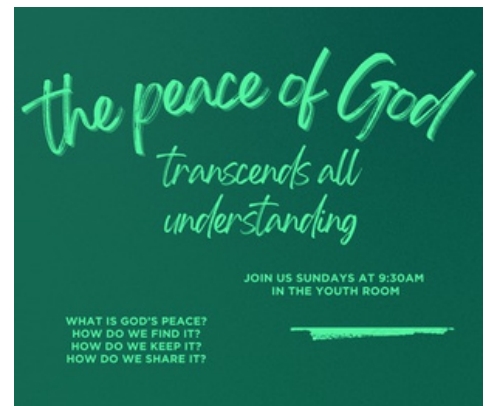
Join us as we explore the depth of God's peace and its ability to "transcend all understanding."

February:

Feb. 9, 16 & 23

March:

Mar. 9, 16, 23 and 30
Last day of class is March 30.



OPTION #3 for Newcomers

St. Margaret's 101

Where? **Connector Hallway**, led by: *Traci Scott*

Sunday, March 16 & 23 at 9:30 am

New to St. Margaret's or never been able to attend 101? This 2-part newcomers class discusses the Episcopal faith, our church's history, our various ministries and how to get engaged in the life of our parish. We'll also take a tour of the building.

Email connection@saintmargarets.net with interest.

REMINDERS

WeekDAY Adult Formation

Wednesday Mornings 10:00 am-10:50 am

ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Join Fr. Matt Addington for a weekly Bible Study class in the Parish Hall.

Newcomers welcome any time!

Tuesday Mornings 9:15 to 10:45am starting 2/4

Building Holy Homes: A Devotional Journey

Did you know that "You are Made for This" beautiful and at times overwhelming gift of parenthood? Join us as we journey together alongside excerpts from Melissa Horvath's "You are Made for This" devotional, written to uplift and encourage busy parents of school aged children. *Tuesday Mornings 9:15 to 10:45am starting on February 4th through March 11th in the Youth Room. Click this link to RSVP.*

WeekNIGHT Adult Formation

Mondays

7:00-8:30pm in the Youth Room

beginning 3/10/25

Women's Bible Study:

"Have a Beautiful, Terrible Lent!"

Women's Lenten Bible Study

March 10th thru April 14th Using Kate Bowler's book

Have a Beautiful, Terrible Day!

as a meditation guide during the season of Lent, this study offers an honest and real reflection on what it means to follow Jesus through the ups, downs, and in-betweens of our days.

Sign up here: <https://stm.breezechms.com/form/5c2f5d36> To

purchase the book click link below:

<https://katebowler.com/books/have-a-beautiful-terrible-day/>

SPECIAL EVENT: Adult Retreat

Saturday, March 22, 9:00 am - 2:30 pm

Then...GOD got Real!

How did you become a believer? What made you decide that a relationship with God was something valuable? How did the news, the good news of Jesus Christ spread beyond 30 AD Palestine? Stories. Firsthand accounts of God showing up in the Son, the perceptions, circumstances shared with friends and family, neighbors and communities. "Come and see, come and hear," Jesus said to the disciples. And they did come, see and hear. Later, they told what they experienced. They said, "Let me tell you this unexpected, mysterious, true thing that happened. Let me tell you something God did in my life."

Sharing stories was and is the primary call of disciples. This year our Lenten Retreat Day for adults, Saturday, March 22nd, 9:00 – 2:30 (or when you need to leave) will be an opportunity to craft and share our stories of when and how God got real for us.

Hosted by the Daughters of the King, facilitated by Rev. Sarah, the day will include prompts to recall when God made himself very present to you bringing you comfort, giving you direction, answering your prayer, issuing you a call or challenge. We will spend time in self-examination, questioning how that experience influenced our relationship with God going forward.

Mark your calendar, registration link coming soon.

Last Thursday of the month

6:30pm in the Parish Hall

beginning 1/30/25

Men's Group

The first Men's Group Meeting will be on Thursday, January 30th at 6:30pm. The group will gather in the parish hall, then, (weather permitting) we will finish up at the fire pit behind the parish hall.

No sign up is necessary. Feel free to bring your dinner and join us for a time of conversation and getting to know one another.

Questions? Email Father Matt
addington@saintmargarets.net

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
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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

2024 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*



A Knots of Love graduation scarf is proudly worn by Bobby Shore this winter, many years after receiving it from StM!

February Calendar

- 2/2 Costa Rica Team Meeting, 11:45 in the Parish Hall
- 2/4 New Building Holy Homes adult class begins, 9:15am
- 2/8 DOK monthly meeting
- 2/9 Confirmation Class, 9:30-10:15
- 2/15 Community Kitchen Fellowship
- 2/15 Knots of Love monthly meeting
- 2/17 Church Office closed for President's Day
- 2/23 Evensong, 4:00 pm

Looking ahead:

- 3/2 Common Heart Hunger Walk
- 3/10 Women's Monday Night Lenten Bible Study begins, 7:00 pm
- 3/22 Lenten Retreat Day

*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



A Prayer For those we Love

Almighty God, we entrust all who are dear to us to thy never-failing care and love, for this life and the life to come, knowing that thou art doing for them better things than we can desire or pray for; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Book of Common Prayer, pg. 831

