

Dear Parishioners of St. Margaret of Scotland-

Well, I'm officially your pastor! I moved in this past Monday and am getting settled in nicely! The move from the Cathedral in Charlotte to my new rectory here was among the easier moves I have ever made in my life (and I have moved many times)! In fact, in my short time as a priest, I have moved three times in as many years. That said, I am truly looking forward to *not* having to move for a while! Maggie Valley (and specifically, St. Margaret's) is now my home for the indefinite future; and, I am thrilled to say so!



As I sit here writing to you, I look forward to many "firsts" at St. Margaret's! I look forward to offering the Sunday liturgy for the first time this weekend for all of you. I look forward to baptizing a child for the first time here. I look forward to absolving the sins of a first time penitent. I look forward to distributing a child's First Holy Communion. I look forward to officiating my first wedding here. Believe it or not, I look forward to anointing a Catholic in the parish for the first time who is in dire need of the grace, comfort, peace, and healing which one receives through this beautiful sacrament. In fact, I look forward to bringing the sacramental life of the Church to all the faithful within my reach – whether it be the first time, over many times, or for the very last time in his or her earthly life!

I hope it goes without saying; but, I especially look forward to meeting each and every one of you! We are all in this journey together toward the Heavenly Jerusalem – I, as your patient and loving Father; all of you, as sons and daughters of God Most High. Let us stick together through prayer and the celebration of the sacraments! We have been given these gifts by Holy Mother Church for the benefit of our very souls! We are all members of the Mystical Body of Christ which is the One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church. If one member of that Body suffers, we should all feel the pain! If one member rejoices, we should all celebrate! I look forward to sharing both your pain and your joys from now on!

May the Peace of Our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all!

Sincerely in Christ,
Father Christopher Bond (Pastor)