

Saint Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church

February 2020 Newsletter



ST MM CELEBRATES THE BAPTISM OF LAURA MAYER

On January 12, St. Mary Magdalene joyfully celebrated the baptism of Laura Mayer, and welcomed her into our church fellowship. Laura was sponsored by her neighbors, Skip and Martha Ragland.



Carol attends her library duties

We are blessed with a very fine library at St. MM, tended by Carol Burgess and Linda Rinaldi. Consider taking advantage of this convenient and helpful resource. Check it out!

FYI: Printed copies of the recently updated church directory are available. If you are unable to print one at your house, feel free to take one from the bookcase in the library.

FEBRUARY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Every Tuesday Morning – Healing & Intercessory Prayer, 11:00 a.m.

Feb. 9, Feb. 16, Feb. 23 – The Rev. Ken Kroohs, guest Preacher/Celebrant

Feb. 25 – Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, 6:00 pm

Feb. 26 – Ash Wednesday Service, 7:00 p.m.

*Feb. 10 - Vestry Meeting, 3:00 p.m. **All Are Welcome!***

Feb. 27 – Articles for March Newsletter are due. See Phyllis Olson.



Come one, come all... Our annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper will be February 25th, 6:00 pm. We'll be serving those famous Ray McClung flapjacks with sausage, syrup, butter and coffee. Please join us for a fun evening to begin our Lenten season. Bring a hungry friend or neighbor!

Supper Clubs to be restarted

We are reviving the supper clubs but with some adjustments. Fr. Stephen and Ellen would like to join each group of six or less for lunch or dinner over the next year. This will give participants a chance to enjoy fellowship and get better acquainted.

Meals may be hosted at members' homes or at a restaurant. Meals that include Fr. Stephen and Ellen need to be held on a Sunday or on Mondays after Vestry.

Fr. Stephen and Ellen will be away for most of February so our groups won't start until March. If you are interested in participating please sign up on the sheet in the library or email me at julia205@live.com.

More information will be provided through the e-notes and the March newsletter as we continue to refine the plans.

Julia Poisson



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Feb. – Teeny Thompson
Feb. 3 – Phyllis Marion
Feb. 25 – Jackie Wells



Feb. 19 – Sherol and Jim Grigerick



Five Wishes presenter, Jennifer Reid, and program facilitator, Phyllis Marion

FIVE WISHES PROGRAM

Phyllis Marion

On January 26th, following coffee hour, Jennifer Reid, RN and doctoral student at UNCG, presented **Five Wishes**, a program designed to assist in designating personal desires for end of life care. This is especially important if one is unable due to condition, medication, or state of mind to indicate those wishes. It can provide information to health care providers and family so they will know what you want or do not want.

This document is simple to fill out and easily understandable and, when notarized, a legal document.

More information can be found @ www.FiveWishes.org. Jennifer will entertain any questions you may have regarding this program. Reach her at jentreid@gmail.com

Prayer Ministry

Phyllis Marion

With the hope of making this vital ministry more relevant and user friendly, some small changes will be made to our prayer list. This list will continue to

be generated as part of the Tuesday morning healing service. Names and specific need (illness, surgery, travel) of each prayer request can be given to Sherol, Val or Phyllis M. for inclusion or removal from the list. No details are needed if the person for whom we are asked to pray indicates such a desire.

The list will be split into groups. The first group will be people with ongoing needs, a new normal, for their lives. These names will not necessarily be spoken out loud on Sunday, but will be listed in the bulletin so they can receive all of our prayers throughout the week. Please include their personal care givers and their medical providers in your prayers.

The second group will be those who need prayers for more acute issues (surgery, travel, etc.). They will remain on the list for two weeks but can be renewed as necessary. This second list will receive attention on Sunday and both lists will be included at the healing service.

As you can see, input is needed to make these lists meaningful. First you need to pray, pray, pray. Second you need to keep us apprised of new needs. Lastly we ask you to let us know when the need is no longer an issue so names can be removed. They can always be added as necessary.

Contacts:

Sherol 400-5178
Val 400-5472
Phyllis M. 673-2215
Carol 673-0356

Life is short. There is little time to gladden the hearts of those who go the journey with us. So be quick to love and make haste to be kind.

If you really want to do something you'll find a way. If you don't, you'll find and excuse.

John Rohn



Reflections on Stewardship

I love the story that Randy Alcorn shares in his book, 'The Treasure Principle' about Alfred Nobel, who one day dropped the newspaper he was reading and put his head in his hands.

It was 1888. Nobel was a Swedish chemist who made his fortune inventing and producing dynamite. His brother Ludvig had died in France. But now Alfred's grief was compounded by dismay. He'd just read an obituary in a French newspaper—not his brother's obituary, but his! An editor had confused the brothers. The headlines read, "The Merchant of Death Is Dead." Alfred Nobel's obituary described a man who had gotten rich by helping people kill one another.

Shaken by this appraisal of his life, Nobel resolved to use his wealth to change his legacy. When he died eight years later, he left more than \$9 million to fund awards for people whose work benefited humanity. The awards, became known as the Nobel Prizes.

Alfred Nobel had a rare opportunity—to look at the assessment of his life at its end and still have the chance to change it. Before his life was over, Nobel made sure he had invested his wealth in something of lasting value.¹

This story challenges each one of us to stop and think about the impact that we want to make with our lives and our wealth. The Catechism in the Book of Common Prayer states that it is "the duty of all Christians to follow Christ, and to ... work, pray, and give for the spread of the kingdom of God."²

This is a blueprint for how each one of us can make a difference. But giving is more than a duty, it is a joy. It is a joy because the grace of giving helps us to realize that God is the giver of every good and perfect gift, and as his love flows through us as we use of our wealth to spread God's kingdom and make a tangible difference in the lives of others.

Stephen Becker

¹ Randy Alcorn, *The Treasure Principle*, Multnomah Books, 2001, pages 79-80

² BCP, Catechism, p. 856



Humor (from the internet) supplied by Phil Cox:

Most people don't think I am as old as I am until they hear me stand up.

My mind is like my internet browser: nineteen tabs open, three of them are frozen and I have no idea where the music is coming from.

I miss the 90's when bread was good for you and no one knew what kale was.

I don't always go the extra mile, but when I do it's because I missed my exit.

around the parish



Jean-Charles enjoys the up-dated bulletin board



Kim and John Sapp share a light-hearted moment



Dale and Andrea, back from extended travels

Vestry Members

Senior Warden –Skip Ragland

Junior Warden – Bob Rinaldi

Phyllis Marion, Julia Poisson, Charlotte
Kennedy, Jane Fisher and Pete Olson

Treasurer- David Poisson

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*A Mission of the Episcopal Diocese of North
Carolina*

