

Saint Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church

July 2020 Newsletter



Tim Burgess continues to update the St. MM sign on Seven Lakes Drive. Check it out. Thanks, Tim.



June Vestry Meeting Held via Zoom

On June 15, the vestry met, again via Zoom. All members were in attendance. They will continue to meet in this way until gathering is recommended. If you wish to join a vestry meeting, contact Bob Rinaldi and he will give you instructions.



Morning Prayer Held via Zoom

On June 21, we continued our new normal of Morning Prayer via Zoom led by Fr. Stephen. It was followed with a fellowship time, allowing attendees to visit and interact. What a blessing to see the faces of our dear friends whom we have missed during our time of isolation! Patience will get us to the other side.

And now abides faith, hope, and love.

Due to "Shelter in Place," now called "Safer in Place," church gatherings have been suspended until further notice.

JULY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Every Tuesday Morning – Healing & Intercessory Prayer (at home) If you would like to receive the Healing Service prayer list please contact Valerie at ValerieDoolittle@gmail.com to be added to the email list.

July 12 & July 26 – Morning Prayer via Zoom – You will receive a link from Bob Rinaldi. The plan is for this to continue the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month until further notice.

July 19 - Fr. Stephen away- Fr. Dan Mannen will preach.

July 20 - Vestry Meeting, 3:00 p.m. – (Third Monday of each Month) - All Are Welcome! This meeting will be held via Zoom. Contact Bob Rinaldi if you need help joining in.

July 27– Articles for the August Newsletter are due. Contact Phyllis Olson.

July 29 – First Bible Study via Zoom –watch for details.

FYI: Fr. Stephen posts weekly sermons based on current lexionary. Watch for the link in his emails.

Zoom Bible Study

A number of people indicated on the Congregational Survey that they would be interested in a Zoom Bible Study. Father Stephen plans to have this study every other week beginning Wednesday, July 29. More details will be forthcoming. Please confirm you are interested in joining this study by emailing Skip Ragland by July 15, so preparations can be made.

Weekly Prayer List

As we remain in isolation, Senior Warden, Skip Ragland, at the suggestion of Jackie Wells, will prepare a continuing prayer list, to be updated weekly, addressing issues and needs among our parishioners. You may add your prayer concerns by sending an email to Skip. Please include first and

last names. The list will be forwarded to the congregation each Friday. skipragland@gmail.com

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

July 11 – David Poisson

July 22 - Matt Kuchinos

July 23 – Laura Douglass

July 24 – Laura Mayer

July 27 – Jared Fravel



July 3 - Linda and John Sapp

July 6 – Peggy and Steve Loomis

July 8 - Dodie and Jack Lynn



Vicar's Reflections

My role as a pastor is to help our congregation live well and even joyfully as we confront the terrible realities of our world. This role is a daunting task as we face the grief and suffering that present circumstances bring.

As I relate our current burdens to the life of the Apostle Paul, I am reminded of how he described himself as “...sorrowful, yet always rejoicing” (2 Cor. 6:10). The “sorrowful” part of this verse is something that I struggle with, mainly because my temperament leans towards optimism. Optimism has its place as long as it is balanced by realism, . . . realism that takes to heart the plight of those around us who are dogged by adverse circumstances and discouragement. For example, if you take to heart the historical facts concerning the oppression the Black community has suffered over the past 300 years, you cannot help but be sorrowful. And hopefully by our actions and words we will do what we can to relieve that suffering.

Even as the coronavirus reminds us daily that life is fragile, and the unsettling events we witness seem out of our power to manage, I still believe that love overcomes hate and light over comes darkness. Therefore as we walk through deep waters and

journey through dark valleys, we can always rejoice and with the Psalmist confidently say, “The Lord is my Shepherd” and therefore “I will fear no evil for your rod and staff, they comfort me” (Psalm 23:4).

Yours in Christ,

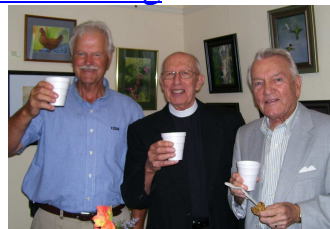
file photos



Matt Kuchinos and Sarge

Matt joined St. MM in 2019. He is an IT specialist and is assisting Bob Rinaldi in updating and resetting our website. Take a look.

<http://stmm.dionc.org>



Phil, Fr. Bob and Ernie 2014



Lucy Dunn, 2015



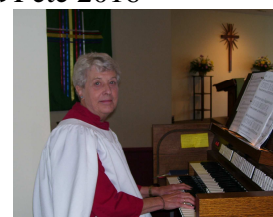
Ed and Suzanne 2016



Skip and Pete 2016



Valerie & Dodie 2016



Alice Hollingsworth 2011

SHELTERING IN PLACE

As our congregation continues to “Shelter in Place,” now called “Safer in Place,” each family is finding ways to be creative and productive.

Laura Mayer continues to assist her father who is ill. When possible she takes long walks on the Morganwood Dam in Seven Lakes West, and she’s researching the possibility of one day owning her own log cabin in the woods.

Brenda Yarish had shoulder replacement surgery, May 16th. Recovery was going well until a fall caused a setback. She is patiently recovering. She is enjoying reading along with her virtual book club and watching mystery shows on TV. Bill is busy with gardening, skipping golf due to a shoulder injury.

Bob and Maureen Miller have been reading, watching afternoon movies on Netflix, and enjoying computer time. Bob enjoys jigsaw puzzles and fly-fishing, tying his own flies. Maureen has been enjoying cooking, trying new recipes.

Our friend and former Music Director, Alice Hollingsworth, is missing her involvement with music but is staying attached to her church via virtual services. She sends love and best wishes to St. MM.

Bette Hanham is enjoying TV shows and movies. She also enjoys the in-house channel which provides plays, concerts and speakers. She participates in exercise classes four times a week, and she enjoys afternoon wine with a neighbor down the hall.

Ed and Mary Ann Matthewson are enjoying the pleasures and comforts of being at home, taking care of two Weimaramers and a cat. They both enjoy reading.

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## And for these blessings, . . . we lift our hearts in praise!

In June, Greg Burgess, Carol and Tim’s son, retired from the Minnesota State Patrol. He was a helicopter pilot.

Bob and Maureen exited a serious car accident uninjured.

Lindsay Douglass, a 2020 high school graduate, recently had an article published in the June issue of *Seven Lakes News*, regarding the disappointments and difficulties of spending much of her senior year in isolation. You can read this article on line.

[SevenLakesNews.com](https://www.sevenlakesnews.com).

Good job, Lindsay.

### Myself

I have to live with myself, and so  
I want to be fit for myself to know,  
I want to be able, as days go by,  
Always to look myself straight in the eye;  
I don’t want to stand, with the setting sun,  
And hate myself for things I have done.

I don’t want to keep on a closet shelf  
A lot of secrets about myself,  
And fool myself, as I come and go,  
Into thinking that nobody else will know  
The kind of a man I really am;  
I don’t want to dress up myself in sham.

I want to go out with my head erect,  
I want to deserve all men’s respect;  
But here in the struggle for fame and pelf  
I want to be able to like myself.  
I don’t want to look at myself and know  
That I’m bluster and bluff and empty show.

I can never hide myself from me;  
I see what others may never see;  
I know what others may never know,  
I never can fool myself, and so,  
Whatever happens, I want to be  
Self-respecting and conscience free.

Edgar A. Guest



Always remember you're unique, just like everyone else. *Copied*

*"The way to see by faith is to shut the eye of reason."*

*Benjamin Franklin - Poor Richard's Almanac (1758)*

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The Rev. Stephen Becker, Vicar

Newsletter Editor: Phyllis Olson

### **Vestry Members**

Senior Warden –Skip Ragland  
Junior Warden – Bob Rinaldi  
Charlotte Kennedy, Jane Fisher, Pete Olson,  
Phyllis Marion and Julia Poisson

Treasurer- David Poisson

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