

Saint Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church

August 2020 Newsletter



Morning Prayer Service

Morning Prayer was held July 12 and 26, via zoom. The services, led by Fr. Stephen, were followed by a fellowship time, some bringing their coffee mugs along. Our congregation is adjusting to the new normal. Please consider joining us when we meet August 9 and again August 23.



Website update: Webmaster, Bob Rinaldi, reports the new website has been updated, and he and Matt Kuchinos will continue to keep it current.

Weekly sermons will be posted on the website, as will the Monthly Newsletters.

This year's website is free. After this year, the annual cost will be \$100 to the diocese.

OUTREACH: Because of the current need within our community, the vestry approved a motion to **donate \$300 to the Food Pantry.**

Face masks for virus protection when Church reopens: The Diocese of North Carolina has made arrangements for the purchase of cloth face masks and filters. Masks are \$4.95 each and filters are \$.40 each. It was decided to buy 50 masks and 40 filters. The order has been placed.

Due to Covid 19, church gatherings have been suspended until further notice

AUGUST CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Every Tuesday Morning – Healing & Intercessory Prayer Service (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.

Aug. 9 and Aug. 23, 9:30 a.m., Morning Prayer via Zoom. Prior to each occasion you will receive an invitation with a link sent by Bob Rinaldi.

Aug. 17 - 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.

Aug. 27– Articles for September Newsletter are due. Contact Phyllis Olson.

FYI: Fr. Stephen posts weekly sermons on Youtube. The link will be emailed each Saturday. These sermons will also be posted on the St. MM website.

FYI: Father Stephen will be away Sept. 6. Fr. Ken Kroohs will be our preacher.

FYI: Skip Ragland, Senior Warden, prepares a weekly Prayer List of those requesting prayer. That list is sent out via email each Friday for use during your personal devotion time. He welcomes you to make additions to this list.



Aug. 5 Linda Rinaldi
Aug. 7 Ed Clarke
Aug. 11 Lilith Fravel
Aug. 13 Julia Poisson
Aug. 14 Ed Matthewson
Aug. 16 Maureen Miller
Aug. 19 Kaelynn Phillips
Aug. 21 Bob Miller
Aug. 28 – Christa Burgess
Aug. 28 – Phil Cox



Aug. 3 Donna and Ray McClung
Aug. 16 Phyllis and Pete Olson
Aug. 26 Martha and Skip Ragland



Reflections from the Vicar

I love the way that David Livingstone, the Scottish pioneer medical missionary to Africa in the 19th century, expressed the motives that shaped his life when he spoke to the students of Cambridge University in 1857 about “leaving the benefits of England behind.” In his address he said,

“I personally have never ceased to rejoice that God has entrusted me with His service. People talk a lot about the sacrifice involved in devoting my life to Africa. But can this be called a sacrifice at all if we give back to God a ‘little of what we owe Him?’ And we owe Him so much that we shall never be able to pay off our debt. Can that be called a sacrifice which gives us the deepest satisfaction, which develops our best powers, and gives us the highest hopes and expectations? Away with this word. It is anything but a sacrifice. Instead, call it a “privilege!”

In Livingstone’s address, he did not hide the painful experiences of “anxiety, sickness, suffering, danger, and the forgoing of common conveniences of this life,” which he said, “... are nothing when compared with the glory which shall hereafter be revealed in and for us.”

When I reflect on Livingstone’s words in the light of what we are facing as a church, I am reminded that none of our sorrows will be wasted if we offer them to God and allow Him to use us for His purposes. The call to get on board with opportunities for service and practical expressions of love goes out to us each and every day.

Yours in Christ,

Stephen Becker

FILE PHOTOS- 2017



Jim, freshens the sign



Kim and daughter Emma



Jackie and daughter Gwendolyn



Coffee fellowship hour 2019
We will do this again!



Virtual Classes on Beatitudes Underway

Our first virtual Bible study class, led by Fr. Stephen, was held Wednesday, July 29, with twelve participants. The study book, ***Momentum: Pursuing God’s Blessings through the Beatitudes***, will be our guide throughout the study.

The next class is Aug. 12, and we will continue bi-weekly meetings until the course is completed. If you did not participate but wish to, contact Bob Rinaldi who will add you to the roster and provide the necessary Zoom link.

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

Church pledges and offerings remain steady.



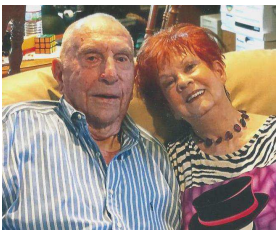
Ernie Martin celebrated his 95<sup>th</sup> birthday in May and Charlotte Kennedy and a mutual friend surprised him with a delicious birthday dinner. The dessert, prepared by Charlotte, was scrumptious chocolate cupcakes served on a hand-made, beautifully decorated "platter." Ernie was very HAPPY, and honored.

**Congratulations, Ernie!**

## 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

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Ed and Mary Ann are doing well and enjoying beloved Dixie & Gretchen.



Kim and Val use their pontoon boat in the evening to socialize with other boaters, including the Douglass family, the Poissons, and others. Recently Bob and Maureen Miller joined the Doolittles on their boat, socially distancing, of course. One jolly lake resident serenades from his dock. He even takes requests! All are thankful for the lovely lake available to them.



Linda and Bob Rinaldi deliver granddaughter Ella to her swimming lessons.

Pete Olson continues to deliver Meals on Wheels, and he's discovering reading, having a great time! Phyllis is enjoying piano tutorials on Youtube, and is now an adopted grandmother for neighbors, Catherine and Charlotte.



Peggy and Steve Loomis treasure time spent with granddaughter, Kensley.



June and July were busy months at the Grigerick household with five grandchildren enjoying swimming, tennis lessons, art lessons, and fun with cousins.

Linda Sapp has successfully created a butterfly garden.

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Phyllis welcomes pictures and news items you may wish to include in the newsletter to help us stay connected during this unusual time. [phyllisandpete@gmail.com](mailto:phyllisandpete@gmail.com)

## OUR LIPS AND EARS

If you your lips would keep from slips,  
Five things observe with care:  
Of whom you speak, to whom you speak,  
And how and when and where.

If you your ears would save from jeers,  
These things keep meekly hid:  
Myself and I, and mine and my  
And how I do and did.

*Unknown*



## Out of the mouth of babes!

I was driving with my three young children one warm summer evening when a woman in the convertible ahead of us stood up and waved. She was stark naked! As I was reeling from the shock, I heard my 5-year-old shout from the back seat, "Mom, that lady isn't wearing a seat belt!"

A little girl had just finished her first week of school. "I'm just wasting my time," she said to her mother. "I can't read, I can't write, and they won't let me talk!"

(The above provided by Brenda Yarish)

"A slip of the foot, you may soon recover, but a slip of the tongue you may never get over."

*Benjamin Franklin*

A day without sunshine is, you know, night.

*Steve Martin*

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"Life is like an onion: You peel it off one layer at a time, and sometimes you weep." – Carl Sandburg

Vestry Members

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

Treasurer- David Poisson

The Rev. Stephen Becker, Vicar

Newsletter Editor: Phyllis Olson

A Mission of the Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina

