

Saint Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church

September 2020 Newsletter



Fr. Stephen's Reflections on Hardships and Trials

When James, the brother of our Lord, wrote his epistle, he included in it some of the most practical teachings in the New Testament. Some theologians have likened his letter to the wisdom literature of the Old Testament. He opens his letter by acknowledging that the people were scattered and hurting (James 1:1-2). Yet regardless of what was causing their pain, James did not want believers to view it as something negative. Instead, he encourages them to see their hardships as something that can produce positive results. After his opening greeting, we read, "Count it all joy, my brothers and sisters, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know the testing of your faith produces steadfastness" (James 1:2).

I don't think James wrote those words because he didn't care about people's feelings. When we experience tragic circumstances, we do get discouraged. Yet James would remind us that there is something more significant going on than just our negative emotions.

In the next two verses, he explains that God has a plan to use trials as a means "...to make us perfect and complete, lacking nothing" (James 1:4). Therefore when we "suffer grief in all kinds of trials" (1 Peter 1:7), we can count it all joy because God will not waste any of our sorrows. In his bigger plan, he will "...make all things work together for good to those who love God and are called according to his purpose" (Romans 8:28).

Yours in Christ,

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

SEPTEMBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**** Every Tuesday Morning – Healing & Intercessory Prayer Service, 11:00 a.m. - From Home - Prayer list available. Contact Valerie Doolittle***

****Sept. 6 – The Rev. Reverend Ken Kroohs will deliver the sermon. Watch for a YouTube link from Bob Rinaldi.***

**** Morning Prayer Service – Sept 13 and 27 – Via Zoom - Watch for a link from Bob Rinaldi***

**** Bible Study – Sept. 16 and 30 - 10:00 a.m., Via Zoom All are welcome. Let Fr. Stephen know if you desire a link to join in.***

**** Sept. 21 - Vestry Meeting, 3:00 p.m. – (Third Monday of each Month) - All Are Welcome! If you wish to join in, contact Bob Rinaldi for a Zoom link.***

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

FYI:

Diocese Guidelines:

Detailed guidelines for churches during the pandemic are published on the diocese website. Presently the diocese is operating in Phase 1B. Gatherings of 25 are now allowed to meet, outdoors only.

FYI:

Regarding St. MM Newsletter

The newsletter will no longer be posted on any social media.

FYI:

Regarding the Fall Golf Tournament

The annual Fall Golf Tournament will be held October 25th. Bob Rinaldi and Charlotte Kennedy are making arrangements.

FYI: Fr. Stephen will be on vacation starting August 31, returning Tuesday, September 8th.



Heads up! All hands on deck!!

Yes, we have two **NEW** dates for our Annual Church Yard Sale: **SATURDAY, SEPT. 12, 7:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.**, and **SATURDAY, SEPT. 19, 7:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.**

We are looking for volunteers to come to the church, Thurs., Sept. 10 and Fri., Sept 11, 9:00 to noon (or until we finish the set up) to share the work: Masks required.

If you are available and willing to help any of the days mentioned above, please email Charlotte Kennedy at cken18@gmail.com or Julia Poisson at julia205@live.com to let them know when you would be available to help.

Even though these are difficult times, we know St. Mary Magdalene will come together to make this event happen.

Hope to hear from you soon,

Charlotte Kennedy

Julia Poisson

Bob Rinaldi



VIRTUAL MORNING PRAYER SERVICE

On Sunday, August 23, we gathered via Zoom for Morning Prayer led by Fr. Stephen. Twenty-seven joined in the group with many remaining for a virtual coffee hour that followed. Parishioners shared news of activities, projects, and plans, and enjoyed a sweet fellowship. Morning Prayer will be held September 13 and 27, 9:30 a.m. Please do join us. A Zoom link will arrive via email.

file photos



Julia and Crystal 2016



The Rev. Tally Bandy with Jessie's painting 2016



Our choir in 2016



Those Celebrating September Birthdays:

Samantha Parsons
Bill Lindner
Martha Ragland
Connie Windham
Phyllis Olson
Valerie Doolittle

Best wishes for a joyful, blessed day!



Those Celebrating Sept. Wedding Anniversaries:

Brenda and Bill Yarish
Ellen and Fr. Stephen Becker

Blessings!

Sheltering in Place Phase 1B



Skip and Martha enjoy a boat ride on beautiful Lake Auman

At the Marion house, Jean-Charles is successfully growing tomatoes on their deck. (The deer population is an issue.) Phyllis tends a flower garden. She is also making peach jam and has added pickling to her canning projects.



Throughout the summer, Donna McClung has worked at Emmanuel Thrift Shop cleaning, painting, and sorting donations in preparation for the re-opening which is planned for Mid-September. A recent one-day sale earned over \$1,300, all of which goes to community outreach. We thank Donna for so faithfully representing us in this ministry.

Andrea Schmidt recently sold two watercolors at the Campbell House Art Gallery. Congratulations, Andrea!



If I can stop one heart from breaking,
I shall not live in vain;
If I can ease one life the aching,
Or cool one pain,
Or help one fainting robin
into his nest again,
I shall not live in vain.

Emily Dickenson



A little boy opened the big family Bible. He was fascinated as he fingered through the old pages. Suddenly an object fell out of the Bible. He picked it up and looked at it. It was an old leaf that had been pressed between the pages. "Mama, look what I found," he called out. "What have you got there, dear?" With astonishment, the young boy answered, "I think it's Adam's underwear!"

(contributed by Brenda Yarish)

My therapist told me the way to achieve true inner peace is to finish what I start. So far I have finished two bags of M&Ms and a chocolate cake. I feel better already. Dave Barry

Humorous messages on church signs:

Tweet others as you would like to be tweeted.

Be the kind of person your pet thinks you are.

Honk if you love Jesus. Text while driving if you want to meet him.

(Church humor contributed by Bob Rinaldi)

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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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*A Mission of the Episcopal Diocese of North
Carolina*

